

Newsletter

Emergency Arrangements Liaison Forum

The half day forum meeting was held on Tuesday 30th January 2018 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. 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 with the first unit delivered to the Central Yard Facility in December 2017.
- HMS Astute, Ambush, Artful have all completed testing and entered service.
- Audacious, boat 4, was launched in April 2017, with an exit date planned for Summer 2018.
- Anson, boat 5, is currently within Devonshire Dock Hall, being commissioned in Spring 2018.
- Agamemnon, boat 6, is currently within Devonshire Dock Hall.
- Boat 7 is currently within Devonshire Dock Hall.

Site Emergency Planning Committee Report

David Broughton, 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 2017 was given. David confirmed that 2018 would focus on stable iodine distribution, a COMAH Oil pollution exercise and a RADS SAFE exercise, based on a transportation accident.

It was noted that the multi-agency Strategic Co-Ordination Centre is being relocated to Police HQ in Penrith. BAE Systems will be supporting partners with this transition process.

An overview of incidents on site in 2017 was given, these included:

- Accidental triggering of the RSA siren
- WW2 Ordnance
- Evacuation of Boat 4

David Broughton, BAE Systems, also gave a brief overview on the variety of work being undertaken with external agencies including training, site visits and jointly delivered resilience road shows.

Safety, Health and Environment Report

Paul Buchanan, BAE Systems, gave an overview on how the Safety, Health and Environment team links to the emergency planning for the site. There have been several cultural change programmes on site, focusing on safety, mental health and disabilities. The Trade Union partnership has also been strengthened, helping to improve culture on site. John gave an overview on how safety, health, fire and environmental management is supported through legal legislation, positive economic outcomes and a moral obligation. 2017 has shown a 40% reduction in accidents, while the number of people working on site has also increased. In 2018 a 'Target Zero' campaign will be launched to further reduce the number of accidents.

Work in the Community

Jodie Cartwright, 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, financial and 'in kind' help.

Site Development Programme – Planned Works and Construction

Ian Murray, BAE Systems, gave an overview on the progress of the Site Development Programme now over halfway through an 8 year programme. The programme is to enable to build and commissioning of the Dreadnought Submarine Programme.

The Central Yard complex was opened in November and is now operational. There continues to be a large amount of work undertaken, with significant use of local sub-contractors. Future elements of the programme include extension of the Devonshire Dock Hall, a new quay for Dreadnought and assessment of the water depth in the dock system.

Cumbria County Council BAE Systems Off Site Emergency Planning Update

Alison Love, Cumbria County Council, gave an overview on the activities of the Off Site Emergency Planning Committee 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 2017 included a review of the Off Site Emergency Plan, training activities, familiarisation site visits and developing a Stable Iodine Distribution Plan. The purpose of the Emergency Planning Sub Committee was discussed together with the planned 2018 activities such as the delivery of Stable Iodine Tablets, reissuing the public information leaflet in October 2018, and planning for an Off Site Exercise in July 2019.

Office for Nuclear Regulation Report

Jimmy Thomson, Office for Nuclear Regulation, gave an overview of the role of ONR as the statutory regulator for all Civil Nuclear sites in the UK. BAE Systems in Barrow is a Licensed site under ONR regulations and an Authorised site under the Defence Nuclear Site Regulators regulations.

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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