

## D&CPC LIAISON GROUP MEETING – TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Present**

John Jennings, D&C PC (JJ)	Andy Pratt, D&C PC (AP)
Martin Walkingshaw (MW)	Mike Pigott (MP)
Ben Wilson (BW)	Samantha Ward (SW)
Jake Iceton (JI)	

**Apologies:** Suey Browne, D&C PC

Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies on behalf of Suey Browne.

Minutes of the last meeting (31/01/2023) – There were no issues raised and the minutes were deemed accurate and approved by the committee.

### **Outstanding Actions**

- **Stakeholder engagement from BEIS for policy and consultation document.**  
No developments to report currently on this action. Consultation is expected this week with a meeting scheduled for the Enablers Working Group of the main West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group on Monday 06 March 2023. The policy lead from DESNZ (The Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero) should be present. Noting the Enablers Working Group represents the views of the WCSSG, NWS would like to offer any additional support requested at local parish meetings, where DESNZ staff will lead on engagement. The consultation will refer to Near Surface Disposal (NSD) but as previously stated, will indicate that such a development should be on the NDA estate. AP voiced concern that if such a development was consented through Town and Country planning, it may be at the expense of GDF acceptability to the South Copeland Community Partnership.
- **To provide updates for working hours at the site.**  
Discussions on working hours at site are paused awaiting conclusion of Pay Reward discussions. Action ongoing MP
- **Community bench, delivery date to be confirmed.**  
AP advised the contractor has surveyed the site, but no date has been given yet, placement to take place ideally before grass cutting commences. Action ongoing AP.
- **HR Job Portal link is now live.**  
The portal is live and so will give all current vacancies at any time accessed and can be filtered by location <https://rwm.hireserve-projects.com/current-vacancies.html>  
MW noted grading inconsistencies between RWM and LLWR, which has been flagged to the HR director.

### **Nuclear Waste Services Update from Martin Walkingshaw**

Work is being done around the organisational structure within NWS, and the Exec structure is likely to change going forward. Corhyn Parr is now Senior Responsible Owner for the GDF programme and Martin being more involved with GDF. This will help to bring us closer together as one company, hence being a very busy time with a lot of work to do to make the changes happen.

NWS Conference (formerly LLWR customer conference) is due to be held in April, in Bolton. This has a customer engagement focus.

The 'Big Picture on Tour' event for employees is planned for April. This will be an update after the initial full workforce event last year. We plan to have more local events, with one at Harwell and one at Energus in Workington, working to develop our company strategy.

### **GDF Update from Martin Walkingshaw**

The GDF programme are working on the business cases to support Tranche 3 which includes Design & Safety Case and Site Characterisation Activities, that will eventually enable borehole investigations to support the GDF siting process. This is a large piece of work, to last approx. 10 years at a cost of several billions, therefore has lots of governance; starting with internal, following up through the NDA, DESNZ, Treasury, then Cabinet for approval. This is crucial for the next stages, and we are currently working through various elements of each case. The internal restructure will help to support production and review of the business cases.

Community Partnership events are progressing, and we have had some positive feedback. MW is supporting a weekend event in a few weeks' time in Drigg. AP mentioned that Subject matter experts were needed and welcomed, Gillian has acted upon this now and has names of these SMEs to attend. Sam King and Simon Hughes have given their full support to this and have helped to bring this together.

Rob VanDuijl our GDF programme director, is moving things forward. His 'direct' approach is helping us move at pace, and when he is next in Cumbria, he has asked to get out and meet with some of the community. In addition, Paul Skelton (who is based in Cumbria) leads on GDF operational readiness.

### **Site Operations Update from Mike Pigott**

#### **General**

Continued focus on Nuclear and Conventional Safety, Compliance, and responsible Stewardship, with an additional focus on securing additional funding to accelerate priority work at the Site.

Continued busy period of activity, notable highlights over the period since last met 31 Jan

- 3 Feb – Drigg History Society Historic Plaque unveiling- A photo was shown to the group. This was a popular and well received event.
- 5 Feb – TRS drum infill weekend working commenced to recover lost time due to inclement weather, as was briefed at the last meeting. There were some stakeholder

concerns flagged (vehicle movements i.e., small dumper truck) was down the track along the alongside the rail sidings. In hindsight, the haul road could've been used. Route consideration will go into future planning.

- 6 Feb – Lagoon C tree-felling commenced, as briefed at the last meeting. Further stakeholder concerns were flagged (Street 2 i.e., eastern boundary noise, visual impact, and out of date contact details). Consequently, focussed engagement with impacted stakeholder was undertaken on 13 Feb, with full admission that on this occasion we were at fault. MP shared a photo of the activity as well as a map of sound monitoring locations, and explained that as Repository Development moves forward, stakeholder engagement is to be developed. Additional noise monitoring will commence shortly. We hope to be able to provide updates on this going forward at the liaison meetings. AP acknowledged that the work may get noisier. MW stated that we intend to maintain the conversations and updates as work progresses.
- 13 Feb Geophysics work underway as planned and communicated to the village. Stakeholder concerns were flagged on 18 Feb (Street 2 i.e., eastern boundary Vibroseis vehicle compressor noise) The work was concluded in that area, and reference was made to the letter which helped as an explanation. Subsequently, the workplan rewritten to remove all evening working, weekend minimised to:
  - 25/26 Feb (borehole wireline) and 4/5 March Line 11 (St 4) with mitigation
  - All work outside the fence now constrained to weekdays after consideration:
    - ~w/c 13 March – Lines 15/16 (beach)
    - ~w/c 20 March – Line 14 (northern boundary) with 5-10 people working on this at any one time.

