

D&CPC LIAISON GROUP MEETING – Tuesday 27th June 2023

Present	John Jennings, D&C PC (JJ)	Andy Pratt, D&C PC (AP)
	Sadie Clarke, D&C PC (SC)	Martin Walkingshaw (MW)
	Mike Pigott (MP)	Samantha McKenzie (SM)
	Samantha Ward (SW)	

Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table. There were no issues raised from the last meeting (27/04/2023) and the minutes deemed accurate and approved by the committee.

A safety share was given by MW. Noting our previous 100% safety record, we had a reportable incident recently where a member of our guard force had contact with a vehicle while it was being inspected. The incident resulted in the person requiring prescription strength painkillers, which deemed this as reportable. The individual has made a full recovery, and although minor, reinforces the need to take additional care around using unfamiliar vehicles, especially those with an automatic transmission having a stop/start function, ensuring the engine is turned off, and not just dormant.

Outstanding Actions

- **To provide updates for working hours at the site.**

MP said Trade Unions have been engaged and the consultation and negotiation process has commenced. Further updates will be provided when they are available. These negotiations were previously paused due to the ongoing pay award discussions; however, we will now recommence discussions. As this is expected to be an ongoing matter updates will be covered in the site operations look ahead as a standard agenda item. **MP Action removed**

- **To set up a community engagement event to provide an update on near term activities planned for the Repository site.**

Two community events have been held since the last meeting (24 May 2023 and 20 June 2023) with another planned for 07.07.2023. The events were communicated via two letters sent to residents in the Drigg and Carleton community via post and was also publicised on the Parish Council website. So far, there has small uptake from the community at the events. However those that were able to attend provided some good engagement and we were able to communicate the near-term work plans as well as answer any questions from those residents.

Our next event is planned for Friday 7 July 2023, and this has been included in a letter sent to residents on 8 June 2023, as well as being advertised in our forthcoming newsletter, due to be sent next week.

