



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG) MEETING

Meeting Reference **SG8**

Date Tuesday 14th October 2008

Venue Winfrith Newburgh Village Hall

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mrs Sandra Ellis, SSG Chairman, welcomed everyone to the 8th meeting; she extended a warm welcome to Richard Flynn Communications Manager for the NDA to the meeting and explained that he writes the publication Dialogue, which is regularly published on the NDA website. Mrs Ellis recommended the website which she finds extremely informative.

Mrs Ellis also explained that since the last meeting she has attended the National Stakeholder Group meeting at Edinburgh University, the main theme of the two days was the NDA's strategy for the next few years, she went onto mention that at this meeting she was introduced to the new Chairman of the NDA Stephen Henwood. Mrs Ellis reported that at the end of the summer Stephen Henwood visited the site and was extremely impressed at all the work performed to date.

During July the site hosted an open evening, all local stakeholders were invited. Sandra commented that it was a well attended and informative evening; she expressed her thanks to Andy Staples and Emma Burwood for arranging it and also to the other staff who stayed to accommodate the visit.

During the period since the last meeting, Mrs Ellis decided to engage with members of the group via a questionnaire, this was to ascertain if anything needed to be performed differently. From the responses received only two people requested meetings in the day. Mrs Ellis explained that the reason these meetings are held in the evening is to give every member of the public an opportunity to attend.

The National Stakeholder Group meeting is taking place on the 4/5/6 November in Manchester, Sandra Ellis (Chair), Maggie Snook (Vice-Chair) and Emma Burwood (Secretariat) will attend.

The chairman had received an invitation from CoRWM to attend a seminar in Reading on 30th October 2008 concerning the National Geological Disposal Project, it was asked if any member of the group would like to attend. If so please inform Emma Burwood.

Apologies were received from Elizabeth Allen (NDA), Helen Heanes (DCC), Alan Neal (UKAEA), Susan Adams (UKAEA) and Andrew Nicholson (Natural England).

The Chair concluded her introduction by thanking Kitty for making the refreshments for the meeting over the past four years.

2. UKAEA Site Update – Mr Andy Staples, Winfrith Site Closure Director

Mr Andy Staples introduced himself as the Winfrith Site Closure Director; he explained that UKAEA are now working towards a site closure period 2030 -2040 timeframe.

Mr Staples noted Sandra's comments in the introduction relating to the visit to site by Stephen Henwood (NDA Chairman). He reported that it was a successful visit and Mr Henwood was very impressed with the amount of work performed and delivered to time, cost and above all safely, he also looked at what work was remaining and realised it was very little. UKAEA are still holding some discussions to ascertain if there is any possibility of receiving any additional funding to allow the closure of the site ahead of current schedule, these discussions are still ongoing.

Reorganisation of UKAEA

- Mr Staples explained to the meeting that Winfrith and Harwell have now combined as one Site Licensee Company (SLC) called Research Sites Restoration Ltd (RSRL). In July the NII granted a license instrument which meant that the company could begin work in shadow operation, with the aim being to re license on the 2nd February 2009 as RSRL. All staff will then be transferred to RSRL.
- A readiness review was completed by the NII and the EA in September, this was successful with no show stoppers, and another review is planned for December.
- UKAEA will remain as the parent company initially, however with the NDA'S. Competition policy, the ownership of RSRL could be transferred at some point.

Key Issues

- The NII have approved the LTP06 milestones this is based on early decommissioning ie. Site closure by 2018/2019. This lifetime plan does not fit with the work currently performed as part of LTP08, therefore the UKAEA have submitted a paper to NII for approval seeking to defer the milestones such that they align with those in LTP8, the NII have not formally responded but they are informally content that we are working to LTP 08.
- The Environment Agency issued a warning letter concerning the reporting/monitoring of tritium discharges. UKAEA have embarked on a comprehensive review of all procedures and practices appropriate to ensuring compliance with RSA 93.(Radioactive Substances Act).

Decommissioning Aspects

- SGHWR and Dragon work has now ceased and has gone into care and maintenance
- A59 – completely removed floor slab and 50% backfilled. Mr Staples added that this has been a very successful project both for UKAEA and nationally.
- WETP – This facility has nearly completed the encapsulation of the sludge's from SGHWR, 1000 drums have been transferred to the Treated Radwaste Store. Andy commented that only the 'heel' was left (the remnants of the sludge); this will fill approximately another 80 drums which should be

completed by Christmas. Following this some thorium will be encapsulated, this should be completed by summer 2009, after this the plant will be decontaminated, decommissioned, demolished and then the land will be remediated. This again Mr Staples commented had been a very successful project.

- Mr Staples explained to the meeting that as the site was now going to stay in care and maintenance for a number of years, there was a need to maintain the engineering of the plant and equipment. A review has been completed and some additional works identified.

Mr Staples then showed the meeting some photographs of work on A59, East, WETP and TRS.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Mr Staple's thanked the stakeholders for attending the evening tour in July and offered a repeat next year.
- A planning application has been submitted for an extension until 2009 for WETP.
- Planning permission has also been sought for a laydown area in support of the decommissioning of EAST and WETP
- Mr Staples concluded his presentation by explaining that there was a small amount of money available for local groups/schools etc. If anyone requires further information please contact emma.burwood@ukaea.org.uk.

