

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2012 AT 2:00 PM

Present: Councillors Elaine Woodburn (Chair); Allan Holliday (Vice Chair); Yvonne Clarkson; Peter Connolly and Jon Downie.

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors David Moore and Dave Smith.
Paul Walker, Chief Executive;

Officers: Pat Graham, Corporate Director People and Places; Steve Smith, Interim Head of Nuclear and Energy Development; Denice Gallen, Nuclear and Energy Officer and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Councillor Peter Kane.
Simon Rowe & Nigel Murdock, Sellafield Ltd

SNEB 01/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SNEB 02/12 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Yvonne Clarkson, Allan Holliday and Elaine Woodburn declared a personal interest in the Agenda due to being members of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership.

SNEB 03/12 Presentation from Sellafield Ltd on 'Mis-sentencing of bagged waste'

Mr Rowe and Mr Murdock provided Members with background details around the 'mis-sentencing of bagged waste at the Sellafield site.

Details were then provided of the investigation, workshops and remedial action that had been undertaken.

Members were advised that a new management team had been put in place, along with a new training package and staffing numbers increased.

Sellafield are currently working through 'Active Commissioning' and hope to enter the 'Operation' stage in October 2012.

Members were offered an invited to visit the site to see the operation for themselves.

During the question and answer session that followed, Members asked what the human and environmental risks were and were advised that no exempted waste had left the site and there was no risk either human or environmental.

Members also asked about the new procedures that had been put in place and if there was a backlog as no bags had left the site for over two years. They were advised that under the new process, a calibration test was undertaken daily, or after every twenty bags, if sooner. There were currently approximately 7000 bags awaiting removal to landfill.

Mr Rowe and Mr Murdock were thanked for their update.

RESOLVED that the update be received.

SNEB 04/12 Oxide Fuels Preferred Option

The Nuclear and Energy Officer introduced her report to Members which summarised the Oxide Fuels preferred option paper published in June 2012 and details the Nuclear Decommissioning Authorities preferred option of dealing with oxide fuels which follows their credible options paper in November 2011.

During the discussion that followed it was suggested that Copeland write to the NDA expressing disappointment that reprocessing will not continue.

Concern was expressed regarding the cumulative impact of both THORP and MAGNOX.

It was further suggested that a letter be written to Sellafield Ltd asking for an indication of the number of job losses and the effect this will have on knowledge retention, skills and succession planning.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be noted,
- b) letters be sent to the NDA and Sellafield..

SNEB 05/12 Consultation on storage of Bulk Quantities

The Nuclear and Energy Officer introduced her report to Members on the Office of Nuclear Regulation's (ONR) supplementary consultation to define a set parameter for the definition of 'Bulk Quantity'.

Following a discussion, it was suggested that Copeland write to ONR asking for identification of all existing and potential sites within the Borough that are affected.

It was also suggested that ONR be advised that Copeland's response to the consultation would be delayed until the additional information was received

RESOLVED that

- a) the Office of Nuclear Regulation be asked to identify all existing and potential sites within the Borough that are affected,
- b) once the additional information is received, the draft consultation response be circulated to Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board Members by email for approval

SNEB 06/12 Consultation on the proposed justification process for the re-use of plutonium

Members considered the draft response to the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) consultation on the proposed process for making applications and decision-making process for justification decisions concerning the re-use of plutonium.

A number of comments were made and it was suggested that these be incorporated into the consultation response and emailed to members of Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board for approval.

RESOLVED that comments made be incorporated into the consultation response and emailed to members of Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board for approval.

SNEB 07/12 Electricity Market Reform

Members were provided with a summary of the Electricity Market Reform (EMR), which is designed to ensure a flexible, smart and responsive electricity system, powered by a diverse and secure range of low-carbon sources of electricity.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SNEB 08/12 Nuclear Projects Update

The Interim Head of Nuclear and Energy Development updated Members on the following key projects relating to the Council's nuclear activities:

- Nuclear New Build - it was stated that the project was approximately 12 months behind schedule and that progress was being monitored.
- North West Coast Connections Project - it was stated that the National grid were going ahead and that a paper had been to Executive. National Grid were expected to reveal their preferred route option in the Autumn 2012.
- West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely – the next meeting on 19 July 2012 was expected to be the last. A decision on participation would be made in October.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

SNEB 09/12 Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami – Implications for the UK Nuclear Industry

The Interim Head of Nuclear and Energy Development introduced a report to Members appraising them of a recent update from Government in the form of a letter from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to Dr Weightman and also the Japanese Government's report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SNEB 10/12 DONG Energy proposed Walney Off-Shore Wind Farm Extension

Members were advised that a wind farm developer (DONG Energy) was preparing to submit a Development Consent Order for a proposed extension to the existing Offshore Wind Farm at Walney.

Dong Energy were prepared to enter into a Planning Performance Agreement with Copeland Borough Council to fund the assessment of the visual impacts of the proposed development.

RESOLVED that authority to sign a Planning Performance Agreement be delegated to the Director of Services.

The meeting closed at 3:55 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....