

## **STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2013**

Present: Councillors Allan Holliday (Deputy Chairman in the Chair); Yvonne Clarkson; Peter Connolly; Lena Hogg and David Moore.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Jon Downie and Elaine Woodburn.

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

Also present: Councillor Dave Smith.

#### **SNEB 05/13 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **SNEB 06/13 West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)**

The Board received a summary update of the Government's policy for the disposal of intermediate and higher activity radioactive wastes from the Head of Nuclear, Energy & Planning. Members were advised that the Government's 'Call for Evidence' which closed on 10 June 2013 had resulted in over 200 responses. These were currently being analysed and an update on their findings would be reported at a future meeting of this Board.

It was noted that the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Annual Report was available and it was requested that the Head of Nuclear, Energy & Planning email this to all members of the Board with hard copies to Councillors Clarkson and Connolly.

During discussion of this item, an update on the Keekle Head Public Enquiry was requested. It was stated that the Public Enquiry had been held recently and had now closed. A decision from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government was expected in the Autumn and all Parish Councils in the borough would be notified.

**RESOLVED** - That the update be noted.

**SNEB 07/13 Managing Risk Reduction at Sellafield – Public Accounts Committee Report and Recommendations**

The Head of Nuclear, Energy & Planning provided the Board with an update on the findings and recommendations by the Public Accounts Committee into the Managing Risk Reduction at Sellafield report published by the National Audit Office.

The report included six recommendations:

1. The Authority should develop and apply benchmarks to assess the robustness of the lifetime plan and challenge existing assumptions on costs and timescales for critical projects; and rigorously examine the timetable for the geological disposal facility.
2. To help ensure there is no further slippage to timetables and costs are kept under control, the Authority should invite the Major Projects Authority to review the most critical and largest projects, and should report publicly on the progress of key risk reduction programmes against plans and budgets.
3. The Authority should determine how and when it will have achieved sufficient certainty to expect Sellafield Ltd to transfer risk down the supply chain on individual projects and then to reconsider its contracting approach for the site as a whole.
4. The National Audit Office should review the basis on which savings have been assessed and provide assurance to the Committee that the level of savings achieved at Sellafield has been measured and reported accurately.
5. The Authority should ensure all payments are linked to the value delivered and that payments are not made where companies have failed to deliver. It should also routinely provide assurance on the operation of its controls over payments for Nuclear Management Partners' constituent companies.
6. The Authority and Sellafield Ltd should set out what added value can be achieved from taxpayers' investment in Sellafield, clarify their roles in delivering this and set performance targets for contributing to the development of the regional and national economy and workforce.

It was suggested that the Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and a senior officer from Nuclear Management Partners are invited to attend the Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board at the earliest opportunity to respond to the recommendations and to give an indication of the process to secure compliance.

**RESOLVED** - That

- a) the update be noted and,

- b) the Chief Executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and a senior officer from Nuclear Management Partners are invited to attend the Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board at the earliest opportunity to respond to the recommendations and to give an indication of the process to secure compliance.

**SNEB 08/13 Key Projects Update**

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

**Nuclear New Build**

- It was noted that EDF Energy was locked in negotiations with the government over terms for the contracts for difference (CfD). Setting the rate for CfD was critical to all nuclear new build projects as it would determine a guaranteed rate for energy production for the next 23-30 years, therefore all nuclear new build developers were awaiting the outcome.
- A Press Release had been issued by the Department of Energy and Climate Change regarding Community Benefits at Hinckley Point.

**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 is to start its second round of consultation on outline routing and siting for the upgrading of the electricity grid in late summer 2013. This will involve a newsletter being posted to 247,000 homes located approximately within 2km either side of the potential route corridors/siting. Public consultation drop-in events will also be happening across the region in Autumn/Winter 2013 and will run for 12 weeks.
- The National Grid are to hold a briefing for all Copeland Councillors on the proposed route corridors and their emerging preference on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 5:00pm in the Bainbridge Room.

**Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farms**

- The Walney Island Windfarm extension Development Consent Order (DCO) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The Inspectorate then had 28 days to review the application and decide whether or not to accept it. During this period, the Council has to respond on the Adequacy of Consultation (AoC) undertaken by the developer. This will be a joint response with the other Local Planning Authorities involved in the Planning Performance Agreement.
- No progress had been made on the issue of Community benefits.

**RESOLVED** - That the updates be noted.

**SNEB 09/13 Nuclear & Energy News Bulletin**

Members were advised that issue one of the Nuclear & Energy News was attached to the agenda for information and would be used in future to update members of news items that they might find of interest.

**RESOLVED** - That the update be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.15 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....