Questions - UKAEA Update

Q1 David King commented that Andy's title was not appropriate, he wondered if the title could be Director of Winfrith?

A2 Andy replied that this concern has been raised before and he agreed to take the matter up once RSRL had been licensed.

Q2 Are the timescales for Harwell any different from those at Winfrith?

A3 They are slightly ahead but not much.

3. NDA Site Update – Malcolm Barents

NDA's Local Arrangements Review

Mr Malcolm Barents Programme Manager for the NDA made a short presentation on the NDA review of Local Arrangements for Stakeholder Engagement. The main points were:

- The guidance was reviewed as NDA/SSG's had operated under original guidance for three years during which a large amount of experience had accrued. It was felt to be an appropriate time to take stock and where applicable make improvements.
- Input to proposed new guidance had been gleaned by means of a questionnaire to over 1500 stakeholders, discussion with SSG Chairpersons, reviews of SSG websites and constitutions, and attendance at National Stakeholder Group meeting 4.
- The three main conclusions to the exercise were that SSG's were working well but NDA guidance needed to be strengthened, and SSG's wanted a more consistent approach.

The main changes in the new guidance were as follows:

- 1) Objectives of SSG's have been reduced from 12 to 3.

- 2) All SSG's must write a constitution to be agreed with NDA by September 2009
- 3) Clearer terminology to be used to describe the position of people attending SSG's.
- 4) Responsibility of members and Chair of SSG's to be set out in more detail.
- 5) Secretariat support to SSG's to be made clear.
- 6) NDA support to SSG's to be clarified.
- 7) Policy on expenses and Chair's emolument to be clarified and funding available increased.

Mr Barent's went onto to explain that the next steps is a visit from NDA HQ who will meet with Chairs, SSG secretariat and the Site Programme Managers to discuss the guidance and what it means for the SSG.

Questions – NDA Update

Q1 There used to be a LLC and Neighbourhood committee, is there any meeting for the other end of site?

A1 It was explained that Kim Slowe was invited to the meeting but could not attend. In the past he has presented along with English Partnerships and they are very welcome to update the community at any of our meetings.

Malcolm Barents then gave an update on NDA business.

Draft NDA Business Plan 2009/10

- The draft NDA plan for 2009/10 was to be published for consultation in November 2008 and would include details of proposed key activities on sites and indicative figures for funding limits. Proposed spending limits would reflect the governments Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Malcolm Barents said he was not aware of any proposed changes to Winfrith funding levels.

United Kingdom Waste Inventory Published

- The latest version of the UK Waste Inventory was published in June 2008. The document is jointly published by the NDA and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and describes stocks of radioactive wastes held in the UK. It also predicts waste that could arise from future operational and decommissioning work and provides information on materials that be classed as waste in the future.
- The latest version (2007) contains details of over 1,000 individual wastes that have been reported by the organisations responsible for their management.

Third Annual health, Safety, Security and Environmental Report Published

- This report describes health, safety, security and environmental performance of the NDA itself, its subsidiary companies, and site license companies that operate NDA owned sites. He commented that the safety statistics were good at Winfrith.

Annual Report and Accounts 2007/08

- The 2007/08 NDA Annual Report was available either in hard copy or via the NDA website, available at WWW.nda.gov.uk

4. Regulators

- **HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) – Tony Walker**

Mr Walker did not attend the meeting but sent a paper report, this can be found at www.ukaea.org.uk/sites/winfrith_stakeholder_group.htm

- **Environment Agency – David Prescott**

Mr Prescott gave a brief summary of his written report a copy of which can be found at www.ukaea.org.uk/sites/winfrith_stakeholder_group.htm along with his contact details.

Questions

Q1) How long do we need to keep copies of licenses that are sent to us from you?
From Chris Stokes (DCC)

A1) David Prescott will get back to Mr Stokes and clarify the situation.

- **Food Standards Agency – Chris Thomas**

Mr Thomas summarised his written report a copy of which can be found at www.ukaea.org.uk/sites/winfrith_stakeholder_group.htm

Questions

Q1) Do you test milk from sheep in the area surrounding the site?

A1) No we only test some dairy farms, Winfrith site is very low impact.

5. A59 Decommissioning – Karl Shuler

Mr Shuler began his presentation by giving a brief history on A59 (Active Handling and Decontamination Building). He showed a five minute DVD covering the historical work performed within the building and the decontamination and demolition work performed to date.

After the DVD footage, Mr Shuler introduced Mr Steve Parkinson Director, Southern Region (Nuvia), and explained that Nuvia has been the contractor that has performed the majority of the work. He further went onto explain the final stages left to complete the project including the bagging up and monitoring of the waste bags.

Mr Shuler explained that the project is nearing completion, the site has been divided into three zones, two out of the three are now completed and the remaining back fill will be used shortly.

He concluded the presentation by reiterating what a successful project this has been and it is his belief that it is one of the first in the nation.

Questions

Q1) How long has it actually taken for the building to how it is now?

A1) The contract was let in 2000, decommissioning work actually began in 2001, so to where we are now, a 7 year programme.

6. Any Other Business

Is the sea discharge pipe still being used? Yes it is.

Mrs Ellis drew the meeting to a close by thanking all the presenters; this was met with a round of applause.

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