



## **WEST CUMBRIA SITES STAKEHOLDER GROUP – WINDSCALE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING (WCSSG – WSC)**

Meeting Reference M1/06

| <b>Date</b>      | <b>7<sup>th</sup> March 2006</b>  | <b>Copies To</b> | <b>Meeting Invitees</b> |
|------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Present</b>   | Mr Ranald Stewart (Chairman)<br>Mr Ronald Hargreaves (Vice Chairman)<br>Mr Peter Mann (UKAEA)<br>Mrs Felicity Wilson (UKAEA)<br>Mrs Claire Tandy (UKAEA)<br>Mr Michael Scott (Environment Agency)<br>Mr Tony Willets (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate)<br>Mr David Davies (Copeland Borough Council)<br>Mrs Alyson Armett (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority)<br>Mr Alan Ross (UKAEA Union Representative) |                  |                         |
| <b>Apologies</b> | Cllr Ray Cole (Cumbria County Council)<br>Cllr Carni McCarron Holmes (Allerdale Borough Council)  |                  |                         |

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and also the member of the press who was in attendance. He confirmed that at the inaugural meeting, the protocol had been agreed that any questions relating to each agenda item should be raised when the agenda item had been discussed. Questions would be taken first from the meeting members and then from the public.

The Chairman noted that he felt that the agenda was interesting and contained items which had been raised at the stakeholder workshop which was held in November.

#### **2. Feedback from the Stakeholder Workshop**

The Chairman invited Mrs Felicity Wilson to address the meeting on agenda item 2 – Feedback from the Stakeholder Workshop.

Mrs Wilson noted that following the Stakeholder Workshop, which was held in November, a number of interesting items had been suggested as possible future agenda items. This feedback is very useful to the group and allows engagement on items of concern or interest. This is not however, an exclusive list. If members feel that any other items are important and of interest, these can be referred to the Chairman for consideration for inclusion on future agendas.

Mrs Wilson noted that members of the meeting had also been invited to the Integrated Waste Strategy Best Practicable Environmental Option Workshop. Waste strategy was an issue of interest which was raised at the Stakeholder Workshop.

### **3. Windscale Socio-economic Plan**

The Chairman invited Mrs Wilson to discuss agenda item 3 – Windscale’s Socio Economic Plan.

Mrs Wilson addressed the meeting and informed the members that Windscale’s Socio Economic Plan for 2006/2007 was due for submission to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) by mid March and that she would like to take this opportunity to consult with the sub committee to gauge opinions.

Mrs Wilson then made a presentation to the Windscale Sub-committee on the socio economic work which UKAEA Windscale carry out. The presentation covered areas such as community sponsorship, appeals and donations, environmental volunteering, training and development.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Wilson for the presentation noting that it was interesting to see that UKAEA can assist charitable organisations with practical help as well as providing financial assistance.

### **4. UKAEA Business Strategy & Organisational Development**

The Chairman invited Mr Peter Mann to address the sub-committee members on the topic of business strategy and organisational development.

Mr Mann made a presentation to the committee on the work UKAEA has been undertaking in the fields of reactor decommissioning, waste management and land remediation. Mr Mann discussed UKAEA’s transitional change to meet the challenges of the NDA. UKAEA announced a partnering alliance with CH2MHill and AMEC NNC in January 2006. UKAEA intend to bid with partners for NDA sites when they are competed in accordance with the timescales published in the NDA strategy.

The Chairman opened the floor to questions.

Mr Ronald Hargreaves asked Mr Mann to clarify who was responsible for safety on the NDA sites to which Mr Mann responded that the responsibility for safety sits unambiguously with the Site License Company (SLC)

Mr Hargreaves also asked if UKAEA Windscale directly employ health physics workers on the site. Mr Mann responded that UKAEA subcontracts this work to RWE Nukem but UKAEA retain “Intelligent Customer” capabilities as a Radiological Protection Adviser (RPA) is employed directly by UKAEA.

