

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

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 are planning to commence community consultation for the next phase of the works in May 2013 and this will run over the summer. A further Members workshop with National Grid officials will be arranged as part of the consultation process.

3. WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

DONG Energy is currently consulting with officers on the final chapters of the Environmental Statement which will form a key part of the application for Development Consent Order (DCO). We are currently providing feedback on the Noise assessment chapter and are still awaiting the Visual Impact and Socio-Economic Chapters. The emphasis on reviewing these chapters is to ensure that the developer has taken into account the issues raised at previous stages in the consultation.

We have also provided comments on the draft DCO in respect of the Marine License. Following on from concerns raised by Members at the SNEB on the 14th Feb we have highlighted the need for monitoring, analyzing and if necessary mitigating the disturbance of radioactivity in seabed particles. After receiving advice from the EA we have recommended that they seek guidance from a Radiation Protection Adviser to ensure that workers and the wider environment will be protected.

The developer also came to the Copeland centre on the 27th March to give an update on the project to which all members were invited.

Copeland Borough Council has sent a joint letter with Cumbria County Council, Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council outlining the level of community benefit that would be expected if the project was granted permission.

4. WEST CUMBRIA MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY (MRWS)

Since the last meeting the Leader of the Council has met Ed Davey the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to seek Governments views on the options for dealing with the waste currently stored at Sellafield. The Secretary of State confirmed that a consultation on the MRWS siting process would be preceded by learning the lessons identified by Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils which is in line with the written ministerial statement issued in January after the decision about participation.