



Sellafield Ltd

# Sellafield News

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## 'NOS' trio return from US visit

Three members of the Commercial Recycling Nuclear Oversight (NOS) Team have just returned from a visit to the Dresden nuclear power plant, Illinois, USA.

Graham McDonald, Steve Kitchen and Jeff Bone are all part of the NOS team – a special function created following the Thorp feed clarification cell event in April 2005, which identifies performance gaps and seeks to promote nuclear safety, reliability and continuous improvement.

The aim of the visit was to allow Sellafield Ltd to align itself with the NOS procedures used by the plant's operators Exelon and to learn about how it has evolved within their business. As with all US organisations that operate commercial nuclear power plants, the Dresden power plant is an Institute of Nuclear Power Operators (INPO) member – meaning that its operators work towards promoting the highest levels of safety, reliability and excellence. The Dresden plant is classed as an INPO 1 rated facility and considered as one of the 'best in class' in the US nuclear industry.



Above: (from Left) Graham McDonald, Rob Radulovich, Steve Kitchen and Jeff Bone

Graham added: "We have plans for the Exelon team to visit Sellafield in October to take part in an effectiveness review which will also involve British Energy. This will provide us with the opportunity for an independent review of our arrangements and identify any improvements based on global best practice."

As well as visiting the station to witness first hand how NOS has been embedded at the US plant, the team also met with the corporate vice presidents, directors and Rob Radulovich from the senior management NOS team.

Speaking after the visit Jeff said: "Despite it being very cold indeed, the visit was a great success and very worthwhile. The trip to Exelon has confirmed that the implementation of a NOS function within Thorp is on track and that the hard work is paying off."

## Changes to the Sellafield Visitors Centre

There are to be some changes to the way the Sellafield Visitors Centre is run, but both the Centre and its exhibition will remain open to the public, free of charge.

Over recent years there has been a decline in the number of visitors to the exhibition within the Centre; however there has been an increase in the use of the Centre for business related events.

Sellafield Ltd is therefore redirecting the focus of the Centre and from April it will be utilised to assist with our business development and supply chain development work as well as continuing to support our education programme.

The company has reviewed the Centre's opening hours and made changes to them based upon usage numbers. As of 1 April 2008 the Centre will be open for longer: Monday to Friday, from 0800 to 1730. It will however no longer open at weekends.

These changes have been planned for some time, and Sellafield Ltd employed a small number of temporary agency staff to help the permanent Centre staff cope during the transitional period.

As that period is now coming to an end those temporary workers are no longer required and their short-term contracts have not been renewed.

Sellafield Ltd is proud to have an open door policy, and the Centre will continue to be open to the public to provide up to date information on Sellafield Ltd.

# Science Week extravaganza!

Sellafield Ltd hosted a series of fun activities and events as this year's National Science and Engineering Week got underway at the Sellafield Visitors Centre and in local schools on Friday 7 March.

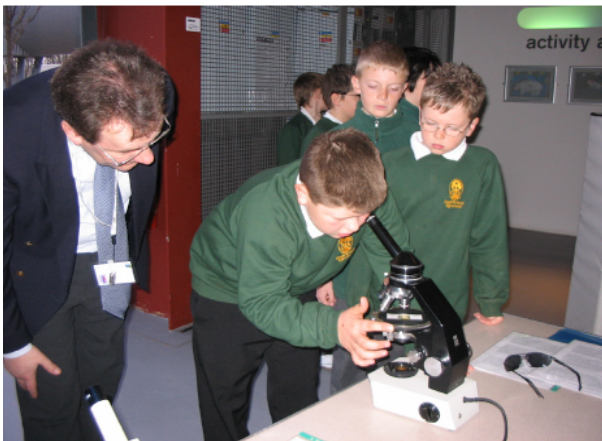
The week long event was held throughout the UK by a large and varied range of organisations and individuals including hospitals, schools, industry and museums. Venues ranged from shopping centres to science centres.

Sellafield Ltd was involved in organising a trip to the Visitors Centre from Walney School in Barrow, where pupils built and launched paper aeroplanes, built items from KEX and tested household products for PH levels.

