

Newsletter

Emergency Arrangements Liaison Forum

The half day forum meeting was held on Wednesday 6th February 2019 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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the aims and objectives for the forum meeting. Cllr Sweeney introduced a number of speakers and facilitated discussion.

Nuclear Submarine Build Programme Update

Head of Project – Nuclear, 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 boat 2 Valiant steel will be cut in late 2019.
- HMS Astute, Ambush, Artful have all completed testing and entered service.
- Audacious, boat 4, undergoing final commissioning, Power Range Testing is planned in Summer 2019
- Anson, boat 5, is currently within Devonshire Dock Hall, nuclear reactor will be installed in 2019, with the aim to be in the water for testing by December 2019
- Agamemnon, boat 6, is currently within Devonshire Dock Hall.
- Agincourt, boat 7 is being moved to the DDH, most units should be there by mid 2019.

Site Emergency Planning Committee Report

Senior Engineering Manager (Resilience & BCM), BAE Systems, gave an overview of the on-site emergency arrangements and the regulations that govern emergency planning and business continuity management on the BAE Systems site. An overview of the exercises undertaken in 2018 was given. It was confirmed that the exercises in 2019 would focus on the strategic and tactical on-site response to all types of potential emergencies, embedding the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme principles of co-location, communication, co-ordination, jointly understood risk and shared situational awareness and the new Cumbria Local Resilience Forum Coordination Plan.

It was noted that during internal exercises, the siren at times could be heard off site. Going forward, BAE Systems will ensure good notice is given to members of the public before any siren is used as part of an on-site exercise.

The BAE Systems representative 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

SHE Director, 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 safety culture on site. In 2018 a 'Target Zero' campaign was launched to further reduce the number of accidents. 2018 has been the 6th consecutive year of reducing accidents on site.

The focus for 2019 is on:

- Campaigns to balance health and environment, as well as safety.
- Employer Mental Well-being pledge
- Continuing to support Cumbria Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service (CADAS)

Work in the Community

Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, 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

Facilities Programme Director, BAE Systems, gave an overview on the progress of the Site Development Programme now over halfway through an 10 year programme. The programme is to enable the building and commissioning of the Dreadnought Submarine Programme.

The Central Yard complex is now 14 months old and is functioning well. There continues to be a large amount of work undertaken, with significant use of local sub-contractors. Future elements of the programme include increasing the power supply to the site by bringing in two new supplies. These will be coming from different directions and sources to increase resilience.

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.

Priorities for the off-site responders within Cumbria in 2019 include an Off Site Exercise Indigo in July, other modular exercises to test coordination, planning for the changes to Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPiR) and completion of the Stable Iodine Distribution project.

Office for Nuclear Regulation Report

Cathy Collins, Office for Nuclear Regulation, gave an overview of the role of ONR as the statutory regulator and the high standards that BAE is required to meet. The term 'Adequate' means that BAE have achieved these high standards. Cathy also gave an explanation of why the DDH extension has been to high building standards; the standards have been reviewed and increased since events at Fukushima, as well as the need for protective areas for staff during welding tests, which involve X-rays.

Environment Agency – Nuclear Regulation Group Report

Jake Surman, Environment Agency, provided an annual report on the environmental regulation for the site. Jake gave an overview of 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 low in both radioactivity and volume.

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

Resilience Unit, Cumbria County Council,
Cumbria Fire & Rescue HQ, Carleton Ave,
Penrith CA10 2FA
t: 01768 812500
e. emergency.planning@cumbria.gov.uk