

NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 AUGUST 2007

Present: Councillors A Holliday (Chairman) D Banks, Deputy Chairman; D Moore; A Norwood Ms E Woodburn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Blackwell; B Dixon

Councillor N Williams also attended the meeting

Officers: D Davies, Head of Nuclear Policy and Sustainability; T Greer, Scientific Officer, D James, Member Services Officer

Also present: S Williams; B Snelson; G Marsden; P Halligan – Sellafield Ltd

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Disclosures of Interest

Councillors D Banks, A Holliday, Ms E Woodburn; A Norwood and N Williams declared personal interests in the agenda due to either being employed or having family or friends employed in the nuclear industry. Councillor D Moore declared a personal interest in the agenda due to a member of his family being employed in the nuclear industry and being the Parish appointee on the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholders Group.

Calder Hall Cooling Towers

Members received a presentation by Ms G Marsden of Sellafield Ltd on progress made for the demolition of the Calder Cooling Towers which was then open to questions by Members and Officers.

It was noted that the license had been received for test blast and it had been scheduled for the weekend of the 11th August and would consist of 4 blasts in the morning and afternoon.

It was noted that all safety issues had been covered and the regulators, who would be issuing the licenses would be present relevant road closures were in place and that explosives would only be on site for the minimum length of time.

During discussion Members expressed their concern that there would be no vantage points for spectators during the final blast as at Chapelcross. It was noted that although vantage points were not possible due to the infrastructure the event would be televised live and would be on the internet.

Open Discussion

Barry Snelson of Sellafield Sites Ltd. Gave Members a progress report since the last meeting.

It was note that a) Thorpe had now restarted and was going well;
b) nitrification plant had completed a lengthy outage;
c) projects for Building 30 the Gantry and Skip Handler were all making good progress

During the question and answer session Members asked questions on Socio Economic Resources and it was felt that these questions would be best directed to the NDA it was therefore

AGREED that the NDA be asked to attend a future meeting of the Working Party.

Nuclear News Round Up

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on various nuclear issues both locally, nationally and internationally.

During consideration of this item Members welcomed the style and content of the report and asked that this format be used in the future.

It was AGREED that the style and content of the report be welcomed and endorsed for future use; and

b) the report be noted.

Sellafield Sites – Contaminated Land/Site Characterisation

T Greer gave a verbal update on issues relating to contaminated land as part of the contaminated land scheme Part 11A legislation Environmental Protection Act.

Members felt that as it was the responsibility of the Council to identify areas of contaminated and oversee it's clean up it was important that it was involved in Sellafield.

Meeting with the Energy Challenge – Nuclear New Build

Member received a verbal update following the meeting with the Energy Challenge – Nuclear New Build. It was noted that Amec had agreed to make a presentation to Members of the Nuclear Working Groups of both Copeland and Allerdale Borough Councils and Members recommended that due to the timescales Allerdale Borough Council be asked to have a joint meeting at Copeland on the 13 September 2007 at 1.00pm.

It was AGREED that a) the update be noted; and

b) Allerdale Borough Council be invited to a joint presentation by Amec on the 13 September 2007.

Interim ILW Storage – Consultation Update

Consideration was given to a report updating Members of a delay in the NDA's UK Interim ILW Storage Strategy. It was noted that further to the delay caused by the wider DEFRA deep geological disposal consultation, the NDA are currently reviewing the whole ILW interim storage. This is with a view to minimise and optimise waste which would result in a need for less storage. Members confirmed that their preferred option would be to minimise waste.

It was AGREED that a) the report be noted; and

b) the Council continues to lobby the NDA for increased stakeholder engagement on the issues of ILW storage and the decision making process; and

c) the Council will continue to seek to influence Government the NDA on the basis of Nuclear Policies.

Sustainability and Nuclear Power

A report which would form part of the documentation for the Sustainability Appraisal of the West Cumbria Community Strategy was submitted and noted.

NuLEAF Update

A report was submitted and noted on from NuLEAF updating Members on the management of LLW and the implications of New Build.

LGA Radioactive Waste Conference

It was AGREED that F McMorrow, D Davies and Councillors A Holliday, D Moore, E Woodburn be nominated to attend the conference.

The meeting closed at 3:25pm

Chairman