

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2013 AT 5:00 PM

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

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor David Moore.

Officers: John Groves, Head of Nuclear, Energy and Planning; Pat Graham, Director of Services; Denice Gallen, Nuclear and Energy Officer and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Councillor Peter Kane

SNEB 15/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SNEB 16/12 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Yvonne Clarkson and Dave Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Agenda due to having family members employed in the Nuclear Industry.

SNEB 17/12 Sellafield Performance Plan Presentation

Due to Sellafield Ltd being unable to attend the meeting, this item was deferred until the next meeting on 14 February 2013.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred until the next meeting on 14 February 2013.

SNEB 18/12 National Audit Office – Managing Risk Reduction at Sellafield and the Public Accounts Committee

The Board was appraised of the National Audit Office's report published on Managing Risk Reduction at Sellafield. As a result, the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee visited Cumbria on 26 November when they conducted a site visit around Sellafield prior to an evidence gathering session at Energis. The Public Accounts Committee will be publishing its own report which will contain further recommendations for the NDA and Sellafield Ltd, however this has not yet happened.

This will be reported back to this Board as soon as it is available.
It was suggested that the report be received before progressing and that this be a subject for the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be noted, and
- b) the report of the Public Accounts Committee be added to the Forward Plan as an agenda item for a future meeting.

SNEB 19/12 Nuclear Supply Chain and Skills Action Plan

The Head of Nuclear, Energy and Planning introduced this item which summarises the national Nuclear Supply Chain and Skills Action Plan.

Following a discussion, it was suggested that a Copeland Action Plan was required, the protocol for which would be prepared and be a report to the March 2013 meeting of this Board.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be noted, and
- b) a Copeland Action Plan be prepared and a report be an agenda item for the March 2013 meeting of this Board.

SNEB 20/12 The Energy Bill and Electricity Market Reform

The Nuclear and Energy Officer presented an update report on the Energy Bill and Electricity Market Reform.

This included a summary of the Electricity Market Reform and the Contracts for Difference which were outlined in the Energy Bill 2012 and introduced to the House of Commons on 29 November 2012.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked for further details regarding the Contract for Difference Counterparty and whether this was something Copeland Borough Council should be investigating.

It was suggested that this be a subject to maintain a close 'watching Brief' on.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be noted, and
- b) a close 'watching brief' be maintained.

SNEB 21/12 Interim Storage of Higher Activity Waste Packages

The Board received a report which summarised the Interim Storage of Higher Activity Waste Packages.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked what waste is being created, what the volume would likely be and also where the storage containers were to be made.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SNEB 22/12 Nuclear and Energy Projects Update

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

Nuclear New Build

- It was stated that proposals by NuGeneration Ltd to develop a new nuclear power generating facility at Moorside were progressing.
- A final draft of a Planning Performance Agreement with NuGeneration Ltd was close to being finalised and signed.
- Work was continuing on determining the content of the first work packages around transport and accommodation.
- Initial site investigation work on the site just north of the existing Sellafield site has recently commenced following delays due to mineral rights issues. A revised programme for the development was awaited.

North West Coast Connections Project

- The North West Coast Connections project led my National Grid was 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.
- The outcome of the stakeholder consultation seeking comments on the six strategic route options for new grid connections across Cumbria and parts of Lancashire had been announced.
- National Grid had announced that Options 3 and 4 were their preferred options to take forward to the next phase which will look at detailed route corridors.
- National Grid were working with local authority partners to develop an agreed approach to community consultation for the next phase, which was due to commence in May 2013.

During discussion of this update, Members enquired regarding new Easements for land owners if existing power lines across their land were upgraded. The Head of Services was asked to obtain and answer and circulate to Board Members.

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)

- A decision about participation, which was to have been considered by Executive at a special meeting on 11 October 2012 would now be made on 30 January 2013.

Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farms

- Dong Energy have formally begun the Development Consent Order process by submitting a notice to the Secretary of State via the inspectorate and consulted all statutory consultees under Section 42 of the Planning Act.
- Copeland Borough Council had agreed to provide a joint response to the S42 consultation with the other authorities (Lancashire County Council, Lancaster District Council, South Lakes District Council, Lake District National Park Authority and Cumbria County Council) that were potentially signing up to a PPA with DONG.
- Dong had subsequently consulted on a supplementary document under Section 42 of the Planning Act. This focussed on any associated land restoration landscaping and mitigating measures for impacts on the natural habitat associated with the land section of the proposed development. As this supplementary consultation was purely focussed on the two alternative options for the sub-station near Heysham, which would have no impact on Copeland, we did not respond.
- It was agreed by Executive on 13 November 2013 that authority to sign up to the agreed Planning Performance Agreement be delegated to the Director of Services. The final version of the PPA was awaited.

RESOLVED that

- a) the updates be noted, and
- b) details regarding new Easements for land owners if existing power lines across their land were upgraded, be obtained by the Head of Services and circulated to Board Members..

SNEB 23/12 NuLeAF Annual Report

The Head of Nuclear, Energy and Planning provided the Board with an overview of NuLeAF's annual report which was published in October 2012.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SNEB 24/12 Developing Copeland Borough Council Nuclear and Energy Policies

The considered a proposal to develop a set of nuclear and energy policies for the Council.

Suggestions for inclusion were:

- Renewable Energy,
- Decommissioning,
- Carbon Reduction,
- Grid Connection,
- New Nuclear Power Generation,
- Supporting Infrastructure and Housing Accommodation for potential New Build,
- Skills and Training Opportunities,
- Geological Disposal Facility,
- Nuclear Waste,
- Emergency Plans Community Benefits.

It was suggested that a Member Workshop be held prior to the next meeting to take this subject further.

RESOLVED that

- a) the proposal to develop a set of nuclear and energy policies for the Council be supported, and
- b) a Member Workshop be arranged prior to the next meeting

The meeting closed at 6:35pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....