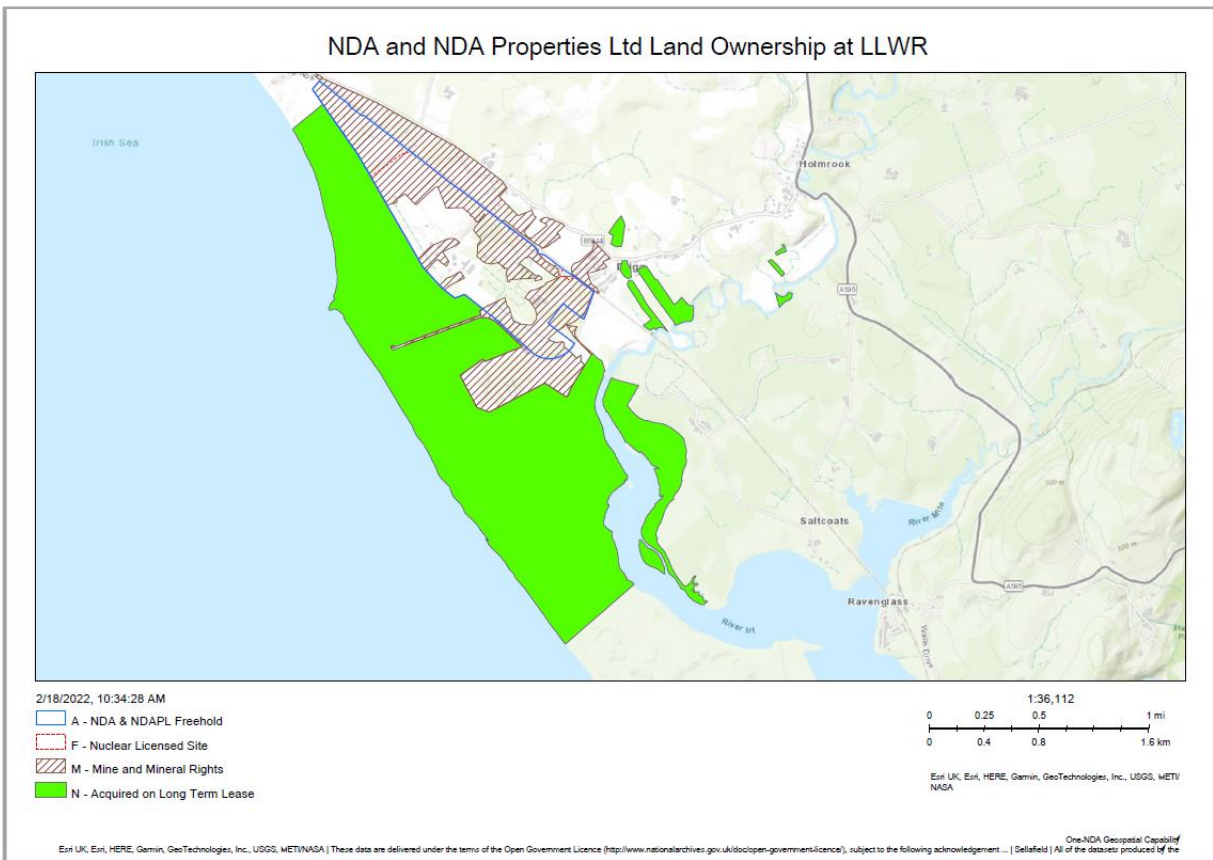
Action Closed

- **Look to plan regular stakeholder update events to coincide with WCSSG meetings**

SM confirmed that this is still on the agenda to run alongside the future WCSSG working group meetings. However, we are awaiting these dates to be confirmed by the WCSSG before any plans can be progressed. **Action SM/AP**

- **Reissue of the SSSI Map to meeting attendees**

A map of the SSSI was shared on the screen with the attendees, showing the NDA land acquisition by NDA Properties Ltd, mine and mineral rights, as well as the LLW Repository site and freehold boundaries. This map is available to view via the land registry (image inserted below). MW explained the purpose for the land acquisitions was to demonstrate control of the area to prevent future development on the land, as well as being able to guarantee continued access to monitoring boreholes and other equipment. SC asked about the specific ownership of the mineral rights shown on the map. **SM took new action** to provide more detail on this at the next meeting.



- **Look into the use of the marquee for Whitehaven Pride and Diversity Event**

There was debate over whether the event date clashed with another event where the marquee was being used. **SW took action** to resend the date to JJ. JJ will then confirm outside of the meeting, if the date is booked, and if the marquee is available to use for the event.

Post meeting note: JJ confirmed the marquee would be available and could be used for the event if still required. Action closed.

Nuclear Waste Services update from Martin Walkingshaw

MW spoke through the key highlights since the last meeting, noting some of the changes to the executive responsibilities. MW's role is now Chief Operating Officer (COO): Operations and Programmes, where he is responsible for Waste Operations, the GDF Programme, GDF Siting and NWS Community Operations. MW

explained that at a working level, very little change would be noticeable, but his team would now include Tom Keegan as the interim GDF Programme Director and Simon Hughes as Siting and Communications Director.

The IWMP (Integrated Waste Management Programme) team have been working closely with Sellafield on thermal treatments to condition some wastes to make them more stable for disposal and to economise on waste packaging.

On the 24 May 2023, the Radioactive Waste Policy Consultation closed, and we are informed that DESNZ are busy going through the responses. There is currently nothing to report back, but we are expecting an update towards the end of the calendar year.

AP made the group aware of a document written by Colin Wales, who has recently visited site, around PCM, and its potential to return to the Repository. MW said this seems to be an assumption however if this was the case, the waste would need to fit within our Waste Acceptance Criteria, and it is more likely, that it would be suited to a GDF. It would be a risk-based approach.

AP spoke about Magnox sites having an aspiration to become clean and a green-field site. MW suggested as this is part of the wider NDA group, that Laura Hogg from the NDA could attend one of our future meetings to discuss this further and give a broader NDA and Magnox perspective – **Action SW** to liaise with Laura Hogg to Invite to give an update at a future meeting.

MW informed the group that we have a new minister of state; Andrew Bowie who will be in Cumbria on 5 July 2023 for a Sellafield visit. During this time, he will be meeting with Mark Fryer to take part in a community wealth building workshop and delivering the Cumberland plan.

GDF Update from Martin Walkingshaw

The baseline schedule and cost estimates are being worked through for the next tranche of work, with seismic surveys to follow at a later date, moving onto boreholes. Currently the business case is being worked through as the focus. With 2050 planned as the first emplacement date, MW reiterated that this date is coming closer and isn't as far in the distant future as has always seemed.

Site Operations Update from Mike Pigott

MP went through the key highlights since the last meeting, noting the continued focus on Nuclear and Conventional Safety, Compliance, and Responsible Stewardship of the site.

General

- Grouting campaign is underway, this is the first in 4 years.
- 2 May - WCSSG at Cleator Moor, attended by Mike Pigott on behalf of Nuclear Waste Services.
- 4 May - NDA Safety Internal Audit Site Visit was held. Good feedback was sent from this.
- 19 May - Site Emergency Exercise.
- 22 May - Cumberland Council Familiarisation Visit.
- 24 May - The first Repository Development drop-in session was held in the Village Hall between 2pm – 5.30pm. Around 10 attendees from the community and 10 supporting team members over the afternoon, with some good feedback and information shared about the upcoming works on site.
- 5 June - Annual Review of Safety held with the ONR and EA.
- 8 June- Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Visit. This gave opportunity for some peer learning, with a relationship built to share good practice.
- 9 June- Nuclear Safety Committee meeting was held.
- 14 June- NDA LLWR Site Safety Tour.

