

Case Study 1

On-site disposal of LLW at Springfields

September 2008

1: Outcome

Consultation on the site end state found that local stakeholders were in support of the possibility that part of the site could be used for the disposal of waste from the decommissioning of the site. The disposal facility would be segregated, regulated and managed separately from whatever end use the site was put to “until such time as any residual hazard from intrusion has been demonstrated to be negligible”. After closure, the facility would be capped, landscaped and monitored, offering scope for development, possibly as a nature conservation area.

2: Benefit to the Community

Two main benefits have been identified. Transport of VLLW from the Springfields site to landfill disposal at Clifton Marsh, a distance of two miles, would cease and the waste would be disposed of to a purpose designed facility on a managed nuclear site. In the light of these benefits, a proposal for an associated Community Fund has not been made.

3: Background

NDA Strategy requires that it consult with local stakeholders on Site End States. This consultation was carried out during 2006-7. The objective was to agree a solution which is: acceptable to the community and fulfils its desires for the future of the site post decommissioning; is technically and commercially feasible; and is aligned with the national perspective. In addition, the current arrangements for disposal of VLLW at Clifton Marsh are under review.

4: Process

A special sub-group of the Site Stakeholder Group was set up to handle the Site End State review and End Use options. An optioneering exercise was held on 4 September 2006 with a wide group of stakeholders. This generated a large number of end uses for consideration which were then debated and a list of realistic end uses established by the Site Stakeholder Group Sub-group. Although the suggestion of an on-site disposal had initially been rejected from the list to be presented during the consultation process, the issue of transportation of LLW from the site to the current landfill location two miles away was raised and it was agreed to include the option of on-site disposal at Springfields in the consultation with local stakeholders.

As part of the Site End State consultation process the following were carried out:-

- A questionnaire completed by target groups after presentations at three 'drop-in' days held at three separate community venues. Each day had a morning, afternoon and evening session. Invitations to the 'drop-in' days were delivered to every household and business in the 2.5 km 'local residents' area and posters displayed in local shops and on parish noticeboards.
- Separate presentations were given to Fylde Local Strategic Partnership and to Year 11 of Carr Hill High School
- Targeted input from sections of the local community was sought:
 - Local residents (within 2.5 km radius of site and represent over 1500 households)
 - Fylde Local Strategic Partnership
 - Local young people (Year 11, Carr Hill High School)
 - Site employees
- Information posted on Springfields Fuels Ltd and Fylde Borough Council's respective websites
- Press release and press coverage in local papers
- Contact made with 35 local small and 10 major businesses

The findings from consultation included that on site VLLW disposal was supported across all stakeholder groups in the range of 65-83%.

5: Confidence Building

In 2007, a party comprising Peter Burns and Peter Richards of Springfields Fuels Ltd and Cllr Bernard Whittle of Lancashire County Council visited Fernald in Ohio to see a comparable disposal facility. Previously a uranium processing plant, the site had been decommissioned, high level waste removed to Nevada for storage and other decommissioning waste disposed of on-site in the specially engineered facility. Discussions were held with local lobbyists and congressional representatives. For more information about the decommissioning of Fernald go to http://www.lm.doe.gov/land/sites/oh/fernald_orig/index.htm

6: Next Steps

Discussions with the site operator of Clifton Marsh, SITA, regarding the potential extension of the facility are taking place alongside consideration of alternative disposal options including the on-site disposal facility.

A programme of work to assess suitability of locations within the licensed site boundary for a near-surface disposal facility was included in the site's Lifetime Plan for 2007 (LTP07) This is being carried out 2007/08.

A business case for the on-site disposal facility is being developed, with a view to including a proposal to move forward with a facility in LTP10 or LTP11. Following this a planning application would be submitted.

Information sources:

The majority of information was drawn from documentation on Springfields website and the 2007 NDA Mapping Report for Springfields. This information is no longer available for viewing.