

Nuclear Projects Update

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Summary and Recommendation:

This paper provides a summary update of key projects relating to the Councils nuclear activities and Members are asked to note the current position and way forward.

1. NUCLEAR NEW BUILD

Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council continue to work closely with the developer (NuGen Ltd.) of the proposed new nuclear power station at the Moorside site to the north of Sellafield.

NuGen are in the final legal and commercial stages of formalising their new partner Toshiba who acquired Iberdrola's 50 per cent share holdings and 10 per cent of GDF Suez earlier this year.

NuGen have signed a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council. The PPA agrees to cover all reasonable costs incurred by the Authorities in carrying out the planning process required to develop the planning application for the nuclear new build and ancillary activities associated with the build.

This agreement enables the Council to start considering how we will manage all aspects of the project. The next stage in the process is to scope out the level of work involved in delivering the Development Consent Order (DCO) and developing a procurement strategy to insure that we have enough capacity in the Council to manage the expected increased workload.

The Council is currently working jointly with Cumbria County Council and the High Ways Authority officers to scope out the level of work involved in delivering and assessing the application.

2. NORTH WEST COAST CONNECTIONS PROJECT

National Grid has continued to meet with senior managers and directors from NuGen and its parent companies to discuss the development programme for Moorside project to

ensure that their programme for the NWCC Project is aligned so they can deliver a more focused and informed public consultation.

After a pause in the process last year National Grid are keen to progress to the next stage in the consultation. The Consultation will take place in early autumn and will include a number of workshops held throughout the County where members of the public can come and see the proposed routes and offer feedback. The consultation will also be available on line and the National grid will be directly leafleting houses and business in close proximity to the preferred route.

The National Grid will also be coming to the Copeland Centre on the 16th September to give all Members a briefing on the proposal. All Members are encouraged to attend and to promote awareness of the workshops within their localities to members of the public to encourage feedback.

Full details and information is also available on the project website: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

3. WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

The Walney wind Farm offshore extension examination process came to a close on the 12th May. The Examining Authority now has 3 months to make its recommendation to the Secretary of State and the SOS then has 3 months to make a decision. Therefore a decision is expected in November 2014.

DONG energy has said that they will provide a package of community benefits if the application is approved. They have made an offer which is less than we had suggested, Copeland Council along with the other PPA Authorities, are currently involved in negotiations with DONG to determine the amount of community benefits to be paid, the mechanisms for managing payments and who will be eligible to apply for funding.

For Further information on this application, timetables and supporting evidence please refer to:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/walney-extension-offshore-wind-farm/?ipcsection=exam>

A hard copy of the DCO and Environmental Statement (ES) are also available for inspection at the Copeland Centre.

4. Geological Disposal Facility

DECC is still reviewing the revised process and it is still expected to be announced before Government summer recess.