

Proposed Amalgamation of the Windscale Nuclear Site into Sellafield Nuclear Site

CHAIRMAN Cllr Geoff Blackwell
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Elaine Woodburn
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Summary: To Consider the proposal by the NDA to amalgamate the Windscale Site into the Sellafield Nuclear Site. To report back to the NDA by 18th September 2006.

Recommendation:	For members to consider the proposed amalgamation, discuss the issue and report back to the NDA consultation by 18 th September 2006.
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: Potential impact to HLE5 Seek to maximise economic development benefits arising from the nuclear industry.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): None

Financial and human resource implications: None directly. But potentially impact to local socio-economic sustainability.

Project & Risk Management: None

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** None

Other Ward Implications: All

INTRODUCTION

The NDA's current approved strategy considers the possibility of amalgamating the Windscale Site with the larger Sellafield Nuclear Site. The NDA now wish to start the discussion process and have written to a number of stakeholders for their views on the proposal.

Furthermore the discussion assumes that the Calder Hall Site will become a separate nuclear site licensed to Magnox Electric Ltd in the 'Northern Bundle', with associated transfer of staff, RSA authorisations etc.

OPTIONS

The options being considered for Windscale range from 'Status Quo', to UKAEA operating the site as a Tier 2 supplier, to wholesale integration with Sellafield. The timescale of any restructure is estimated to commence by March 2008

KEY ISSUES

The following are a summary of the key issues, which members may wish to add to their own concerns when considering this consultation:

- Why was Copeland Borough Council not consulted?
- At what stage would the Council have been informed of the outcome?
- What reasons do the NDA have in suggesting this amalgamation?
- Does amalgamating one site whilst separating Calder Hall an inconsistent approach?
- There would be large-scale impact to the UKAEA staff at varying degrees dependent on the option chosen.
- What guarantees would be given with regard to the transfer of the UKAEA workforce terms and conditions?
- There would be loss in UKAEA status as a Tier 1 supplier,
- RSA Discharge authorisations and similar instruments would be transferred to BNGSL.
- As existing subcontracts would be transferred to BNGSL, what loss in revenue would UKAEA receive and what subsequent impact on employees / local community would there be?

NOTE

The letter addressed to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group is attached for your information.