The discussion continued with Mr Hargreaves asking how UKAEA satisfies the NDA that we operate safely. Mr Mann noted that the UKAEA has a range of standards to which we subscribe and adhere to as well as a number of internal mechanisms for UKAEA to ensure that we are operating safely. The NDA are an intelligent customer when it comes to safety

related matters. It is interesting to note that the NDA director of safety is the former Chief Inspector of the NII.

Mr Hargreaves noted that, as a neighbour to a nuclear installation, he had concerns with regards to “competition”. Will the NDA ensure that people who compete to run the sites are good safety performers? Mr Mann noted that the teams who carry out the majority of operations on the sites will probably remain the same even if the management company of the SLC changes. It is also envisaged that good safety performance will be a NDA prequalification in the tendering and competition process.

The Chairman noted that the topic of competition and the effect of competition on safety performance should possibly be added as an agenda item for a future meeting.

#### **Action M1/06 – A1**

**Add the following agenda item to a future meeting agenda: The effect of competition on safety performance.**

The Chairman asked Mr Mann if theoretically, different companies could manage all of the UKAEA Sites. Mr Mann confirmed that this could be the case; however, UKAEA will bid to operate the UKAEA sites in conjunction with our partners as well as bidding for other work

Mrs Alyson Armett (NDA) noted that the NDA competition strategy and evaluation criteria are in the process of being developed. Cost effectiveness will be important but one of the main points will be the safety of decommissioning operations.

Mr Tony Willets (NII) commented that he believed that potentially splitting up the UKAEA was more in the interests of competition as opposed to safety.

It was suggested by the Chairman that perhaps a representative from the commercial team at the NDA should be invited to speak to the WSC regarding the NDA’s competition strategy.

#### **Action M1/06 - A2**

**Add the following agenda item to a future meeting agenda: Arrange for a representative from the commercial team at the NDA to talk to the WSC regarding competition strategy.**

A discussion continued regarding the responsibility for safety on the nuclear licensed sites. Mr Willets noted that although the responsibility for safety lies with the SLC, the NII can monitor and enforce action where they feel it is appropriate.

Mr David Davies also noted that sites are being asked to make efficiency savings but it imperative that these efficiency savings are monitored and that they are not made at the cost of safety.

Mr Alan Ross asked Mr Mann to comment on a staff talk which was held with Windscale staff recently regarding a possible merger with UKAEA Windscale and British Nuclear Group (BNG) Sellafield.

Mr Mann advised the meeting that the NDA Draft Strategy did detail that it intended to compete Windscale and Sellafield as a single package and that this would be competed in 2009/2010. During the consultation period for the draft strategy, comments were invited and UKAEA responded and made other suggestions as to how Windscale could be clustered. The final NDA Strategy should be announced in the coming weeks. The NDA have considered merging UKAEA Windscale and British Nuclear Group prior to the draft competition dates and have asked a number of parties (UKAEA included) to comment on this proposal. UKAEA will respond to the NDA on how they believe Windscale could be clustered with other sites to gain efficiency and value for money.

Mr Ross noted that members of the Union at Windscale had expressed concerns over being merged with BNG Sellafield Ltd as the companies have many cultural differences and different methods of operation and it would be extremely difficult to merge these organisations. It is also a concern to UKAEA staff that the merger has been suggested, even though BNG is potentially being sold.

Mrs Arnett responded by noting that the NDA are trying to assess the best way forward to get the best value for money. The site boundaries at the moment are historical and moving forward, they are not necessarily appropriate. A decision has not yet been made on whether to merge UKAEA Windscale and BNG Sellafield Ltd. The NDA are currently looking to see if there is a better way forward.

Mr Hargreaves added that it would be extremely time consuming to try and merge the two separate licensed sites with which Mr Willets concurred. He stated that merging two different safety management systems would be extremely difficult.

Mr Davies commented that he hoped that some sort of qualitative assessment would be carried out when assessing if the two companies should be merged.

The Chairman asked when the NDA Strategy would be announced and Mrs Arnett reported that it is expected in the next few weeks. The Strategy is currently with Ministers for ratification, however it is not envisaged that the Strategy will contain the level of detail being discussed at the meeting.

