

NUCLEAR WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2009

Present: Councillors A Holliday (Chairman); D Banks and D Moore.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Brennan;
B Dixon; A Norwood and E Woodburn.

Officers: F McMorrow, Acting Chief Executive; P Graham, Head of
Development Operations; J Cain, Environmental Pollution Team
Leader and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present:

Mr H Rooms, Mr I Irving and Mr D Louden, Sellafield Ltd.

NWG 01/09 Appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

It was moved by Councillor D Banks, duly seconded and

AGREED – that Councillor A Holliday be appointed Chairman of
this Panel for the current municipal year.

It was then moved by Councillor A Holliday, duly seconded and

AGREED – that Councillor D Moore be appointed Deputy
Chairman of this Panel for the current municipal year.

NWG 02/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2009 were signed by
the Chairman as a correct record.

NWG 03/09 Disclosures of Interest

None

NWG 04/09 Arrangement of Agenda

Members were advised that Agenda Item 8 “Low Level Waste
Consultation”, had been removed from the Agenda.

Due to Mr I Irving being present it was also

AGREED – that Item 17 “Sellafield Ltd – Open Discussion” be
taken as the first item.

NWG 05/09 Sellafield Ltd – Open Discussion

Mr Irving updated Member's on work currently being undertaken on site including Building 241, the plant removing sludge from the storage tank, and the 645 campaign which is looking at achieving six years worth of work in five years. Questions from Members were then invited.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked if there were any financial implications regarding reducing the work schedule by one year. The road signs during the resurfacing of Yottenfews roundabout was also raised.

RESOLVED – that the updates be received.

NWG 06/09 Presentation on Low Level Waste (LLW)

Mr Louden presented to Members on the Sellafield Site Low Level Waste Strategy.

Members were advised that the new strategy was required as future Low Level Waste volumes greatly exceed the current LLW disposal capacity and also address the Government's policy for LLW management, which replaced the 1995 White Paper Cm2919.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked if plutonium waste was included and enquired about waste being sent to Sweden and the United States.

Mr Louden was thanked for his presentation.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

NWG 07/09 Application to the Environment Agency to deposit Very Low Level Radioactive Waste at Lillyhall

The Acting Chief Executive informed Members of the Waste Recycling Group (WRG) and Energy Solutions intentions to apply to the Environment Agency for authorisation to dispose of radioactive waste at the Lillyhall Landfill site.

Following discussion it was suggested that a policy for Copeland Borough Council in respect of this application and the potential issue of dispersal of nuclear facilities away from the existing sites of Sellafield and the LLWR at Drigg be considered together with Agenda item 7 'Proposal to develop new Low and Very Low Level Radioactive Waste repository at Keekle Head', minute number NWG 08/09 refers. Following this debate it was

RESOLVED – that the Council and its partners continue to seek the commitment of the industry operators and the NDA to

- a) a strategic land use planning approach to such decisions with the full involvement of the local Councils, and
- b) delay any such decisions until an appropriate process has been completed.

NWG 08/09 Proposal to develop new Low and Very Low Level Radioactive Waste repository at Keekle Head

The Group was discussed the proposal for the Keekle Head Waste Management Centre. During the discussion it was asked if alternative adjacent sites could be used and it was noted that this would be dependent on whether they would be subject to authorisation for use or a full planning application for nuclear disposal.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

NWG 09/09 Scottish Government Policy on Higher Activity Wastes (NuLeAF Report)

Members received a progress report from the NuLeAF Steering Group on the Scottish Government Policy on the Management of Higher Activity Wastes.

RESOLVED – that the progress report be noted.

NWG 10/09 NuLeAF Report on Low Level Waste Strategy

Consideration was given to a progress report from the NuLeAF Steering Group on Consultation on the UK Strategy for Managing Low Level Wastes (LLW) from the Nuclear Industry.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the report from the NuLeAF Steering Group on Consultation on the UK Strategy for Managing Low Level Wastes (LLW) from the Nuclear Industry be noted, and
- b) taking on board comments made by Members and Officers, the Acting Chief Executive be delegated authority to recommend Council's proposed response for approval and submission to the NDA.

NWG 11/09 Submarine Dismantling Project (NuLeAF Report)

Members received a report from the NuLeAF Steering Group on Ministry of Defence plans for Consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of dismantling and storage options.

RESOLVED – that the progress report be noted.

NWG 12/09 NDA Strategy Review (NuLeAF Report)

Members received an overview report from the NuLeAF Steering Group on progress with the NDA strategy review and other NDA related developments.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

NWG 13/09 Consultations on Radioactive Substance Regulation (NuLeAF Report)

Members received a report from the NuLeAF Steering Group on Current consultations relating to Radioactive Substances Regulation.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

NWG 14/09 MRWS update

The Group were updated on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely and advised that two meetings had been held so far this year. The work plan was defining the criteria and making a recommendation for the next step. The first interaction with the public was being aimed at late September 2009. It was noted that the County Council still did not sit on MRWS.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

NWG 15/09 Nuclear New Build update

Members were advised that consultation on Nuclear New Build was due to commence from the Autumn 2009. The Department for Energy and Climate Change consultation included a Drop-In Exhibition. It was unclear how the process would proceed in Copeland.

During the discussion of this item, Members raised the issue of a new connection to the National Grid and were advised that this was being looked at.

Copeland Borough Council's involvement in the planning process was also queried and the fact that there were three applications within the borough. It was stated that the fees from the Planning Applications would go to the Independent Planning Commission and not this authority.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

NWG 16/09 NuLeAF Bulletin for July 2009

Members received an E-Bulletin from NuLeAF containing articles on the Strategy Review Group, NuLeAF SG and AGM, International Workshop, Current Consultations, Future Consultations, NDA Developments, NuLeAF Case Studies and Dates for the Diary.

RESOLVED – that the E-Bulletin be noted.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....