

NWS/D&CPC LIAISON GROUP MEETING – Tuesday 24th October 2023

Present John Jennings, D&C PC (JJ) Andy Pratt, D&C PC (AP)
Martin Walkingshaw (MW) Mike Pigott (MP)
Samantha McKenzie (SM) Julie Baker (JB)

Apologies Samantha Ward (SW) Sadie Clarke (SC)

MW welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made around the table. SM sends apologies on behalf of SW. AP advised SC was on holiday and unable to attend.

Outstanding Actions

- **Further assurance on the mineral rights on land identified. Explore potential for letter of comfort to be issued - SM/ MW.**

SM advised this is still with legal and we should have an update for November meeting. We will invite Nicole from our legal team to the next meeting to answer any specific questions on this matter. **Action ongoing SM**

- **Invite Laura Hogg (NDA) and Paul Skelton (NWS) to future meeting to discuss NDA perspective on potential NSD siting, and potential cost of an NSD vs savings against a GDF.**

Laura Hogg and Paul Skelton are both confirmed for next meeting in November. **Action ongoing SW**

- **Produce report to show the benefits LLW Repository brings to Drigg and Carleton Parish – SM.**

JJ queried where the request originated, as was originally a request for those employed at the LLW Repository site who lived locally. This heatmap was provided at a previous meeting, and without breaching GDPR, we were unable to drill any further beyond local postcodes. SC explained the request was of interest to her and some other members of the parish, as they weren't always residents when the section 102 agreement related to Vault 9 was put in place. MP agreed that this report could also help to re-establish a starting point for any future discussion on support given to the community. **Action ongoing SM**

HGV data, changes to be made to graphs to show actuals as well as the forecast on the same graph – SW Will be presented later in the meeting. **Action closed.**

- **Clarification on land ownership of the pathway being blocked on the bridge by the Stubble Green area – SM.**

SM confirmed our legal department have advised pathway is not listed as a public right of way and therefore NWS are unable to get involved.

Post meeting update: AP emailed SM to advise that the Highways Agency have confirmed the road and bridge in question are not listed as a road, footpath or bridleway and that it has been a private road years before LLWR existed. **Action closed.**

- **Printing of A0 size maps for use in Drigg Village Hall - SC/SW**

In addition to the maps that were provided at the last meeting further printed maps are being arranged. A discussion prior to the meeting with AP/JJ to identify the required areas to be printed. **Action ongoing JB.**

- **Liaise with NDA to gain information on any potential land to be made available to the Gun Club for relocation and any expected timescales —** AP update: the NDA have advised they have a potential site for relocation. The Club plan to start applying for funding for a prefab building. AP added the Club have verbally agreed that they will vacate the current building, on the agreement of no issues with planning permission and funding the new building. **Action closed.**

- **Detail on planning condition and contract terms associated with PCM working hours – MP/SM MP update**

Upon reviewing the conditions associated to the PCM planning consent MP advised they do not support the query relating to site working times. The condition states the following:

No work shall take place, except with the prior approval of the Local Planning Authority, outside the following hours:

a) All operations within the building 06.30 - 1800 Mondays to Saturdays.

b) For Final Decommissioning (i.e. demolition) work 0730 - 1800 Mondays to Fridays.

There shall be no work in the buildings on public holidays except with the prior approval of the Local Planning Authority.

This condition shall not prevent essential maintenance works outside these hours. or the continuous operation of extractor fans for the ventilation systems of the buildings.

MP will continue to engage through HR and the Trade Union's on this matter and will update this group as and when there are any developments.

Nuclear Waste Services GDF update from Martin Walkingshaw

NWS has recently announced the decision to deselect Allerdale as one of the GDF search areas. The reason being the condition of the geology not being considered suitable for the development.

Work continues with the other Community Partnerships. The aerial surveys that were planned for the local area have been delayed due to an issue with the camera equipment. New date to be confirmed.

Radio Cumbria have been showing an interest recently with Martin participating in a couple of interviews; one covering the Allerdale withdrawal announcement and the other about how to access Community Investment Funding (CIF).

Nuclear Waste Services Repository update from Martin Walkingshaw

The Southern Trench Cap Interim Membrane (STIM) project procurement has been issued to the marketplace with the Invitation to Participate (ITP) closing on 23 October.

We are in a good position to deliver our corporate targets this year. Attrition is slightly higher than we would like, but at the moment not a cause for concern. We have just concluded our latest employee survey which helps us to understand how our workforce are feeling and to identify areas that we may need to work on.

This survey has focussed on Engagement, Diversity & Inclusion and Health & Wellbeing. We have seen an improvement in all three areas. In Engagement, we have seen an increase of 0.4/0.5, Diversity and Inclusion an increase of 0.4 and Health and Wellbeing an increase of 0.3, which may not sound significant, but the experts have advised that it is good. We believe we are starting to see some of the benefits from some of our investments, such as the wellbeing perimeter track at the Repository, improvements to our accommodation on site and the recent changes to our NWS branded basics (since LLWR separated from Sellafield in 2006 all staff in active areas were wearing Sellafield branded basics). These are all things that our workforce has championed and are proud of.

