



Sellafield Ltd

Sellafield News

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Thorp restart

We started to shear fuel on 28 January for what is the second campaign of fuel since Thorp was shutdown in April 2005. Approximately 1te of fuel was sheared before the elevator which takes the fuel from the feed pond to the shear cave failed. All the safety systems worked as designed, in particular the shock absorbers which protected the fuel. The fuel and elevator have been successfully recovered and none of the fuel pins were damaged.

Following the breakdown of the elevator, an engineering assessment was carried out and as suspected, the metal elevator ropes had failed. Replacement elevator ropes have been installed. The shock absorbers also had to be replaced and a team of engineers, designers and contract specialist worked with the manufacturers to get the shock absorbers manufactured to the earliest time table. The replacement shock absorbers have now been delivered, installed and the elevator commissioned.



Thorp restarted this second campaign of fuel on the evening of 16 March. This campaign comprises up to 100te of UK AGR and overseas LWR fuel. Production at the plant is being increased slowly – as is normal after a shutdown in order to safely bring the plant back into full operation.

Thorp itself actually received permission to operate in January 2007 but has had limited throughput due to a lack of evaporator capacity within the High Level Waste Plants. The first campaign to shear 33te of fuel was completed in August 2007 and this dissolved fuel was processed in the Thorp Chemical Plants during November 2007.

Energy efficiency accreditation

Sellafield Ltd has been re-accredited for its energy efficiency.

The Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme (EEAS) is the leading independent emission reduction award scheme in the UK. The scheme recognises the achievements of businesses and organisations in industry, commerce and the public sector in reducing energy consumption.

The Carbon Trust has overall responsibility for the scheme and coordinates its marketing and future development. The Scheme is managed by the National Energy Foundation on behalf of Carbon Trust Enterprises Limited and aims to raise the profile of delivered energy and carbon reductions both internally and externally within client organisations.

Accredited organisations benefit from ongoing support to deliver further emission reductions through membership of the Accredited Organisations Network.

In order to achieve accreditation companies are required to demonstrate that they have:

- Management commitment to energy efficiency
- Investment in energy efficiency measures
- Improvements in energy efficiency performance

Jane Lawson, the Site Energy Manager, said: "This accreditation demonstrates the company's commitment to managing and reducing energy consumption on the Sellafield site.

"I am confident that there will be continued improvements during the next three years accreditation period as measures were put in place to implement the requirements of the site energy strategy and energy aspects of the PPC permit."

Japan Embassy visit

On 17 and 18 March a party from the Embassy of Japan visited Sellafield for a familiarisation tour of the site.

On day one of the visit, Mr Masahiko Saito, Commercial Minister Embassy of Japan and his party including Kenji Totoki, Diplomat and Shigekazu Matsuura, First Secretary, began their visit with a tour of the Barrow Marine Terminal where they were met by Alastair Brown, International Nuclear Services Operations Director and John Walmsley, Terminal Manager. The party then enjoyed a tour of the Pacific Pintail by Captain Elston.

On day two the party visited the Oxide Flask Parkway where they were joined by Team Leader Jeff Blakeney who gave the group a tour of the facilities.

This was then followed by a visit to the Thorp Viewing Gallery and tour round the High Level Waste Plants.

“The Minister had expressed a wish to gain a greater understanding of the site operations and this was the main objective of his visit.

“The party were interested in learning about the operations and projects been undertaken on the site. They spoke of their appreciation for our hospitality,” said Visits Manager Andrew Pearson.

After visiting the site the party then met for lunch with Len Jones, Head of Stakeholder and Regulatory Affairs.

Blog updates...

Following the success of National Science and Engineering Week which finished on Friday 14 March, Sellafield Ltd’s Community and Education Relations Officer, Pauline Farrell, has produced a blog which is available for all to read.

From learning about how to make edible DNA chains to building bridges from sheets of paper, tape and string, Pauline’s blog details her thoughts, feelings and experiences and highs and lows of the week-long event.

To read Pauline’s blog in full please visit: www.sellafieldsites.com

Event report

An event report has been raised within the Solid Waste Storage Facility, following concerns over whether the plants safety case fully reflects the new equipment being operated in the building by the technical and support operators.

Compliance does exist via method statements, commissioning documentation and maintenance schedules but the safety case needs to be checked to ensure it reflects any additional equipment brought into the plant.

The incident has been classified as Below Scale on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

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Got a story? Let us know. Please call X85838

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VIP visits to Sellafield 12 - 19 March 2008 included:

13/03/08 – Mr Stephen Henwood, NDA Chair

14/03/08 – Birmingham University

17/03/08 – David Hart, QC

18/03/08 – Embassy of Japan