- 20 June - The second of three Repository Development drop-ins held in Drigg Village Hall between 5pm – 7pm, with only three members of the community attending on this occasion.

AP and JJ commented that perhaps residents hadn't attended because they hadn't received the letters with the dates, or that these looked like the HGV movement update letters that are sent regularly. SM confirmed that there were two letters sent out, in addition a copy sent to the parish councillors and clerk for update to the website, however if there were any other suggestions on how we can advertise such events, it would be good to have this feedback.

MP shared a number of images with the group on recent activities on site, these included: A control room image of the grout plant; Image of a container being grouted; Image taken at the recent RD event held in Drigg Village Hall.

Containers

- Container receipts would have previously been just over 1,000 at the peak, where this now stands at 54. This is testament to the work done on treatment and diversion.
- 0 received to date, with the first expected in July.
- Groutable – 21.
- On hold - 36 plus 160 overweight top ups.
- 50 containers grouted so far.

Treated Radwaste Store Drums

- 1068 in total, with 680 drums on site and emplaced, and are now going through the infill process.
- There is a planned delivery for the end of June of 20, with 100 due in August all by rail.

Infrastructure

The strategic waste management committee have met and disposal routes for the PCM drums have been decided. In total 1808 drums have been re-assayed; 1425 VLLW to go to Auegan landfill; 92 of LLW to go to Tradebe for super-compaction; 5 ILW to go to Sellafield. MW reiterated that this process has taken five years to complete and obtain equipment with a low enough gauge to accurately determine PCM levels.

HGV summary

Graphs were presented to show the number of curfew breaches this financial year, as well as number of HGV movements per month, over the last 5 years (to show trends). MP noted that we were working on providing a forward look graph, to show what residents can expect over the next couple of months.

- Actual Deliveries (HGV): 50
- Actual Rail Deliveries (Rail): 2 - *including planned delivery for 30 June*
- Curfew Breaches: 0
- Unplanned Deliveries: 3

Repository Development work (capping of the existing vaults and adjacent trenches)

We continue with our community engagement events to provide updates on what will be seen and heard as we move into the next phase of our Southern Trench interim membrane repair work. This has now been mobilised. We are conscious there will be a significant visual and audible change and we are applying as many mitigations as possible. We continue to monitor sound associated to the activity, ensuring we are within our planning condition limits.

Priorities

We will continue to focus on safety, security, environmental compliance, and responsible stewardship going forward.

- 29 June - Routine outfall pipe inspection.
- Northern Nuclear Conference will have representation at the end of June.
- 7 July - Site level exercise planned which will include emergency services – *subsequently cancelled due to availability of emergency services.*
- Mid July – MP has been approached to represent at a Technical Information Exchange meeting focusing on International best practice in stakeholder engagement.

AOB

MP said that feedback had been given to Carruthers Ltd about their driving standards and while not delivering directly to site, they are operating in the locality and so concerns have been relayed.

SC voiced some concerns over FOI responses and asked for a follow-up, noting that she did not feel that a saving of £150million, justified a £210 million spend on an NSD. MW felt that more context was needed and so asked to speak through this in more detail at the next meeting. **Action on MW** to provide more detail on these costs for the next meeting.

SC also voiced concern in response to an FOI that less than 10 people living in Drigg were employed by the LLW Repository. SM offered to produce a heat map covering the areas where those working at NWS reside. JJ said previously this had not included the LA postcode and asked this to be added. **Action on SM** to provide for the next meeting

JJ and AP asked if the next liaison meeting could be held from site, just to save on travel from Drigg. MP agreed we could do this, if the start and finish time of the meeting were brought forward, due to the site closure at 6pm. JJ and AP agreed, that times for the next meeting of 16:30-17:30 would be accommodated. **SW to action** booking of B749 for the next liaison meeting

New actions

- Further detail required on the ownership of the mineral rights shown on the map. **Action SM**
- Invite Laura Hogg (NDA) to future meeting to discuss NDA perspective on potential NSD siting. **Action SW**
- Follow up on FOI response re the potential cost of an NSD vs savings against a GDF. **Action MW**
- Produce a heat-map of employment of local residents at the LLW Repository, including those in the LA postcode. **Action SM**
- Book B749 for the next liaison meeting, at the revised time of 16:30-17:30. **Action SW**

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Thursday 3rd August, 16:30-17:30, B749, LLW Repository Site.

Current Vacancies

All current vacancies can be found at <https://rwm.hireserve-projects.com/current-vacancies.html>