

USA visit for Thorp team

Three workers from the Recycling Directorate are about to embark on a visit to the Dresden nuclear power plant, Illinois, USA.

Graham McDonald, former Manufacturing Manager; Steve Kitchen, former Engineering Support Manager and Jeff Bone, former Manufacturing Support Manager are leaving for the week long trip on 2 March.

Graham, Steve and Jeff are now part of the Commercial Recycling Operations Directorate, Nuclear Oversight (NOS) Team, created following the Thorp feed clarification cell event in April 2005.

NOS identifies performance gaps and seeks to promote nuclear safety, reliability and continuous improvement. It originally evolved from the American self evaluation programme which became common throughout the Institute of Nuclear Power Operators (INPO) – an institution whose mission is to promote the highest levels of safety, reliability and excellence.

As with all US organisations that operate commercial nuclear power plants, the Dresden power plant is an INPO member and is considered as one of the 'best in class' in the US nuclear industry.

The upcoming visit will provide Sellafield Ltd with an opportunity to share learning in the field of nuclear expertise, standards and expectations.

Speaking about the upcoming visit Graham said: "This visit presents an excellent, timely opportunity for us to evaluate our arrangements along side a company with over 10 years experience in the field of Nuclear Oversight, as we strive to embed the process within Thorp.

"Exelon Nuclear (Dresden's operators) utilise a mix of self assessment techniques and independent oversight which reflects a balanced approach to strengthen safety and improve performance. The team are looking forward to the experience of visiting an INPO 1 rated facility providing real potential to witness industry best practice."

To read all about the visit, look out for the NOS team blog which will be available from next week on the Sellafield Ltd website

www.sellafieldsites.com

Sellafield Ltd helps local school become eco-friendly

Frizington School has now achieved eco-school status thanks to the help of Sellafield worker Craig Ashton, a science and engineering ambassador, working as an Environmental Specialist within EHS&Q.

The Primary school has been awarded Bronze status as a result of working through a number of different projects and initiatives, and introducing an environmental management system. Sellafield Ltd made a donation to help purchase picnic tables for the newly refurbished school yard that will allow for pupils to work outside during the warmer months.



Craig said: "This is just the start of a long-term journey Frizington School are embarking upon, which is testament to the staff and pupils. We've just given them a little steer as to how to take things forward and the donation has helped them put the finishing touches on their green playground development".

Craig is now aiming to get more environmental graduates involved with other schools to help develop similar schemes. Currently two other graduates have visited a local primary school that has its own wind turbine, solar panels, ground source heat pump to see how they have managed their eco-friendly school.

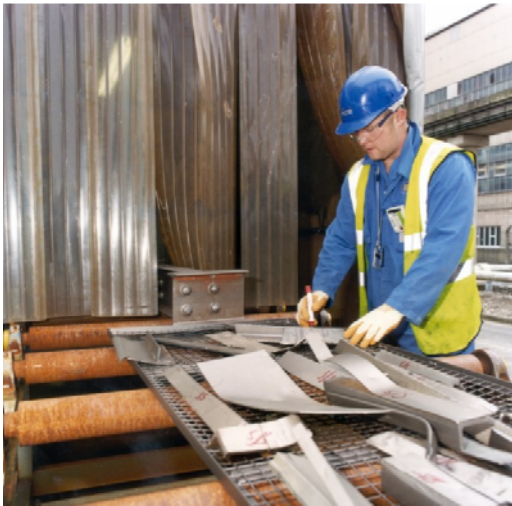
Waste team share recycling tips

Sellafield's Low Level Waste (LLW) Team have been sharing best practice in the field of metals recycling with external nuclear organisations, which will result in smaller volumes of LLW being sent to the UK's national Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR).

Over the past two years, the LLW Team have been actively visiting consigners of LLW from across the UK to advise them on treatment and disposal of such material. They have also been making customers aware of the potential to treat metal, to meet exemption limits thereby demonstrating Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) by avoiding disposal at the LLWR.

As well visiting external consigners, the LLW team have also been working with Sellafield's commercial team to put together contracts for the recycling and compaction of such waste here at the Sellafield site.

