

Windscale site integrates with Sellafield

Tuesday 1 April saw the official integration of the Windscale site with the Sellafield site. This follows a year of preparatory work to ensure the necessary licence arrangements were in place to allow the transfer to happen smoothly.

In October 2007, Windscale entered a period of "Shadow Working" in preparation for the transfer day to demonstrate to the regulators that organisational arrangements were in place to support the new licence application. The Windscale site will continue to be covered by its own site licence; however Sellafield Ltd will now be the licence holder.

Peter Mann, Head of the Windscale site, said: "This week marks the end of an era for United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and Windscale, but most importantly it also signals a new beginning for the Windscale team.

"The staff can be very proud of Windscale's achievements. Over the last year the site has had its best ever year in terms of its safety performance and has achieved all its environmental milestones. The transition work had the potential to disrupt our planned activities and the excellent team working with our Sellafield colleagues is a great foundation for a successful integration."

As a way of celebrating their integration into Sellafield, the Windscale team recently held a social evening at Whitehaven Civic Hall followed by a 'tea party' for stakeholders and representatives of local charities and organisations.

Staff decided to have a charity theme at the social evening with Windscale contract workers and suppliers chipping in with prizes for a ticket draw and auction. As a result, over £3,000 was raised for several charities including local charities Grass Roots Community Horticulture and the West Cumbria Young Carers.

Speaking after a cheque presentation ceremony which was held last Friday at Sellafield's Training and Development Centre, Fee Wilson, Windscale Communications Manager for Sellafield Ltd, said: "The Windscale Team decided to donate the money to the these local good causes as a way of saying thank you.

"Twenty charities and organisations were nominated to receive the money so we took the decision to give everyone a share. However a vast majority of the nominations for the charities Grass Roots Community Horticulture and the West Cumbria Young Carers."



Above: Peter Mann and Sellafield's MD Barry Snelson mark the official integration

Jamie Reed visits Sellafield to open tea bar

Copeland MP Jamie Reed has recently been at Sellafield to officially open a recently refurbished staff tea bar within Sellafield's Effluent Treatment Plant.

The project to refurbish the tea bar was initiated by Sellafield's lead disability champion and Low-Active Effluent Management Group (LAEMG) process worker, Carl Lewthwaite. In June 2007 it was decided that the area needed to be made more user friendly, especially for those with disabilities and mobility issues.

The project has been completed in-house by the LAEMG team at the minimal cost of £12,500 using nearly all local, west Cumbrian suppliers at a fraction of the price it would have cost using external suppliers.

Representatives from Sellafield's LAEMG team, the trade unions, Jim Morse Divisional Director, Assurance from the NDA and Sellafield's director of Production Operations, John Storer greeted Jamie Reed as he visited the site on Friday 28 March.



Above: (left to right) Jamie Reed, Barry Ackerley, Jim Morse, Ian MacPherson, John Storer and Carl Lewthwaite

Jamie Reed said: "It's a matter of fact that the Sellafield workforce is being challenged to produce and implement innovative solutions for challenges they face on the site. Nobody wants Sellafield to succeed more than the workforce and that they are genuinely up for the issues which the site has to tackle in the future.

"I think that innovation and improvement should always be recognised and Carl and his colleagues should be congratulated for this development. It's precisely this kind of 'can do' culture that will ensure we succeed."

The main alterations to the tea bar include a more accessible seating area and separate microwave stands and vending machines along one wall - as opposed to being in one corner. The modifications will make the tea bar area a safer environment for the 250 workers who use it on a daily basis.

Carl Lewthwaite said: "It is a real honour to have Mr Reed here to witness first hand an example of what can be done by a flexible workforce keen to demonstrate improved efficiency while still maintaining plant production.

"I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped complete this project – especially Barry Ackerley, Edwin Dinsdale and Steve Adair; without their input this project wouldn't have come off."

John Storer added: "I am delighted to have been able to give my personal support to the implementation of this improvement project. In particular I have been impressed by the energy, initiative and flexibility of approach taken by the workforce. We are starting to demonstrate in this and other projects within Production Operations that we understand and can take on the challenge to deliver work in more effective, more efficient ways to the benefit of the customer and our various stakeholders."

Charity night hailed a success

A race-night to raise money for Sellafield Ltd's charity of the year for 2008 – the Meningitis Research Foundation – was a huge success.

Tony and Pauline Bell, who lost their daughter to the disease two years ago, organised the fund raiser with help from their friends Les and Madge Sharkey. Since Lisa died the couple have raised over £10,000 themselves, and a total of more than £20,000 has been raised by people in West Cumbria in her name.

They pulled in a staggering £1,719 on the night, which will be match-funded by Sellafield Ltd.

Tony made an announcement on the night that proves how well the money is being used.

He said: "I spoke to the Meningitis Research Foundation last week, and they told me that they have developed a vaccine for the b-strand of the disease.

"They are doing a lot of the trials at Manchester University and it is going very well, all of the money we are raising is going towards that.

