

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2013

Present: Councillors Elaine Woodburn Allan Holliday; Yvonne Clarkson; Peter Connolly; and Dave Smith.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Jon Downie and David Moore

Officers: John Groves, Head of Nuclear, Energy and Planning; and Denise James, Member Services Officer.

SNEB 29/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SNEB 30/12 Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Draft Business Plan

Consideration was given to a summary of the Council's response to the NDAs draft business plan for 2013-16 which highlighted issues which needed further development.

Members expressed concerns that the Council had responded to the business plan but had not been informed if the comments had been taken on board prior to it being put before Parliament.

During consideration of the response Members asked for a letter to be sent to the NMP and the NDA with regarding the possibility of relocating the Risley Office to Cumbria.

Members also expressed concern that the contract for LLWR had been extended without consulting the Council and asked for this to be a point of discussion at the meeting scheduled for the 10th May 2013.

RESOLVED – That the response be noted.

SNEB 31/12 Fracking

Members received and noted a report updating on the position regarding Fracking following DECC's decision to lift the 18 month ban imposed in December 2011.

During consideration of this item members asked for a letter to be written to DECC seeking clarification on the affect fracking could have on Copeland.

SNEB 32/12 Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) and Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)

Members received and noted an overview of the role of the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) in the UK and the role of the Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) and the Council's relationship with such bodies.

SNEB 33/12 Sellafield Safety Performance Report 2012

The Sellafield safety performance report for 2012 covering all aspects of the business from nuclear, environment industrial and radiological safety was submitted and noted.

SNEB 34/12 Nuclear Projects Update

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

It was noted that :-

NUCLEAR NEW BUILD

There was nothing substantive to report in addition to what was reported at the last meeting. Initial site investigation work as part of the proposal by NuGeneration Ltd to develop a new nuclear power generating facility on the site just north of the existing Sellafield site is progressing according to plan. A revised programme for the development is awaited.

NORTH WEST COAST CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The North West Coast Connections project is led by National Grid and is 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. National Grid are planning to commence community consultation for the next phase of the works in May 2013 and this will run over the summer. A further Members workshop with National Grid officials will be arranged as part of the consultation process.

WALNEY EXTENSION OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

DONG Energy is currently consulting with officers on the final chapters of the Environmental Statement which will form a key part of the application for Development Consent Order (DCO). We are currently providing feedback on the Noise assessment chapter and are still awaiting the Visual Impact and

Socio-Economic Chapters. The emphasis on reviewing these chapters is to ensure that the developer has taken into account the issues raised at previous stages in the consultation.

We have also provided comments on the draft DCO in respect of the Marine License. Following on from concerns raised by Members at the SNEB on the 14th Feb we have highlighted the need for monitoring, analyzing and if necessary mitigating the disturbance of radioactivity in seabed particles. After receiving advice from the EA we have recommended that they seek guidance from a Radiation Protection Adviser to ensure that workers and the wider environment will be protected.

The developer also came to the Copeland Centre on the 27th March to give an update on the project to which all members were invited.

A joint letter with Cumbria County Council, Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council outlining the level of community benefit that would be expected if the project was granted permission.

WEST CUMBRIA MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY (MRWS)

Since the last meeting the Leader of the Council has met Ed Davey the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to seek Governments views on the options for dealing with the waste currently stored at Sellafield. The Secretary of State confirmed that a consultation on the MRWS siting process would be preceded by learning the lessons identified by Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils which is in line with the written ministerial statement issued in January after the decision about participation.

SNEB 35/12 Future Meetings Programme

RESOLVED – That

- NDA – Response to the report of the Public Accounts Committee (May 2013)
- Tidal/Wave energy position
- Nuclear Policy

be the subject of future meetings and included in the work programme.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....