

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND ENERGY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2012 AT 2:00 PM

Present: Councillors Allan Holliday (Vice Chair in the Chair); Yvonne Clarkson; Peter Connolly and Dave Smith.

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

Officers: John Groves, Head of Nuclear, Energy and Planning; Steve Smith, Nuclear Projects Manager; Denice Gallen, Nuclear and Energy Officer and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: Hon Alderman David Gray

SNEB 11/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2012 were signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record.

SNEB 12/12 Nuclear Projects Update

The Nuclear Projects Manager updated Members on the following key projects relating to the Council's nuclear activities:

Nuclear New Build

- It was stated that the Council was in the final stages of considering the final draft of a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with NuGeneration Ltd.
- Officials from NuGeneration Ltd had been given a tour of the Borough and work had commenced on determining the content of the first work package around transport and accommodation.
- Initial site investigation work on the site just north of the existing Sellafield site was scheduled to commence in the Autumn following delays due to mineral rights issues. A detailed communications plan was being prepared by NuGeneration Ltd to ensure all stakeholders are kept informed of progress.

North West Coast Connections Project

- Members were advised that the consultation seeking comments on six strategic route options for new grid connections across Cumbria and parts of Lancashire had now closed.
- Following the consultation, National Grid would be issuing their final preferred option(s) in the Autumn and are putting in place arrangements to allow discussion around detailed route corridors which would commence soon after the preferred strategic route option(s) is announced.

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)

- The MRWS Partnership held its last meeting on 19 July 2012.
- The Partnership has published its final report which was debated by Full Council on 26 September 2012.
- A decision about participation, which was to have been considered by Executive at a special meeting on 11 October 2012 has been deferred by three months to allow the three Decision Making Bodies extra time to consider a number of issues including the right of withdrawal, community benefits principles and alternative storage options.

Walnay Extension Offshore Wind Farms

- Dong Energy have formally begun the Development Consent Order process by submitting a notice to the Secretary of State via the inspectorate and consulted all statutory consultees under Section 42 of the Planning Act.
- The formal consultation closing date had been extended to 24 October 2012.
- Copeland Borough Council had agreed to provide a joint response to the S42 consultation with the other authorities (Lancashire County Council, Lancaster District Council, South Lakes District Council, Lake District National Park Authority and Cumbria County Council) that were potentially signing up to a PPA with DONG.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

SNEB 13/12 Developing a Work Programme for Future Board Meetings

The Board considered a proposal for a range of subjects to be included on the agenda for future meetings and the priority that should be attached to each one.

During the discussion that followed, it was suggested that in addition to the subjects listed in the report, the following were also added:-

- Fracking (a method of mining in which cracks are created in a type of rock called shale in order to obtain gas, oil, or other substances that are inside it).
- The Future of Tidal/Wave Energy.
- Sellafield – Disposal of Nuclear Flasks.
- An update on the 'Green Deal'.

RESOLVED that a draft Work Programme be drawn up and suggested dates entered.

SNEB 14/12 On Shore Wind. Call for Evidence

The Head of Nuclear, Energy and Planning provided a verbal update on the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) call for evidence regarding On Shore Wind.

It was suggested that the consultation document be circulated to Board Members.

Members were advised that the deadline for responding was 15 November 2012 and it was further suggested that the draft response be circulated to Members for comment.

RESOLVED that

- a) the consultation document be circulated to Board Members, and
- b) the draft response be circulated to Members for comment.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....