

Nuclear Projects Update

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Summary and Recommendation:

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

1. NUCLEAR NEW BUILD

There is nothing substantive to report in addition to what was reported at the last meeting. Initial site investigation work as part of the proposal by NuGeneration Ltd to develop a new nuclear power generating facility on the site just north of the existing Sellafield site is progressing according to plan. A revised programme for the development is awaited.

2. NORTH WEST COAST CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The North West Coast Connections project is led by National Grid and is looking at options to enhance the power transmission connections from the Cumbrian west coast to take new power generated by nuclear new build proposals and other renewable proposals to the national electricity market. National Grid is planning to commence public community consultation for the next phase of the programme at the end of the summer 2013 and as part of the process an informal Members briefing session will be arranged for mid-September.

3. WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

The time line for submission has slipped back and the developer now intends to submit their Development Consent Order (DCO) on the 28th June. Copeland Borough Council officers have been working with the developer to ensure that the level of information provided in the application is appropriate.

The developer has agreed to implement monitoring and mitigation of the sea bed for radioactive particles and debris, they have also carried out a night time assessment of the

visual impact of the wind farm extension. All photomontages are available in the Members room. The evidence will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to be used in assessing the application, the Council will have an opportunity after submission to submit to PINS a Statement of Common Ground on what aspects of the project we agree on and a Local Impact Report on the outstanding issues that the Council believe have an impact on the area which have not been addressed adequately through the submission.

The Councils submitted to the developer -DONG our expectations on what they should provide in the form of community benefits. These are separate and independent to the planning process. The developer has been reviewing the proposals and has accepted that Community Benefits should be made available, to be distributed by a 3rd party. They have developed a proposed package which they will be discussing with the Council in the near future.

4. WEST CUMBRIA MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY (MRWS)

Members will be aware that over the last few weeks the Council has been undertaking a review of the MRWS process following the decision by the County Council not to proceed to the next stage of the current process in January. This review process will enable the Council to feed into the Government's 'call for evidence' that was launched on 13th May. Through the call for evidence Government are seeking views on how the site selection process for a geological disposal facility, outlined in the 2008 MRWS White Paper, could be improved. The outcome of the call for evidence will inform a consultation later this year. Further information is available at <http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-radioactive-waste-safely-call-for-evidence-on-the-siting-process-for-a-geological-disposal-facility>. The closing date for comments is 10 June.