

Newsletter

Emergency Arrangements Liaison Forum

The half day forum meeting was held on Thursday 26th January 2017 for stakeholders of the BAE Systems Off-Site Emergency Planning Procedures and Policies linked to reactor testing. The forum administration is delivered by Cumbria County Council on behalf of BAE Systems. Cllr Sweeney, Barrow Borough Council is the Forum Chair.

Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Chair and Barrow Borough Council and Michael Barclay, BAE Systems, welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the aims and objectives for the forum meeting. They introduced a number of speakers and facilitated discussion.

Nuclear Submarine Build Programme Update

Len Hodgkiss, BAE Systems, gave an overview of the Submarine Build Programme. 2016 has focused on setting out delivery programmes for boats 4 and 5. Further improvements to the build programme, through the Significant Change Management Programme, continue to be developed. Key points of interest included:

- Dreadnought Cut Steel commenced in October 2016 and the facilities programme continues to progress to support the Dreadnought Programme.
- HMS Astute, Ambush and Artful have all completed testing and entered service.
- Audacious, boat 4, has now been through her naming ceremony. She will be launched in Spring 2017, with an exit date planned for Spring 2018.
- Anson, boat 5, is currently within Devonshire Dock Hall
- Agamemnon, boat 6, has been moved to Devonshire Dock Hall.
- Boat 7 is scheduled to be transferred to Devonshire Dock Hall during 2017.

Site Emergency Planning Committee Report

Paul Connell, BAE Systems, gave an overview of the on site emergency arrangements and the regulations that govern the emergency arrangements and business continuity on the BAE Systems site. An overview of the exercises undertaken in 2016 was given. Paul confirmed that 2017 would focus on casualty recovery, security, business continuity and an exercise based at Ramsden Dock Basin.

It was noted that due to the shelf life of the stable iodine tablets these will need to be redistributed. A new Business Emergency Action Card to reaffirm the advice given to businesses and commercial sites within 500m of the two licenced sites.

Due to the development of the site the site will be apply for relicensing through a formal submission to Office for Nuclear Regulation and Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator.

Paul Connell, BAE Systems, also gave a brief overview on the variety of work being undertaken with external agencies including training, site visits and jointly delivered agency road show.

Safety, Health and Environment Report

John McNeil, BAE Systems, gave an overview on how the Safety, Health and Environment team links to the emergency planning for the site. The team cover three main locations and an example of the roles within the team included occupational health, fire and rescue team, technical specialists and advisors. John gave an overview on how safety, health, fire and environmental management is supported through legal legislation, positive economic outcomes and a moral obligation.

Work in the Community

Tiffany Battersby, BAE Systems, gave an overview of the work of the Corporate Responsibility Team. This was focused on the Community Benefits of BAE being a nuclear site. These included:

- Training opportunities
- Opportunity to showcase the expertise, knowledge and talent within Barrow.
- Community investment.

Site Development Programme – Planned Works and Construction

Allan Day, BAE Systems, gave an overview on the progress of the Site Development Programme do date as it moves towards its half way point. The programme is to enable to build and commissioning of the Dreadnought Submarine Programme.

There continues to be a large amount of work undertaken, with significant use of sub-contractors. Future elements of the programme include refurbishment of the Devonshire Dock Hall, a new quay for Dreadnought and assessment of the water depth in the dock system. Allan reflected on the importance of opportunities to engage the community and the press in planned activities.

Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator Report

David Smith, Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, provided the latest report from the site. David gave an overview of the scope of his role it was confirmed that this has been a successful year

Cumbria County Council BAE Systems Off Site Emergency Planning Update

Jonathan Burgess, Cumbria County Council, gave an overview on the activities of the Off Site Emergency Planning Committee activity and Cumbria County Council's responsibilities regarding the production of the BAE Systems Off Site Emergency Plan, including engaging with a large number of agencies.

Activities for the off site responders within Cumbria in 2016 included an Off Site Exercise, training activities, familiarisation site visits, on site training opportunities and complementary exercises across the county. The purpose of the Emergency Planning Sub Committee was discussed together with the identification of activities such as the review of countermeasures to protect the public, planning and delivering an extendibility workshop, exercise planning and delivery and a full Off Site Emergency Plan revision.

Office for Nuclear Regulation Report

Govinder Sangha, Office for Nuclear Regulation, provided the reports from the last year of Office for Nuclear Regulation. An overview was given on the assessments made over the last year.

Environment Agency – Nuclear Regulation Group Report

Mike Baggs, Environment Agency, provided an annual report on the environmental regulation for the site. Mike gave an overview of his role and the variety of permits that BAE Systems hold with the Environment Agency. It was confirmed that the amount of radioactive waste produced by BAE Systems is both low in radioactivity and volume.

For further information on the BAE Systems Local Liaison Committee please contact:

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