Mr Ross requested that the comments he had made at the meeting be passed back to the NDA representatives who would be considering the future strategy.

It was suggested that the NDA strategy is another possible future agenda item.

### **Action M1/06 – A3**

**Add the following agenda item to a future meeting agenda: Request that a member of the NDA's strategy team comes to talk to the WSC if this is not addressed at the formal WCSSG.**

## **5. NII Report**

Mr Willets was then invited to make the NII presentation to the WSC.

Mr Willets apologised that the report had not been submitted for distribution to the meeting members but agreed that in the future, he would ensure that this was carried out.

Mr Willets updated the meeting on two improvement notices which had been submitted, one to Windscale and one to Nexia Solutions. A deadline for completion had been set for November 2005 which unfortunately had not been met but Mr Willets noted that both companies had made sufficient progress in addressing the issues raised to extend the period of time for completion of the improvements.

The NII had previously reported its concern at the range of weaknesses in the B13 Operational Safety Case, and therefore issued a Specification under Licence Condition 13, Licence Instrument 512, that requires UKAEA to seek advice from its Southern Nuclear Safety Committee on;

- The adequacy of UKAEA's procedures for the production and assessment of safety cases.
- The adequacy of the endorsement of the Safety Report that describes the B13 safety case taking into account the range and importance of the issues raised by NII.

The Safety Committee has advised UKAEA of a number of improvements that it should make to its process for producing safety cases. UKAEA has committed to complete these improvements by April 2006. The advice on the second topic is awaiting some changes to the integrated work plan for the facility. NII is content that the NSC has taken this matter seriously and that it is providing sound advice to UKAEA.

Mr Willets noted that funds for improvements to the Leased Operations Facility have been routed to the UKAEA from the NDA.

Mr Willets then proceeded to give an update on the Piles Project. He stated that the NII are happy with the work which has been carried out by the team to try and accelerate decommissioning.

Mr Willets updated the meeting on the WAGR project and noted that although the project had been proceeding well, a few technical problems had arisen with regards to the flame torch. Mr Willets informed the group of recent management changes in the project.

Mr Willets then gave an update on the current situation on the Winscale site with regards to leased buildings.

The Chairman asked for clarification on Nexia Solutions connections to UKAEA and he was informed that Nexia Solutions are the tenant in Windscale's Leased Operations Facility.

## **6. Environment Agency (EA) Report**

The Chairman asked Mr Michael Scott to address the meeting with the Environment Agency report. There were no key issues to bring to the meeting members attention with the exception

of the problem with the flame torch cutting in WAGR and the effect the problems were having on the ventilation system and filters.

Mr Scott advised the members that a new authorisation had been introduced for Windscale on 1<sup>st</sup> January 06. No inspection activities have been carried out to date against the new authorisation but it is envisaged that any inspection activities will be reported at future meetings of the WSC.

Mr Hargreaves noted that it was useful to have the report prior to the meeting then if any meeting member were unable to attend the meeting; they could still read the report and feed back any comments to the meeting via the Chairman.

The Chairman asked how the EA are affected by the European Union (EU). Mr Scott informed the meeting that a number of UK acts and regulations are in direct response to EU directives. The EU gives direction and the UK implements the requirements of the directives. Mr Scott proceeded to comment that EURATOM monitors aspects of the nuclear industry where affects of nuclear work could impact on member states.

## **7. Any Other Business**

A controlled copy of the draft socioeconomic plan for Windscale was issued to the meeting members as well as a form for members to identify the types of organisations whom the sub committee would like to see benefiting from the Head of Site's Local Community Fund. It was agreed that once the data was collated, this would be included in the socioeconomic plan.

The Secretary asked the meeting members if there were any preferred locations for the meetings to be held. Members of the meeting responded that being on a bus route would be beneficial if members of the public were wishing to attend as they may not all have access to vehicles. Good parking facilities were also thought to be important. The Secretary noted that she would take this into consideration when booking the next venue.

The next meeting of the Windscale Sub-Committee will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at 1330hrs at the Ennerdale Country House Hotel.

**Chairman** Mr Ranald Stewart

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