

Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group held on Friday 3rd June 2005 at Creca Village Hall, Creca

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Lindsay (Chair)
Thomas Docherty (Secretary)
Cllr Sean Marshall
Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie
Cllr Chris Carruthers
Dr Isabelle Watson
David Gurney
Rob Gibson
Len Moore
Mike Travis
John Rogerson
David Mundell MP
Dr Elaine Murray MSP
Billy McVeigh
Steve Southam

Apologies: Ian Tait
Cllr Tony Turner
Cllr Wilma Patterson
Cllr Allan Graham

Present: Jeff Leaver
Martin Grey (NDA)
Terry Selby (NDA)
Paul Giles, Paul Stephens, Dave Wilson, Alastair Laird, Andy Feltham
(all British Nuclear Group),
Paul Allan (Creca Village Hall Committee)

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed as a true record (Proposed by Cllr Ogilvie, Seconded by Mr Rogerson).

2. Matters Arising

The SSG Stakeholder Charter was signed by Cllr Lindsay and Mr Travis.

Cllrs Marshall and Ogilvie have had a reply from Dr Ian Roxburgh, NDA Chief Executive regarding the possible installation of a cycle path along the Chapelcross Pipeline in the future.

It was agreed that the Annandale & Eskdale Area Committee will not now write to Chapelcross to organise a presentation on the possibility of a replace nuclear power station until after CoRWM have reported in 2006.

3. Site Manager's Report

Mr Travis began his report by introducing the management team members who were present. He reminded the SSG that as of 1st April ownership of the Site had passed to the NDA and explained how the new management structure of BNFL worked.

He highlighted some of the key achievements of Chapelcross in recent months including:

- ROSPA Gold Award
- Achievement of ISO 9001 and 14001 Quality Standards
- Awarding of a 2 year contract by the NDA
- The beginning of the hazard reduction work
- The removal of 1,000 drums of Magnox Depleted Uranium
- The closure of the Chapelcross Tritium Production Plant

Mr Rogerson asked for the dates for defuelling. These were given as April 2007 to March 2009.

Cllr Lindsay asked if the Lost Time Accident record at Chapelcross included contractors. Mr Travis confirmed that this was the case.

4. Commercial Operations & Engineering – Paul Stephens

Mr Stephens gave an update on current operations. He reported that spent fuel flask movements began again on 31st March from the Ponds and that the Site was on target to complete defuelling. This included the £20million refurbishment of Chapelcross' Fuel Route – the largest single project within the Business Group.

As part of the Post Operational Safety Case (POSC) preparations, modifications would be carried out to ensure that the reactors could not be restarted. There was a delay to the completion of the new Filter House at Seafield due to contractual difficulties.

Cllr Ogilvie asked how many asbestos samples had been taken – 12,000.

Cllr Marshall urged a speedy resolution to the issue involving the Filter House.

5. Decommissioning – Dave Wilson

Mr Wilson gave a presentation on the decommissioning of the Site over the next 13 years. He drew the SSG's attention to the proposals to implode the cooling towers in the 2006/07 financial year. The Secretary added that an article on decommissioning had appeared in this week's Annandale Observer.

Mr Moore asked if British Nuclear Group would make presentations on decommissioning to Community Councils – Mr Wilson confirmed this and asked Mr Moore to contact the Site to arrange a suitable date.

Mr Mundell asked what consultations would be carried out on the timing of the actual ceremony to bring down the towers. Mr Wilson replied that a full consultation would be carried out involving the Police, the communities and the SSG.

The Secretary suggested that this could be discussed at the next scheduled meeting in more detail – agreed.

Mr Rogerson asked what would happen if BioPower wanted to use the Towers. Mr Selby replied that whilst discussions were ongoing with BioPower nothing had yet been agreed and it was important that preparations continued in the meantime.

Cllr Marshall suggested a visit to Calder Hall to see their preparations. Mr Wilson agreed to speak to Sellafield to organise this.

6. EHS&Q – Dr Andy Feltham

Dr Feltham began by reading out a list of the CARE (Chapelcross Accident REduction) scheme awards that had been made since the last meeting.

He then gave a report of current EHS&Q performance and stressed that the target for Chapelcross remained zero accidents.

Cllr Marshall asked what Chapelcross was doing to improve the safety standards of its contractors. Dr Feltham replied that he was currently working on a best practice system using the experiences of other sites.

Dr Feltham then gave a detailed report on a problem experienced last year in the handling of Chapelcross' laundry. He assured the SSG that steps had been taken by the laundry company to ensure the standards expected by Chapelcross were met in the future.

Dr Murray asked why this problem hadn't been spotted at other Sites. Dr Feltham replied that other sites had reported anomalies associated with their laundry contract, but these did not warrant the level of investigation made by Chapelcross. Mr Travis added that the investigation had been carried out in a first class and professional manner by Chapelcross staff and that the US Parent Company was taking the Site's concerns extremely seriously.

Mr Rogerson said that the workforce had been disappointed that the contract hadn't been awarded to Sellafield and Cllr Lindsay asked why work hadn't been given to a UK company. Dr Feltham replied that the contract had gone through a tender process and was awarded accordingly. The contract will shortly be tendered again and Sellafield will be invited to bid.

7. Stakeholder support – Paul Giles

Mr Giles distributed copies of the Site's Socio-Economic plan to members and said that the Site would welcome any feedback. He added that British Nuclear Group would continue to support local communities through a variety of sponsorship programmes.

8. NDA report – Martin Grey

Martin Grey gave an update on the NDA's progress in taking over the ownership of Chapelcross. He noted the site's success in building a strong record of stakeholder engagement. Mr Grey added that the NDA was keen to attend each SSG meeting and looked forward to working closely with the Group on its future plans to decommission Chapelcross.

The Chairman suggested that a special meeting be organised in conjunction with D&G Council to examine the NDA's Annual plan in August/September – agreed.

9. Any Other Business

The Secretary had received a letter from the Creca Village Hall Committee asking for Mr P Allan to be considered as a member of the SSG. This was granted.

Cllr Ogilvie suggested that the next meeting of the SSG should be held in Annan, preferably in the evening. The secretary suggested that this matter be deferred to the Chairman and Site Manager for discussion, with the possibility of doing this for the special meeting. This was agreed.

10. Date & Time of next scheduled meeting

Friday 2 December 2005 at 10.00am (venue tbc)