Safety Share Martin Walkingshaw and Mike Pigott

In relation to safety, there have been a couple of minor safety events that result in us doing a safety stand down to allow time for the appropriate assessments/investigations to take place.

One of the events related to a weight discrepancy on one of our waste exports. An immediate decision was made to embargo any waste leaving the site until a full investigation had taken place.

We shared our findings with the NDA group and also notified the ONR, who have responded with two points.

- They do not deem the HGV incident to be a breach of radioactive waste transport, not a class 7 load.
- They were content with the investigation and recommendations we propose, were deemed appropriate and will address the issue, and was content on the likelihood of no further action.

The second safety share has been classed as a near miss. An individual working alone completing some regular environmental survey work. The particular area had been surveyed previously (where the original Royal Ordnance Factory Infrastructure was located). On this occasion the individual happened across a hidden void. On discovery it looked like a hole in the grass but when peeled back it was the size of a manhole cover, with a meter and a half drop and water in the bottom of it. The operative responded exactly as they should have, and the relevant processes were duly followed to report the issue.

We immediately conducted an extent of condition assessment across the totality of site, against all the areas known and unknown. We also applied an embargo on any environmental surveys in those types of areas on site and revoked any lone working in those areas.

Repository Site Operations Update from Mike Pigott

General

Continued focus on Nuclear/Conventional Safety, Compliance, and Responsible Stewardship.

Continued busy period of activity and as we know, increasingly so on site:

- Capping Operations - Herringbone Drainage progressing well despite inclement weather.
- Leachate Management System (LMS) enhancement programme progressing well, again in spite of inclement weather.
- TRS Drum receipts and emplacement progressing to plan with the corporate target achieved.
- Pelham House pathways improvements ongoing.
- Grout campaign reliability challenges are currently being worked through.

Recent attendance at the ONR conference explored themes of priority from the conference were conventional health and safety on nuclear sites and cyber security.

LLW Operations

Containers

Powder transfer issues preventing grouting, planned for repairs week commencing 30 October.

- Receipted YTD 5 of 51 (forecasting TBC)
- Normal containers: Grouted – 60, of groutable stock 22 are groutable, and 31 on hold.
- Top up containers – Of 160 in total, 89 are grouted with groutable stock at 49 and 22 are on hold.

