

NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2010

Present: Councillors A Holliday (Chairman); D Banks; D Moore (for items 7-10 only); A Norwood and Miss E Woodburn (for item 10 only).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Dixon

Officers: F McMorrow, Director of Development; P Graham, Head of Development Operations; S Smith, Interim Nuclear New Build Programme Manager; T Greer, Scientific Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Councillor N Williams.

NWG 48/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

NWG 49/09 Disposal of Radioactive Waste at Lillyhall Landfill Site Scottish Environment Agency Authorisation to Magnox North Ltd, Lillyhall

Members considered a report on the disposal of radioactive waste at Lillyhall landfill site, Scottish Environment Agency authorisation to Magnox North Ltd, Lillyhall.

During discussion of this item, Members expressed their concern that in accepting waste from outside of Cumbria, pressure could be put on sites near Sellafield resulting in local waste being transported elsewhere. It was requested that a further recommendation be added regarding the capacity of local sites for local waste.

RESOLVED – that the recommendations in the report:-

- a) While recognising that there are no safety objections under the Radioactive Substance Act which would prevent the disposal of Very Low Level Waste at this site, the Council express concern at the potential socio-economic harm to the Copeland business community due to the perceptions of risk related generally to radioactive waste,
- b) A strategic land use planning approach to such decisions with the full involvement of the Local Councils, and the draft response in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed,

- c) Delay any such decisions until an appropriate process has been completed,
- d) That the response to the Scottish Environment Agency (SEPA) on its consultation, be copied to the NDA, DECC officials and NuLeAF, in co-ordination with Allerdale and Cumbria County Council, with a request to discuss the issues raised.

Be agreed subject to an additional recommendation being added regarding the capacity of local sites for local waste.

NWG 50/09 Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Strategy 2

Members were advised that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) was commencing a process to review its strategy for publication in March 2011. A detailed consultation process was due to commence in September 2010.

RESOLVED – that the NDA be invited to a future meeting of the Nuclear Working Group to make a presentation on the future strategy and its implications for Copeland and West Cumbria.

NWG 51/09 European Union consultation on a legislative approach to governing the Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste

Members views were sought on European Union consultation on a legislative approach to governing the Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste.

Members were advised that a short on-line questionnaire was available an individual responses as well as a response from the Council would be welcomed.

RESOLVED – that the Director of Development complete a draft response and seek approval from the Chairman before submitting.

NWG 52/09 NuLeAF Newsletter – March and April 2010

Members received the NuLeAF newsletters for March and April 2010.

RESOLVED – that the NuLeAF newsletters for March and April 2010 be received.

NWG 53/09 Nuclear New Build Update

Members were provided with an update on Nuclear New Build by the Director of Development, this included:

1. NPS consultations

House of Commons Select Committee on Energy and Climate Change published its report on the DECC National Policy Statements recently. Key points are;

- The committee supports DECC's list of all 10 sites in principle
- Proposes that issues on deep geological waste should not be considered by the IPC but details on interim storage should be within the IPC's remit
- Milestones for establishing the waste repository should be set by Government
- The role of the NPS in the planning system must be made clearer to assist decision makers
- Significant concerns were raised about the DECC consultation process
- The committee recommends debate on the floor of the House and possibly a vote.

2. House of Commons North West Regional Committee inquiry into the future of the nuclear industry in the NW

The Committee published on 31 March the oral and written evidence it had received, including from various Cumbrian organisations, but it was not able to finalise its Report before Parliament dissolved. The Committee recommended that its work be completed by any successor Committee in the new, post-election Parliament. The Committee was looking at the implications of, and opportunities for, expanding the nuclear industry in the North West region.

3. Scenario planning

- Spatial Planning Group led by CBC with CCC, ABC, Barrow and LDNPA
- Spatial implications of potential nuclear new build
- Physical/economic impact study required to provide evidence to support discussions/negotiations with applicants and contribute to LDF process – potential funding from BEC (WC). Funding application submitted
- Group feeds into wider governance/liaison arrangements

**4. Meeting with Nuclear New Build consortium partners
16th March**

- NNB consortium 'top team' visited Cumbria on 15th and 16th March.
- Executive Team nominated and awaiting formal appointment
- Further work required to roll out the organisational structure
- Looking at short term office accommodation in West Cumbria
- Developing transition plan for taking forward project

5. National Grid

- National Grid are working on finalising options Cumbria-wide post consultation
- Route corridor studies to be prepared by end Dec 2010

6. NDA

The NDA published on 31 March its Business Plan for 2010/11. The NDA plans to spend £2.8 billion across its 19 sites, and hopes to receive £1.15 billion in commercial income. Spend at Sellafield will be £1.5 billion, including completion of the £400 million Evaporator D plant for reducing liquid high level waste, the biggest nuclear construction project in the UK. The NDA's spend on socio-economic support will be maintained at £10 million rather than reduced (as originally planned) to £5 million.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

NWG 54/09 MRWS Update

Members were updated on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) by the Director of Development

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

The meeting closed at 1:50 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....