



Sellafield Ltd

Sellafield News

Wednesday 24 March 2010/Issue No. 1045

Europe's largest asbestos removal project is completed

One of the largest asbestos removal projects in Europe has just been completed as part of decommissioning the Calder Hall nuclear power station.

The project to strip asbestos cladding from the heat exchangers, turbine halls and associated plant was recently completed. In all, 2,300 tonnes of asbestos cladding was removed over the past five years.

Project manager Ian Williams said: "People always think that the most hazardous work at Sellafield involves managing radioactivity but this is not always the case. Asbestos is a dangerous material and we have had to employ specialist contractors to help with this work.

"Not only did the project involve working with a known carcinogen, but much of the work was also carried out at height. Scaffold towers over 36m tall had to be built around the sixteen heat exchangers on the outside of the reactors. These formed the structure for asbestos tents which prevented the release of asbestos and ensured ventilation for the workers.

"At any one time we had some 100 men working in arduous and confined conditions and we're very proud of our safety record. At no time were any workers exposed to asbestos because of our safe working practices and adherence to regulations. Safety is paramount and we work hard to ensure everyone goes home both uninjured and in good health."

Since Calder Hall was shutdown in 2003, the asbestos was no longer kept at a constant temperature and its stability couldn't be guaranteed. Therefore, a method of safely removing the asbestos in line with strict regulations was piloted and a contractor engaged. A total of £27.58m was sanctioned for the project however the end cost was £26.25m, a saving of some £1.33m.

Stuart MacVean, Spent Fuel Management Director said: "This is an important milestone in the decommissioning of Calder Hall. We are working very hard to accelerate the clean-up and remediation work at Sellafield and the fact that this project has been successfully completed on time and within budget demonstrates our total commitment to the job.

"The £1m saving is exactly the type of efficiency we are looking to replicate in other projects. We are planning to deliver six years' worth of work for the cost of just five years. We know this is a significant challenge which will require accelerating hazard and risk reduction and improving production throughput to meet the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) objectives, but we're confident it can be achieved." *Continued on page two*



Calder Hall reactor four after the work was completed. The picture on page two shows the same scene before work began

Sellafield Ltd honoured for floods support

SELLAFIELD Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority have each received an award from Allerdale Borough Council as a 'thank you' for the support given to the authority during last year's floods.

They were among a number of organisations to receive Certificates of Recognition at a special awards evening on Friday at the Hunday Manor Hotel, Workington.

The event, hosted by Allerdale BC, was attended by around 70 people, including Allerdale councillors and staff as well as representatives of the organisations concerned.

Those who received certificates included the 4th battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Cumbria Police, Cumbria Fire Service and Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team.

The company released staff to assist in the search and rescue and subsequent clean-up operations and also offered communications and project management support.

Head of Media Relations John Reynolds collected the award on Sellafield Ltd's behalf.

He paid tribute to the resilience of the communities involved and praised the way that organisations from across the public and private sectors had worked closely together to deal with the crisis.

Sellafield Ltd's Managing Director Bill Poulson said: "We were pleased to be able to offer help and support to our local communities at a time of great need.

"Our response was part of a co-ordinated effort by the local nuclear industry with prominent roles also being played by our parent body organisation, Nuclear Management Partners, and the site's owner, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

"I was very proud of the commitment shown by our people and, as an organisation that's firmly rooted in its local communities, I'm sure we'll have further roles to play as the area continues on the road to recovery."

Brian Hough, Stakeholder Communications Manager for the NDA said: "I was particularly pleased to receive the award on behalf of all those from the NDA, Sellafield and NMP who supported the local community in dealing with the devastation caused by the November floods."

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Ian Hudson, Site Programme Director for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Sellafield Site Facing Team added: "This is an excellent achievement for the team. The asbestos removal from Calder Hall is a major step forward in the overall decommissioning programme. The success of this project demonstrates how hazards can be effectively reduced through well managed, safe operations."

Calder Hall's sister station Chapelcross is also undergoing decommissioning following its shutdown in 2004. The two project teams have had a close working relationship, sharing information on their asbestos removal projects. Innovations brought in significantly reduced overall time and the workers' time at risk which included new lifting equipment installed on the heat exchangers to reduce transition times between workfaces.



VIP Visits to Sellafield

10.3.10: Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited (JNFL)

12.3.10: Royal Holloway, University of London

15.3.10: General familiarisation visit for Japanese Industry Representatives

16.3.10: Director of Nuclear, Safety & Quality – Babcock International Group (Marine Division)

16.3.10: URS Corporation Visit

16.3.10: University of the West of England (Bristol)

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Got a story? Let us know. Please call X85842

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