"That is the strand which killed Lisa, and is the one responsible for the vast majority of deaths among teenagers and young people. It could be available as early as 2012, which will hopefully mean that far fewer parents have to suffer the heartbreak that we've endured.

"I think Lisa would be pleased with our fund-raising efforts, and I think that is a brilliant effort by those who attended the race night, people are brilliant and to raise that much is wonderful for the charity.

"It was obviously a hard time when we lost Lisa, but we decided to try and do something productive and have done what we can to raise money in her memory."

Tony, who is an Engineering Manager in the Vitrification plant, and Pauline, who is a Health Physics Monitor in the Separation Area, thanked everyone for their efforts.

As well as a series of sponsored races where people bought horses and bet on the out come, there was an auction of celebrity merchandise.

The top item was a pair of gloves signed and donated by England footballer Scott Carson, and a signed, framed picture of Diego Maradona.

Tony added: "I'd like to say a big thanks to Les and Madge who did a great job of organising everything on the night.

"I'd also like to thank Tim and Ronnie, from The Ship, for agreeing to host the event and to the bank that was booked, Headway, as they donated their fee back into the pot."

Another event is planned for September, around the time of Lisa's birthday.

Sellafield to host NW Newspaper Awards

Sellafield Ltd has now launched their 17th North West Newspaper Awards with prize money totalling £5,000 across seven categories.

The awards, sponsored by Sellafield Ltd and organised through the North West Region of the Society of Editors, are given in recognition of the best journalists and newspapers throughout Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

The following categories will be rewarded:

- News Reporter of the Year
- Feature Writer of the Year
- Sports Reporter of the Year
- Photographer of the Year
- Young Journalist of the Year
- Daily Newspaper of the Year
- Weekly Newspaper of the Year
- Daily Newspaper Website of the Year (New)
- Weekly Newspaper of the Year (New)

Prize money includes £700 for the winners in each individual category, with £150 for each of the two runners-up, and trophies for the daily and weekly newspapers and the two website categories.

Chris Philipsborn, Director of Sellafield Communications, said: "This competition has always been very popular with the best in North West journalists, once again we are hoping for record entries. Good luck to all who enter."

Two independent judges will nominate three entrants from each category. The nominees will be invited to a special presentation lunch in Cumbria on Friday 20 June 2008 where the winners will be announced and receive their prize money and trophies.

Entry forms are now available from the editors of all North West daily and weekly newspapers or from Jeanette Stokes 01925 832239.

The closing date for entries is Monday 19 May 2008.

- Please visit our newly updated website which has been launched this week to keep up to date with the awards and all our latest news stories: www.sellafieldsites.com

New Sellafield Ltd website launched

Sellafield Ltd today celebrates the launch of its new website.

Deigned in collaboration with web experts Forepoint, the new site boasts a host of new interactive features as well as a fresh new look, which makes it easier to navigate and enjoy.

Sellafield's Promotions and Publicity Manager, Emma Dobinson, said: "What we've tried to do is make the website much more user friendly – we want people to be able to come to it and find what they want as quickly and as easily as possible, which will give them more time to view other areas of the site."

Behind the refreshing new look of the site are some exciting new features; users can now watch videos of different projects and see what goes on behind the site fence.

Another new feature on site will enable users to view archive video footage of the site being built. These clips will be shown in a series on the website.

All of the best aspects of the old site remain, including regular blogs from staff members involved in interesting projects and the photo library, which users will find within a new, enhanced media centre.

Via the media centre users will be able to keep up to date with all the latest press release and news stories coming from the site.



Visitors will also be able to view details of how Sellafield Ltd supports socio-economic development in West Cumbria, and learn how to apply for funding from the company.

And the recruitment section, advertising vacancies with Sellafield Ltd, should be easier to navigate than ever before.

Another great feature is a facility to view profiles of members of the Sellafield Ltd team. The individuals featured will be changed regularly to help give website visitors an insight into the varying and diverse nature of the workforce.

Miss Dobinson added: "A lot of hard work has gone into the website but we won't stop there.

"We want it to be a work-in-progress, which we will continue to update and expand.

"We will soon be adding pod-casts to the website and other new features will be added all the time so people can keep checking back to see what is going on.

"We are really pleased with the new look, and we hope that the public will be to."

The new Sellafield website can be found at www.sellafieldsites.com

Event report

An investigation is to be carried out into elevated radiation levels around two waste storage huts in the effluent and encapsulation plants complex.

The increase was identified during routine health physics monitoring.

The incident has been classified as Level 0, on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

For all media enquiries and photographic requests please contact:

019467 85836/85838/85839/85848

Editor:
Ali McKibbin (85839)

Written by:
Karl Connor (85842)
Lucy Watson (85838)

Got a story? Let us know. Please call X85838

For more news and stories please visit:
www.sellafieldsites.com

VIP visits to Sellafield 26 March – 2 April 2008 included:

01/04/08 - BNFL Board EH&S Committee

02/04/08 – NDA site familiarisation tour

02/04/08 - Dosilab AG

02/04/08 – DGTREN