



Sellafield Ltd

Sellafield News

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New interactive site for stakeholder group

The nuclear landscape in West Cumbria has changed a lot over the past year or two and the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) has launched a brand new website to reflect those changes.

The group is an independent body whose role is to provide public scrutiny of the nuclear industry in West Cumbria by providing an active, two-way channel of communication between the site operators, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and local stakeholders.

And the new website aims to give visitors the chance to interact more with the group than ever before.

A new system offers web alerts meaning that those who sign up to receive them will be alerted every time something is added to the site. There is also a new feedback form which allows users to ask questions of the site operators.

WCSSG chairman David Moore said: "There has been a lot of change locally in the nuclear industry and there will, in all probability, be even more in the future – we needed a website that reflected those changes and was more user friendly.

"I think the new site looks great and I'm sure regular users will agree that the changes make navigating around it and finding what you are looking for much easier.

"The web alerts mean that, however busy you are, you can keep up to date with any updates and the feedback section will allow more interaction with the site license companies. We'd also appreciate any feedback anyone has on the website itself."

The main WCSSG meets quarterly with a series of sub committees also meeting regularly too. Their aim is to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to scrutinise the nuclear industry and the site operators and NDA attend the meetings to give updates and answer questions.

This is part of the NDA's commitment to engage with the public in an open, honest and transparent way.

The new website, which contains minutes of all the meetings, agendas for future meetings, and lots of other information about the industry in West Cumbria, is going live over the weekend and will be available to view in full from Monday, August 2. It can be found out at www.wcssg.co.uk



Keen to hear feedback: David Moore

Sellafield Ltd Incident Reports

A small volume of contaminated liquid from a legacy uranium hexafluoride cylinder has been found within the uranic storage building at Capenhurst.

Sellafield Ltd has a good understanding of the legacy material safely stored at Capenhurst and a number of precautionary measures are in place to deal with unexpected issues. These include formal inspections and plant walk-downs by operators – this liquid was discovered during the latter.

In line with well rehearsed response procedures, the cylinder was successfully sealed temporarily without any environmental impact and without causing harm to any personnel. The only impact of this incident was in the immediate area of the cylinder inside the storage building.

We promptly informed our regulators and local community representatives of the discovery in line with our normal practice. Site operations continue as normal.

A detailed investigation into the circumstances and causes of this event is underway and the implications for the remaining stored legacy material are also being considered.

Capenhurst is currently at an advanced stage in developing plans to accelerate the reduction of such hazards at this site and will continue to develop plans to achieve this, taking into account any lessons learned from this event.

The quantity of material involved breaches the Ionising Radiation Regulations and as such is likely to be categorised as an International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) Level 1 event.

Enhanced access and management controls have been put in place following the discovery of contamination on a concrete slab area within the Sellafield High Level Waste Plants.

No personnel received radiation doses as a result of the incident and the affected area does not present an ongoing risk to the workforce, public or plant operations.

Lower levels of contamination were found in this area in 2004, so it is likely that this legacy issue has contributed to the recent contamination. Initial investigations are indicating that the source of the contamination in 2004 may not have been fully resolved at the time.

The levels of activity present in 2004 were not significant enough to require reporting, however, the total activity that has built up in the area is now likely to exceed reportable levels. The event has, therefore, been given a provisional rating of level one on the INES.

Safe and disciplined operations are at the heart of all activities on the Sellafield site. Mitigating actions are therefore in hand and investigations to identify and characterise the source of the activity are continuing.

Sellafield Ltd can confirm that a bearing failed on a fan within the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo. Small flames were noticed by a plant operator who extinguished them appropriately.

The multiple back up fans and systems were brought into service as designed.

In accordance with our standard procedures, the plant was evacuated as a precautionary measure and, following a routine inspection by Fire & Rescue personnel, plant operators were permitted to re-enter the facility with immediate effect.

Investigations are on going to determine to actual cause of the fan bearing failure. The incident has been classified as below scale on the INES.

VIP Visits to Sellafield

15.7.09: Association of Lecturers in Agricultural Mechanisation

16.7.09: TEPCO

20.7.09: URS Washington

20.7.09: Kathy Hatcher

20.7.09: Burges Salmon LLP

21.7.09: IChemE editorial team

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