There was also a Sellafield Ltd sponsored Tech Tournament at Lakes College, Lillyhall, where older pupils from secondary schools in Cumbria were given a design and build task to do, competing against each other and their teachers. Peter Joyce, an actor who delivers presentation shows on the life of Galileo also made an appearance as the famous inventor.

On Tuesday 11 March, pupils from Orgill Junior School, Egremont and St Patrick's Primary, Cleator Moor got the chance to work as forensic scientists for the day. The activities were led by Stuart Burgess, Community Safety Officer for Whitehaven Police, who gave a brief introduction explaining the phonetic alphabet before getting the students to learn each others names phonetically.

Pupils were then split up into groups and got the chance to do four workshops - one making edible DNA chains, one looking at fibres under a microscope, another making fingerprints and measuring foot prints and a fourth writing messages with invisible ink and looking for them with UV lights.



Above: Dr Dominic Rhodes (Nexia Solutions) helps students from Orgill School, Egremont get to grips with science at the forensics day

As well as the events that have already taken place this week two more school visits – Mayfield and Barrow - are planned for the remainder of the week before National Science and Engineering Week draws to a close on 14 March.

Sellafield organiser Pauline Farrell said: "This event seems to get more and more exciting each year as the activities become more varied and different. The highlight so far seems to have been the forensics day. The students got really involved and seemed to find it thoroughly enjoyable.

"I have been documenting my activities and involvement throughout the week in the form of an online 'blog' which is available on the Sellafield Sites website [www.sellafieldsites.com](http://www.sellafieldsites.com) so please feel free to have a read!"

- Across the UK more than 2,000 events will take place throughout the week, meaning that over 100,000 people take part in the activities every year.
- National Science and Engineering Week has been co-ordinated by the British Association for the Advancement of Science since it began in 1994. It is endorsed and supported by the Government through the Department of Trade and Industry and the Office of Science and Innovation.

# Tom returns from Africa mission

Sellafield's chaplain Tom Luke has returned from his mission to Africa helping children in an orphanage suffering from AIDS, after raising more than £8,000 for the worthy cause.

Tom spent three and a half weeks in Bloemfontein with his wife, foster daughter and two other youngsters from his local church. The group spent time at the Lebone House children's orphanage currently home to 77 children who either have AIDS themselves or have been orphaned because of it. The children are fed; cared for; provided with their own bed; given the drugs and medicines they need to fight their illnesses and also given the chance of a full-time education, all of which is paid for by Lebone House.

As a local minister for the Beacon Hill Methodist Church in Barrow, Tom left for Africa on Monday 4 February on what was his fourth trip to the country. In total he has helped raise more than £27,000 over the three year period for which he has been involved in the scheme.

Lebone House provides children with food, medicine, clothing and education. It also operates a skills centre for adults enabling them to gain the necessary skills to become self sufficient.

Speaking about the visit Tom said: "The trip to South Africa went very well, once again. We took with us £8000 that had been raised by the churches in and around Barrow, and this was most welcome. Lebone House exists entirely on fund-raising, and when we arrived they were in dire need of money to meet their expenses.



"We had also taken with us about 50 football shirts, donated by many of the folk in Barrow. The kids over there are football mad, and the look of delight on their faces as they pulled on their very own shirts (even the poor lad who ended up with the Newcastle shirt), brought tears to our eyes.

"I even got the chance to preach in a little church in the middle of the squatter camp. It was just a small tin shed, but it was packed with people, and everything I said had to be translated into Suthu (the native language), but it was an experience I will never forget.

"It was lovely to renew friendships made with many of the children from our last visit, and already we are preparing to return there again early next year, so I will be on the lookout for more football shirts!"

Tom returned from Africa on 28 February. To read about Tom's adventures, please read his blog at: [www.sellafieldsites.com](http://www.sellafieldsites.com)

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## VIP visits to Sellafield 5 March – 12 March 2008 included:

05/03/08 – Areva NC France

05/03/08 – US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

06/03/08 – Cumbria Fire and Rescue Control Centre

07/03/08 – PNTL familiarisation

10/03/08 – HSE familiarisation

11/03/08 – HMS Sultan