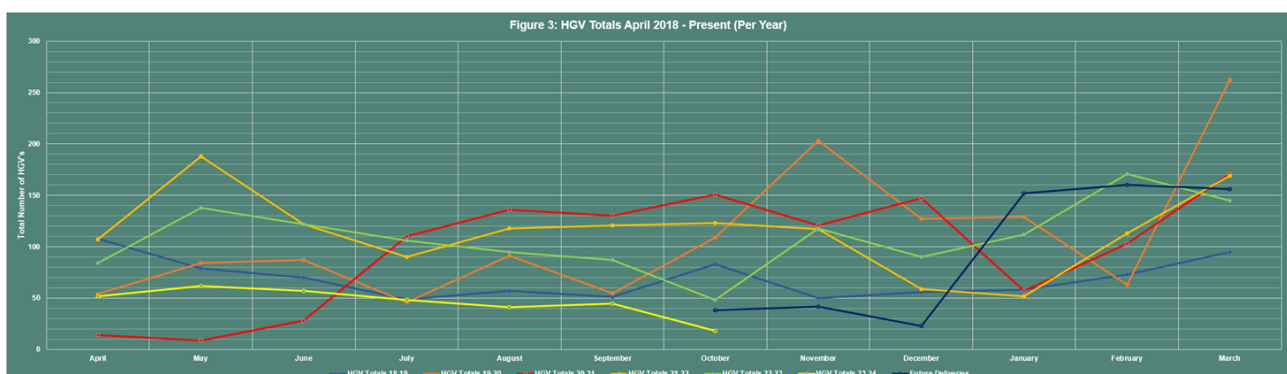
TRS

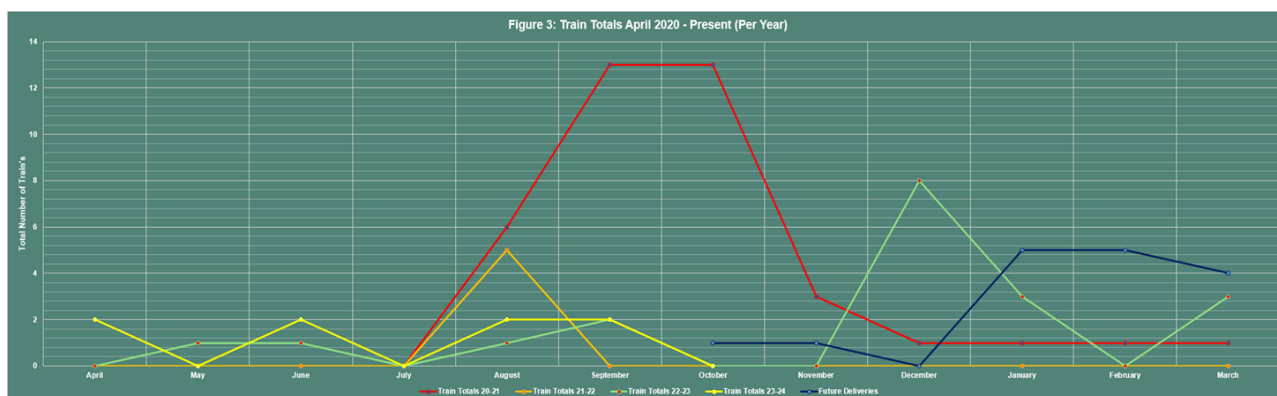
- 850 of 900 drums on site now emplaced (of total 1068), Gap C full, Gap D preparations completed, and drum emplacement work restarted.
- Next deliveries – 100 drums (9th January), 68 drums (27th February).
- TRS infill work up to date with disposals.

Infrastructure

- First recharacterised drum export planned for January 2024.
- HGV Summary
 - Actual Deliveries (HGV): 18 (as of 20 Oct 2023), context is key, this is an order of magnitude less than for example 2021-22, which stood at just over 120.
 - Curfew Breaches: 2 - Coopers Handling solutions arrived on site at 15:10hrs.
 - Special delivery: GM & Lawsons tipper wagon entered site at 6:45am to align plant availability with contractor working hours.
 - Unplanned deliveries: 2
- Rail
 - Actual Rail Deliveries: 0 (next rail delivery is due on 29 November 2023)

Forecast shows an increase in final quarter as a result of rail aggregate imports, HGVs required to move that aggregate, and demobilisation of JCE following Herringbone drainage work.





Repository Asset Care, Enhancement, and Remediation

- LMS 6 Manhole Repairs – site works complete (6 manholes repaired), and team demobilised.
- LMS 2 Vault 9 Pumping System Improvements – good progress made, impacted by the inclement weather. All mechanical and electrical works complete for V9 by November followed on by commissioning works. Target completion Feb '24.
- RIF replacement framework (RIF 2) documentation pack issued for commercial assurance review before seeking approvals to issue ITT in Feb '24.

Capping Operations (previously referred to as Repository Development Programme (RDP))

- Southern Trench Interim Membrane (STIM) 'Herringbone' drainage work has progressed well and is on track to complete in early November, but deteriorating weather is impacting schedule.
- STIM Procurement process for next major construction activity has commenced with publication of the Invitation to Participate to the supply chain to appoint a supplier to install a replacement membrane over the Southern Trench Cap.

Priorities and focus for next period (Mike)

Continued focus on safety, security, environmental compliance, and responsible stewardship.

- In the last week of October we have an NI YGN (Young Generation Network) visit.
- 6 -10 November – Keltbray, our rail contractor, will be carrying out routine maintenance work on the rail sidings. This will include temporary removal of matting, sleeper and ballast replacement.
- 10 Nov – Site Emergency Exercise
- 18-22 Jan 2024 – proposed CNC training exercise (Thurs-Mon), final dates for this to be confirmed.

AOB

- AP - requested for volunteers to help with bulb planting. MP had sent a communication to all on site and Pelham, Chris Arthur NWS ecologist will attend hopefully with some additional members of the NWS team to help. **Actioned MP**
- AP - The oak tree on Shore Road, there is a slate memorial plaque was originally placed on a piece of wood, which has now rotten away. AP asked if we could supply a similar piece of rock, like the memorial for the commemorative plaque for Royal Ordnance Factory workers. **New Action SM/JB**
- AP - South Copeland Community Partnership are having a networking event tomorrow night in the Village Hall, 6:30pm 25 of October. If anyone would like to attend.
- AP – The turrets on Drigg beach have been boarded up, corrugated tin on doors and windows. AP was checking to see if NWS were aware or had part in it. Which we can confirm it was nothing to do with NWS.

- JJ – Asked for an update on Egremont Wildfowlers, AP updated that he is waiting on the legal document they had with Muncaster and a meeting is still planned for some point in November.
Ongoing action AP.
- JJ – Marque prices, request to understand the costs for installs in order to plan the numbers that can be approved in line with the budget – **Action SM**

New actions

- NWS Representative from Legal to attend next meeting, regarding mineral rights – **SM**
- Maintenance work on site rail sidings, 6 – 10 November. Letter drop for nearby residents – **SM/JB**
- Update at next meeting regarding section 106 (Vault lifetime) – **SM**
- Rock for the slate plaque at the oak tree on shore road – **SM/JB**

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Tuesday 28th November 4.30pm, location Drigg Village Hall.

Current Vacancies

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