

## D&CPC LIAISON GROUP MEETING – TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

**Present:** John Jennings, D&C PC  
Suey Browne, D&C PC  
Mike Pigott  
Donna Glasson  
Garan Comley

Andy Pratt, D&C PC  
Martin Walkingshaw  
Samantha McKenzie  
Tony Buchanan

**Apologies:** Megan Watson

Mike Pigott welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Martin who joined by video call.

Minutes of the last meeting (28/03/2022) – There were no issues raised and the minutes were deemed accurate and approved by the committee.

### Outstanding Actions

- **Enhance the Drigg Bursary report to include more details for the support that has been provided.**  
Samantha and John to set up a meeting to review the Drigg Bursary report to demonstrate alignment to the funding criteria and highlight the benefits of the fund to the local community. Action ongoing SM/JJ
- **Stakeholder engagement from BEIS for policy and consultation document.**  
BEIS are expected to issue the consultation document by the end of May/June, which was delayed due to local elections. Martin is meeting with the NDA Lead, Laura Hogg and hoping once the consultation is published on their portal NWS can engage with local parish councils. We will also engage with our forums to communicate and explain the policy/consultation. Action ongoing MW
- **To provide update for working hours at the site.**  
No significant update since the last meeting, however, Mike will be attending a Union meeting on Friday 29 April to discuss the alignment of working hours for operations, maintenance and the Repository Development Programme (RDP). Action ongoing MP
- **Community bench, siting at beach carpark.**  
The parish council are to identify an alternative location to site the bench. Once identified our operations team will support delivery of the bench. Action ongoing JJ and AP
- **LLWR apprentices to continue project management support for Drigg Village Hall.**  
Yes, the approval for PM works to continue: Action closed

## **Site Operations update from Mike Pigott**

### **COVID-19**

- We continued to manage our response to the pandemic under our fortnightly COVID-19 Incident Control Centre (ICC).
- 20 April ICC COVID-19 report showed 0 isolating.
- Our COVID-19 ICC was established on 12 March 2020, we are pleased to say that our COVID-19 Focus group was stood down on Friday 22 April and our ICC is expected to stand down on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May.
- Our procedures, documents and tools i.e. Pandemic Response Plan, will be incorporated into the Site Emergency Arrangements.
- Nuclear Waste Services have published our 'Living with COVID-19' arrangements, we are committed to maintaining availability and use of additional cleaning/hygiene, and ready to re-introduce arrangements if necessary.

### **General**

- Maintain focus on Nuclear/Conventional Safety, Compliance, and responsible Stewardship of the site.
- Busy quarter leading up to year end – we have made a good start building relationships across Nuclear Waste Services.
- Site-based activity
  - Site security system went live on 31 March, completing 8 years of effort on our Security Enhancements Programme (SEP). This includes perimeter fence, reception area/gates and SECC. We now have scalable arrangements for decades to come.
  - TRS drum project – first of 11 rail deliveries on Friday 25 March.
  - RDP – continued work across site and the successful Drigg Stream bridge lift on the 31 March.
- RDP Planning
  - An informal request for guidance associated with the planning process for the grading profile.
  - We were as surprised as the statutory stakeholders whose opinion were sought, preventing any pre-engagement discussions.

### **LLW Operations**

- Containers
  - In 2021/22 the Repository received 24 containers (taking the total to grout to 63) A further 10 containers were delivered in March.  
24 releasable as groutable, 39 currently on hold of which 21 are releasable in the short term (45 groutable in short term)
  - 2022/23 has a provisional forecast of 75 containers.
- DGF care and enhancement continued
  - Remaining northern Envirodoor removal underway (southern one already removed)
  - Remaining maintenance activities being finalised
  - Replacement of both Envirodoors in July
  - Grouting campaign planned for October 2022
- PCM Drum Re-characterisation
  - Continued progress with the assay project

- Of the 1808 drums we have successfully completed 1212 (25 April). The provisional results show ~817 lower than LLW, ~37 LLW and ~4 are PCM.
- TRS Drums
  - First batch of drums was delivered to site at the end of March, the first of 11 rail deliveries
  - The concrete barrier emplacement works began 25 April at the north end of the site near to Vault 8
  - Next rail consignment is due at the end of May
  - The TRS drum operations programme will start in Summer 2022.

### **Maintenance**

- Normal and Fast Work Orders remain at acceptable levels.

### **Infrastructure**

- Significant conventional safety work completed around the site e.g. white lines and road repairs.
- Drainage work will resume as we progress into Spring, corrective actions at south/west of site prior to Winter have been successful.

### **Repository Asset Care, Enhancement, and Remediation (RACER)**

- RACER remobilisation.
- DGF Envirodoors at noted above (13m, 4.5 tonnes shutter doors)
- PCM Magazine Demolition planning and procurement well underway

### **RDP**

- Despite the challenging ground conditions, the enabling works continue – haul roads, stock-piles and lagoons.
- On 31 March the Drigg stream bridge was successfully put into place. It is 19.3 m long and a 300 tonne crane was used. It has 30-50 year design life.

### **SEP**

A successful handover from Projects to business as usual on 31 March.

### **Priorities and focus for next period**

- Safety, security, environmental compliance and good stewardship of the site.
- Mobilisation of RACER
- Blended working pilot arrangements in Pelham House and Site

### **Items of note**

RDP Planning, special item on today's agenda

### **LLWR Site Pre-planning**

Garan Comley and Tony Buchanan both from the RDP Programme were in attendance to describe and explain why Drigg and Carleton Parish Council received a Pre-Planning Application without due notice for LLW Repository.

