

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 5:30 PM

Present: Councillors Elaine Woodburn (Chair); Yvonne Clarkson and Dave Smith.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Moore.

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive; Pat Graham, Corporate Director People and Places; Steve Smith, Interim Head of Nuclear and Energy Development and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

SNEB 08/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2011 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SNEB 09/11 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Elaine Woodburn declared a personal interest in the Agenda due to being a Member of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership and Vice Chair of the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG).

Councillor Yvonne Clarkson declared a personal interest in the Agenda due to being a Member of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership and having a Daughter working in the Nuclear industry.

SNEB 10/11 Final Weightman Report

The Interim Head of Nuclear and Energy Development updated Members on the final report of the Weightman enquiry published on 11 October 2011 into the circumstances of the Fukushima accident in Japan on 11 March 2011.

It was highlighted that the final report concluded:-

- There is no reason to curtail the operation of UK operating sites, although operators should continue to follow the founding principle of continuous improvement.
- There are no fundamental weaknesses in the UK nuclear licensing regime or the safety assessment principles that underpin it.

- There is no reason to revise the strategic advice given by the regulators on which the Nuclear National Policy Statement was based, or any need to change present siting strategies for new nuclear power stations in the UK.
- The UK Practice of periodic safety reviews of licenced sites provides a robust means of ensuring continuous improvement.
- The events at Fukushima reinforce the need to continue to pursue decommissioning of former nuclear sites with utmost vigour and determination.
- The regulator is satisfied with the responses and plans initiated by the Government and nuclear industry in response to the interim report.

An additional recommendation from the report (FR-5) was also highlighted, which states that the relevant Government departments in England, Wales and Scotland should examine the adequacy of the existing system of planning controls for commercial and residential developments off the nuclear licensed site.

Members were advised that a further report from Dr Weightman would be made available in twelve months time.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SNEB 11/11 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) update re: PSE3 Consultation

The Interim Head of Nuclear and Energy Development provided an update on the MRWS programme and outlined arrangements for the coming months leading up to a Decision to Participate by the three local authorities (Copeland Borough Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council) as decision making bodies including details for the third wave of Public Stakeholder Engagement (PSE3).

The Board was advised that as part of the consultation process two workshops for all Members are to be held, one towards the end of the Consultation period and one on 7 December 2011 at 5:00pm to cover 'pre-determination and prepare Members for any questions they may receive from constituents regarding PSE3.

RESOLVED that the update be received.

SNEB 12/11 National Grid North West Coast Connections (NWCC) Strategic Route Options

The Board was provided with a summary and update on the current issues relating to the National Grid proposal to provide power line connections to nuclear new build facilities in Copeland to proposed future Nuclear Power Generator.

Additional route maps were made available to Members and it was requested these be circulated to all Members of the Board.

It was noted that a presentation on the Strategic Route Options would take place in December or January by representatives from National Grid; a report would be put to December's Executive outlining the Strategic Route Options and the change in governance arrangements and a further report would be put to February 2012's Executive seeking approval to the Council's response to the Strategic Route Options Consultation.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SNEB 13/11 Banks's Renewables Wind Farm proposal

The Board received an update on a current planning application submitted by Banks Renewable to erect 6 wind turbines on land known as 'Weddicar Rigg' to the east of Moresby Parks.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

SNEB 14/11 West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group Review

The Board was provided with a summary and update on the review and restructuring of the West Cumbria Site Stakeholders Group (WCSSG).

It was noted that the proposal was for the Sub Committees to be renamed Working Groups.

Three of the existing groups (Emergency Planning, Environmental Health and Low Level Waste) would continue as currently constituted.

Three of the Committees (Decommissioning, Commercial and Socio Economic) would be dissolved and reformed into the new groups.

There would be three new working groups, High Hazard & Nuclear Materials, Spent Fuel Management & Waste Management and Decommissioning & End States.

There was general support in principle to the proposals, although more detail was required on the Working Groups. It was suggested that a review be undertaken after twelve months.
The Interim Head of Nuclear and Energy Development was asked to draft a response on behalf of the Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 6:35 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....