The first contract, which has been signed with MOD Naval Base Clyde at Faslane - is for the recycling and waste compaction of a three tonne stainless steel tank. It will be processed through the 'wheelabrator' – a facility used for removing the outer surface of contaminated steel using an abrasion process, resulting in free-release steel.



Above: an operator at work at the Wheelabrator facility

Head of Manufacturing for LLW, Stuart Latham said: "It has been encouraging to be able to support one of our existing customers with a new venture to reduce the environmental impact of their site with respect to long term disposal of waste by the best practicable means available.

"This is an important opportunity for us to work together to remove waste from the default disposal route to LLWR. Naturally we will be looking to extend this service to other existing customers."

Speaking on behalf of Sellafield's Commercial Department, Contract Manager, Chris Guise said: "Although it's a small contract in financial terms, it's potentially an important one. We believe other MOD LLW may be treatable in this way. If this business does come about for the Wheelabrator facility it will help maximise the use of an existing asset and generate additional income that will contribute towards the NDA's clean-up mission."

NDA CEO praises Capenhurst clean up success

Capenhurst's nuclear clean-up and safety performance has been praised by the chief executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, which is the owner of the decommissioning site and the body in charge of UK civil nuclear clean-up.

Following a recent visit to the site, Dr Ian Roxburgh, said, "It was a pleasure to visit Capenhurst and at first hand see such a dynamic approach to hazard reduction and decommissioning. The progress they have made since my last visit is remarkable. The enthusiasm that employees displayed for health and safety is infectious."

During the visit, Dr Roxburgh met the site's lead team and also the safety representatives that have led the site's hugely successful Safety First programme, which is responsible for delivering its world-class safety performance.

Phil Malem, Head of site at Capenhurst, said, "Our ambition is for Capenhurst to be a flagship NDA site and we were happy to promote our achievements in clean-up and safety to Dr Roxburgh.

"Having just completed the biggest demolition on a UK nuclear site, and passed 1,000 days without a lost time accident, we're focused on achieving that status when we complete our clean-up programme in 2009."



Photographed above: Dr Roxburgh (centre) with the team from Capenhurst

The site, which is managed and operated by Sellafield Ltd on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, housed the UK's first uranium enrichment plant and is scheduled to become the first UK nuclear site to complete its clean-up programme and in the process is creating a blueprint for other decommissioning sites to use.

Cumbrian Mariners

ready for kick off!

A group of Sellafield workers who set up their own American football team - the Cumbria Mariners, have just submitted their application to join the British Senior American Football league.

Over the past seven months, the Mariners have been working hard to secure funding to enable them to buy the kit and help arrange friendly games prior to submitting their entry to the league.

Patrick Gorrill, a Production Operations Planning Engineer, who among those who decided to put the team together. He said: "We now have around 30 players training with us twice a week, and are finally in the process of submitting our application to the league.

"We believe our application will be a success and are hoping to be playing our first competitive game in April."

"The idea for the American football team was proposed by Philip Malcolm. He is a huge fan of the sport and has always wanted to play. He posted a message on the BNFL Marketplace a few months back and it started from there", said Patrick.



Above: the team in training in preparation for joining the league

American football is beginning to take off in the UK, as more and more British league teams continue to register year on year. There are plans for the British Premier league to become semi professional in 2010 and highlights from Division 2 - where the Mariners hope to be playing, will be shown on Sky TV from next season.

Training takes place between 1900 – 2100 on Mondays and Thursdays at the Lakeland Heavy Horse Centre in Dearham and is open to all.

For more information, to register an interest in trying out or to make a donation, please visit www.cumbriamariners.co.uk

Event Report

An event in which a worker became contaminated after sustaining a small cut to the finger of his right hand, was reported in the Sellafield Newsletter, dated 21st November 2007.

The event was provisionally rated as a Level 1 on the International Nuclear Event Scale. This Level 1 rating has now been confirmed.

VIP visits to Sellafield 20 February – 27 February 2008 included:

21/02/08 - Warrington Collegiate

25/02/08 – Bulgarian Community group

26/02/08 – WANO UK nuclear operations conference

27/02/08 – Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority

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