



Sellafield Ltd

# Sellafield News

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## Sea Tanks hazard successfully cleaned up



One of Sellafield's most significant, long-standing environmental risks has been cleaned up.

Approximately 95 percent of the radioactive sludge stored in a 50-year-old concrete waste tank, associated with the historic flocculation plant, has been removed and placed in a modern high integrity tank to prepare it for final treatment and encapsulation into a safe and long-term stable waste form.

"With this milestone achievement, we have successfully reduced one of the primary environmental hazards associated with Sellafield," said Ian MacPherson, head of manufacturing for the Effluent Plants, who led the technically challenging project.

"The tank has held waste for more than a half century. It was gradually degrading and presented a known environmental risk.

"Through great teamwork and perseverance we have securely retrieved and stored the sludge and now have it programmed for final disposition - a great achievement for the workforce at Sellafield."

The tanks, known on site as the Sea Tanks, were originally constructed outdoors in the 1950s, but a building, pictured above, was built over them in the late 1990s as the process of cleaning them up began.

Mike Johnson, Executive Director, Production Operations at Sellafield, said: "This has been a great job by the entire team. They epitomise the site's commitment to reducing the high-hazard legacy of the site. The lessons they've learned and the technical solutions they've demonstrated will be applied across the site for future risk reduction and waste remediation projects."

*Continued on page two, NDA hail 'world class performance'*

## NDA hails ‘world class technology and workforce’

*From page one:* Ian Hudson, NDA Sellafield Programme Director, added his congratulations to the project team: “Tackling the high hazard legacy issues at Sellafield is a key focus of the NDA. The success of this project demonstrates the benefit of blending the world leading capability of the site’s new management team with the existing world-class technology and workforce at Sellafield.

“Throughout this effort, the team demonstrated persistence and creativity to overcome the many technical challenges they faced.”

The next step in the process is to have the sludge processed through the site’s Low Active Effluent Treatment Plants where it will be encapsulated in concrete and stainless steel ready for long-term storage.

**Pictures: Left, the constriction of the tanks in the 1950s, and right, half-way through the process of building over them to take them ‘in-doors.’**



## Robert procures yet another honour

Sellafield Ltd’s Robert Astall has landed another accolade after being invited to join the council of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS).

As a member of the council, the senior governing body of CIPS, Robert will be involved in establishing and developing the corporate strategy for the Institute, they are collectively the trustees of CIPS.

CIPS is an international organisation, serving the supply and purchasing profession, which promotes best practice and provides a wide range of services for the benefit of its members and the wider business community.

This appointment follows a prestigious recognition award presented to Robert in January this year as a reward for the contribution he has made to help the Institute meet its objectives.

He said: “I am delighted to have been elected onto the CIPS council; this is a tremendous honour, an opportunity to be part of the team developing and shaping the institute for the future. We are developing strong links with CIPS through the development of our people to full membership, this appointment will strengthen those links and enable us to further grow and develop the skills of our people.”

Keith Case is Commercial Director, Sellafield Ltd, said: “This is wonderful news for Robert, who has championed the value of the work CIPS does for many years. His enthusiasm and dedication has resulted in the introduction of the Corporate Award training scheme across Sellafield Ltd and he has been instrumental in setting up the Cumbria branch of CIPS. This appointment will allow Robert to take that enthusiasm to a national level.

Robert takes up his new appointment in November; the full council meets three times a year.

# Stakeholder Commercial Committee's chairman praises Sellafield Ltd

The chairman of West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group's Commercial Sub Committee has praised Sellafield Ltd for the its "openness and transparency," after a recent meeting.

Mike Davidson, pictured, said: "I am delighted with the openness and transparency exhibited by Sellafield Ltd, International Nuclear Services (INS) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). We were provided with a huge amount of valuable detail on the commercial operations at Sellafield.



"In addition there is a useful contribution from the regulators who explain their requirements with respect to Sellafield Ltd's commercial operations."

Mike is an Allerdale Borough Councillor who has a particular interest in Sellafield and all things nuclear in the area.

The fourth Commercial Sub meeting took place on June 9 and there was a bumper agenda. Items covered included reprocessing performance, the sale of NDA land near Sellafield for new reactor build, vitrified residue return, the Sellafield supply chain, the NDA review of Sellafield's Mox Plant and evaporative capacity.

Mike was particularly impressed with the report from Mike Johnson, Director of Production Operations:

"It's great to learn of the good news and achievements that we don't always hear about in the outside world, in particular the impressive safety achievements. I'd like to congratulate the workforce on their safety record."

Examples highlighted by Mike Johnson included Calder Hall being awarded a ROSPA Presidential Award for achievement for 10 successive gold awards, the Miscellaneous Beta Gamma Waste Store operating for 12 years without a lost time accident and the work done to encapsulate 1000m3 of hazardous liquid effluent.

Membership of the committee comprises representatives from local councils, regulators, the NDA and Sellafield Ltd. Meetings take place twice-yearly and are open to the public. Any one interested in the committee can find details of past and future meetings on

[www.wcssg.co.uk](http://www.wcssg.co.uk)

## Finalists gather for Newspaper Awards

The finalists in this year's Sellafield Ltd sponsored North West Newspaper Awards will gather at a ceremony in Cheshire tomorrow (Friday.)

They'll be taken on a bus tour of the Capenhurst site in the morning before the winners are announced at a dinner at the St David's Park hotel near Chester.

A full report will appear in next week's Sellafield Ltd News – but if you can't wait until then check out our website from Friday afternoon.

### VIP Visits to Sellafield

10.6.09 and 11.6.09: DG Tren, DECC, HSE UKSO Visit

10.6.09: WANO Workshop - Site Visit

11.6.09: NDA/DOE Bilateral Meeting

11.6.09: North West Industrial Mission Association

12.6.09: UK Government Visit

12.6.09: ISO Technical Committee Visit

15.6.09: Overseas Reprocessing Committee Familiarisation

16.6.09: Cranfield Visit

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