Back in 2016 when LLWR received the RDP planning approval from Cumbria County Council (CCC) planning authority the detailed designs for the final cap were not fully complete. The detailed design highlighted that changes and modifications would need to be made to meet the requirements of the Environmental Safety Case, this included profile changes (steeper in some areas) and more materials now required. The design sub-contractor advised that higher stacking of the containers and moving construction vehicles over the 30+ year old containers in Vault 8 would not be safe. The final height of the cap will not change. We are now confident we have a reliable option to cap the vaults and trenches.

Because of these detailed changes LLWR returned to CCC planning authority to ask for advice for the route for planning, and to understand which process we needed to follow for minor changes. We submitted the outline changes to aid this discussion but were unaware CCC would issue documents to stakeholders as a new application. Garan apologised for the confusion and misunderstanding and will keep this committee updated of any future applications that may be issued on behalf of LLW Repository site.

Garan added that once CCC have provided information and guidance for the pre-application, both he and Tony will happily attend another stakeholder engagement meeting.  
Action – keep this action on the agenda.

Andy Pratt asked if higher stacking is not going to work (*was it the intention to move the containers from Vault 9 into Vault 8?*) does that mean that the repository will not last as long?  
Tony Buchanan said that due to our Waste Management Services and their commitment to the waste hierarchy, there are fewer containers being disposed in the vaults.

### **Progress on Nuclear Waste Services**

Martin Walkingshaw gave a progress update as Chief Operating Officer for Nuclear Waste Services. We completed 82% of our Waste Services targets, unfortunately we missed the Metals and VLLW recycling targets due to issues outside of our control. Our financial year end budget was completed on target.

Martin advised that he was delighted that the Repository site received the first TRS containers from Winfrith with the second rail shipment scheduled for May.

The PCM drum re-characterisation project is making good progress and will ultimately result in significant savings for the UK taxpayer.

During the first quarter we have seen an increase in Waste Services, most of our customers and consigners are back at work and our WMS teams are busy supporting them.

Our COVID-19 ICC and Focus groups will stand down next week with martin acknowledging that the NWS workforce is fully productive both at home and on site.

## **GDF update**

The search for a suitable site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) will be undertaken in partnership with communities. So far there are four local communities engaging with the programme; Allerdale, Mid Copeland, Theddlethorpe (Lincolnshire) and South Copeland.

To inform the siting process, seismic surveys will be conducted this Summer in the Irish sea adjacent to the search areas on the West Coast. Engagement with relevant stakeholders will be coordinated by the GDF and Community Partnership teams.

The first GDF Community Investment Funding (CIF) packages have been awarded to local projects, with Seascale BMX track, Beckermeth Reading & Recreation Rooms and Seascale Cricket Club all successful in receiving funding.

Martin concluded his update by announcing that the previous LLWR Site Director, Rob Yetts, has recently joined Nuclear Waste Services and is working within the GDF Teams.

## **HGV summary report**

Over the past 4-week period the repository received 70 HGVs of which 17 supported the TRS project, these were delivering concrete barriers for the north end of Vault 8. In advance of these barriers being placed, we hand-delivered stakeholder letters to residents in the area of Summer View. There are 68 HGV deliveries planned for the next 4 week period.

There were 0 rail deliveries during the period, there are 2 trains scheduled for the next 4 week period (LLW x 1 and TRS drums x 1).

Graham Construction Ltd will bring one more excavator to the site, a wide load letter has been posted out and the reminder letter will be hand-delivered on Thursday 5 May, one day ahead of the delivery date of Friday 6 May.

## **HR Vacancy Report**

The update provided by the HR department has 7 current vacancies at Nuclear Waste Services. We are anticipating two more vacancies over the next few days, Donna will email the details once they are advertised.

**Secretaries note: email issued 28/04/22 with link to new vacancies – DG**

## AOB

### **Parish Council questions**

It was noticed that on the internal NDA Job Portal the use of “Drigg” is being used as the location for some Nuclear Waste Services vacancies. Please can this be changed to either West Cumbria or LLWR Site? Samantha McKenzie and Donna Glasson took the action to make sure this is changed, LLWR has always sought to avoid reference to Drigg where appropriate and we will continue to do so. **Action on Samantha McKenzie and Donna Glasson.**

**Secretaries note: email issued 27/04/22 that the portal is now showing LLWR Site instead of Drigg for the location of relevant vacancies – Action closed DG.**

The Parish Council have confirmed the use of the marquee for five local community events taking place between June and September. Two requests were declined due to not meeting the community’s requirements. Donna will now liaise with Lockhart Leisure for installation dates.

The Parish Council asked for any updates to the site’s accommodation strategy. Mike advised that there has been no activity since the last meeting. We are planning a broader look at the accommodation strategy alongside the site spatial strategy. Mike committed to involve/engage John Jennings as the community representative on this matter.

### Actions from meeting

- Enhance the Drigg Bursary report – **Action ongoing SM and JJ**
- Stakeholder engagement from BEIS for policy and consultation document. **Action ongoing MW**
- To provide updates for working hours at the site. **Action ongoing MP**
- Community bench, new area to be located. **Action ongoing JJ & AP**
- RDP Pre-application updates – **Action ongoing GC & TB**
- NDA Job portal to be changed to remove the name Drigg from some LLWR Site vacancies. **Job portal was updated on the 27/4/22. Action now closed DG**

### Date of Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting date is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 5.00pm Pelham or MS Teams.

Mike closed the meeting.