Outside of our work scope, we were also able to support a local resident with a query around some partially buried wood on the beach to establish its origin. Photos were shown.

### Containers

- Year to date – 33 containers received to site with 3 remaining this financial year.
- Groutable – 39
- On hold – 57 plus 160 Overweight top-ups
- Grouting campaign is at risk of slight delay from 16 to 13 March. This is due to not having been operational for 4 years, and so we progress through a semi operational phase with fault finding and lots of LFE for any future shut down periods.

### Treated Radwaste Store Drums

300 of 500 drums have now been emplaced into Vault 8, of the total of 1068. Emplacements planned to restart mid-March, and the next drum receipts forecast mid-March.

### Infrastructure

The PCM re-characterisation is complete, and conversion remains at 99% confirmed by final records. There are 23 shipments to go to VLLW Auguean landfill Peterborough, with 2-3 shipments destined for LLW Tradebe super-compaction.

Jake Iceton gave the following detail from the HGV summary report

- February – Total HGV deliveries are x 171, with 1 x rail and 2 x curfew breaches
- The next TRS train is planned for 17.03.2023 with a reduction in train deliveries for RDP with 5 delivery dates planned

- 24.03.2023
- 27.03.2023
- 29.03.2023
- 31.03.2023
- 04.04.2023
- There are plans for a potential abnormal load carrying a 35te excavator at the end of March/ beginning of April.
- TRS road deliveries will continue at around 2-3 a day, Monday to Thursday until 30 March.

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

Leachate Management System desilting commenced this week (the MHT/V8/9 pumping)

### **Repository Development**

Good progress on aggregate for loading of stockpiles with 4500te coming to site and Workington port.

Preparations are ongoing on the southern trench interim membrane drainage. Lagoon C root removal is planned for April and May, with earthworks thereafter. We are currently exploring the mitigations. In addition, 'Dust Pond' drainage behind B718 accommodation is being worked on, with piling underway.

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

- Safety, security and environmental compliance, and good stewardship
- Grout Campaign Commencement.
- 15 March – Site Demonstration Exercise (including emergency services)
- 15 March – WCSSG Risk & Hazard Reduction, and Waste Management Working Group
- 17 March – x100 TRS drum rail delivery
- 17 March – Pelham Woodland Golden Spade event in conjunction with the NDA and Cumbria Woodlands.
- 20/22 March – utilisation of the Drigg & Carleton Village Hall for workforce event.
- End of March – Evening ecological surveys (6 x 2-3hrs ~sunset)
- 31 March – John Graham and Sarah Moore retirement.

### **AOB**

AP confirmed that the Village Hall was booked to be used 20<sup>th</sup> March 8-1pm for a staff event. Action SW to confirm back to KM.

JJ confirmed the bursary application was near completion and would be submitted imminently with any supplementary information to support to be sent on to SW after the departure of Samantha McKenzie.

MW spoke about DRS not being the standard rail service to bring in aggregates and so is another company that we are having to use, as they can't support the volume required. The question has

been raised with NTS as a potential issue going forward as our rail dependency increases and the current approach is under investigation.

AP commented that a resident had spoken to him, who had been contacted about an application to tender for removal of waste. MW asked for this to be sent over to check to check as they may be incorrectly registered as a supplier. Action AP to send email correspondence from resident, MW to follow up the enquiry.

AP had a query from a parishioner about the UKRWI (UK Radioactive Waste Inventory) which is produced every 3 years. The parishioner expressed concern about the level of ILW on the site in relation to LLW, and posed the question: When does this fall off the inventory? Is this once the waste is classed as in final disposal and the repository is capped, or does this stay on the inventory? MW advised Gareth Garrs will be able to advise on this. Action for MW to contact GG and ask to contact the parishioner to talk through this. MW also said it may be useful at the next joint liaison meeting, to go through section 106 agreement to aid better understanding with the group.

AP has been approached by Greengarth about a potential site transport hub from Barbara and queried NWS involvement in this. At the time we weren't able to advise as we have no information on this. MP to speak to Simon Martin on this in case he has been approached.

### **New actions**

- SW relay to KM about Village Hall booking for 20<sup>th</sup> March. (Complete prior to minutes distribution).
- JJ to submit bursary report and supplementary information within the next two weeks for payment this F/Y.
- AP to send tender email to MW. MW to investigate distribution route. (Complete prior to minutes distribution)
- MW to request GG makes contact with parishioner, to discuss queries over UKRWI.
- MP to speak to SM about Greengarth any transport hub plans.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023, to be held at Pelham House.