

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2015 AT 5:00PM

Present: Councillors Elaine Woodburn (Chairman); Yvonne Clarkson; Jon Downie; Allan Holliday and Lena Hogg.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor David Moore.

Officers: Pat Graham, Director of Economic Growth; John Groves, Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager; Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer and Denice Gallen, Nuclear and Energy Officer.

SNEB 20/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SNEB 21/14 Review of Welsh Government Policy on the Management and Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste

Members were advised that the Welsh Government held a call for evidence in March 2014 into their current position on the management of Higher Activity Waste (HAW) which is currently to neither support nor oppose the UK policy.

Following the call for evidence they have now launched a consultation into the review of Welsh Government Policy. The consultation asked 3 specific questions:

Question 1: Policy Review:

- Should it seek to adopt a policy for HAW and spent fuel should it be declared a waste?
- Should it retain neutral position?
- Should it adopt a policy option opposing disposal of HAW?

Question 2: Should the Welsh Government adopt a policy for geological disposal?

Question 3: If the Welsh Government does not adopt a geological disposal policy should it adopt a policy for an alternative disposal route?

The Consultation will close on 22 January 2015.

Members considered the draft response to the consultation process urging the Welsh government to adopt a policy on disposal of HAW and recommending following the advice of CORWM and further recommends that any policy draws a distinction between HAW and spent fuel.

During the discussion, Members requested that the paragraph in the response to Question 2 regarding Spent Fuel, be repeated in the response to Question 3.

RESOLVED - That the proposed draft response be approved, subject to the amendments suggested and submitted as part of the consultation process.

SNEB 21/14 Copeland Borough Council's Response to the North West Coast Connections

Members were reminded that North West Coast Connections have recently undertaken a consultation into the proposed route corridors for the upgrading of the National Grid network to support the new nuclear power station.

A draft consultation response and explanatory report was issued to all members on 27 October 2014 with request for response by 5 November 2014.

The report was then amended to reflect the comments expressed by Members and the response was approved by the Executive at the meeting on 25 November 2014.

The Consultation closed on 28 November 2014.

RESOLVED - That the Council's response be noted.

SNEB 22/14 Projects Update

Members were updated on the following key projects relating to the Council's nuclear and energy activities:

Nuclear New Build

It was noted that the Council was working with NuGen to help them deliver their project in a way that minimises the impact on the environment, whilst maximising the opportunities for local people and securing a positive lasting legacy for the wider area. NuGen aims to carry out stage one consultation on the issues and options for the development in spring 2015.

NuGen briefed all Members on 15 January 2015 on the proposed new nuclear power station and on the project developments and consultation process.

In house briefing sessions with CBC officers were also being run for those who may be asked to directly contribute to the project.

North West Coast Connections (NWCC) Project

The National Grid consultation closed on the 28th November 2014. All Members received a copy of the draft consultation response. A copy of the Councils response had been reported earlier to this meeting.

The next stage in the process would take place after consideration of the consultation responses and will then move to the more detailed design aspects of the project.

Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

The Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) department were in attendance at the NuLeAF meeting on the 10 December 2014.

RWM would be hosting an event on the 12 February 2015 regarding the national geological screening exercise for the Geological Disposal Facility siting process and it was suggested that Copeland Borough Council were not to send a representative.

Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)

The Strategic Nuclear and Planning Manager attended a meeting held by NuLeAF and LLWR in Manchester on 14 November 2014 which discussed the VLLW / LALLW movements for the coming year and provided a verbal update on the issues discussed and resolved.

RESOLVED - That

- a)** the updates be noted and
- b)** that Copeland Borough Council would not be represented at the RWM event on 12 February 2015.

SNEB 23/14 Nuclear Management Partners (NMP)

Following the announcement earlier in the week regarding NMP, members discussed the implications for the borough.

It was suggested that NMP be invited to attend a Member Briefing at the Council offices in the near future and all Members be invited to attend.

RESOLVED - That a Member Briefing at the Council offices be arranged in the near future with NMP and all Members be invited to attend.

The meeting closed at 5:55pm

Chairman

Date