



Sellafield Ltd

Sellafield News

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Rob's bright idea saves the company a fork-tune

A simple suggestion from an employee has saved Sellafield Ltd £19,000.

Rob Rowlandson's idea was to utilise an existing 'swing thru' trailer, rather than hiring costly forklift trucks, and test have shown the trailer actually works more effectively than the old fork lift did.

PCM waste returns from the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) are delivered to Sellafield in specially designed containers via the rail network. The rail wagons were, up until recently, unloaded using a special forklift truck based permanently at the rail sidings. The containers are then loaded onto road trailers for movement to the site's Engineered Drum Store.



TRAILER MADE: A swing thru trailer

However, when the forklift broke down last year, Rob came up with the idea to use a 'swing thru' trailer to offload the PCM containers instead of the forklift truck, which could not be repaired.

'Swing thru' trailers allow operators to load and unload containers more readily – without the need for material handling equipment, forklift truck drivers, crane or specialist operators.

"The use of swing thru trailers provides a safer means of unloading and transporting the containers as well as a reduction in manpower used for the movement and transfer from the rail sidings," said WAMAC transport team member Rob, who put his idea forward via the Sellafield Suggestion Scheme.

"It also incorporates a further benefit in that the rail system can now be used to return the empty PCM containers to the LLWR as opposed to on the road through the Drigg village," he added.

Head of waste, Laurence Cook, said: "Well done to Rob on this simple, yet effective cost saving suggestion.

"Utilisation of existing equipment rather than hiring in a specialist forklift truck has negated buy a new forklift, which is a significant saving in itself. The manpower released means that additional resource has now been redirected to carrying out inspection checks in the stores. This inspection programme is now progressing ahead of schedule and will enable us to provide additional store capacity within the Waste Treatment Complex earlier than planned."

The redundant forklift truck will be placed on the NDA asset transfer register and available to be used for spares.

Youngsters get a taste of the theatre



PARTY TIME: The youngsters during their dress rehearsal for **Beach Party USA**

Aspiring young actors and actresses were given a chance to put on a show – thanks to sponsorship from Sellafield Ltd.

The youngsters from Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society (GADS) took part in a series of workshops looking at all aspects of theatre over a week of their school holidays. The week culminated in them putting on a performance to a delighted crowd at Gosforth Public Hall.

In total 30 young people, aged between nine and 21, took part in the workshops and the play – *Beach Party USA* – which is a musical about a family who re-locate to California and get involved in a protest.

Incident report

Sellafield Ltd has worked very closely with several key stakeholders to find the best way of dealing with high burn up fuel.

The company uses a process called Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) and this was implemented. The decision was taken to continue reprocessing and as a result of this the site aerial discharge limit for Antimony 125 has been exceeded (subject to analytical confirmation). However, this was a conscious decision based on best environmental practice.

The environmental impact of the aerial discharges of Antimony 125 is insignificant, even beyond the discharge limit.

The dose to the critical local group is in the region of 0.3 microseiverts per year, which compares with an average of 2,400 microseiverts from natural sources of radioactivity or 140 microseiverts from a transatlantic return flight.

The impact on the vast majority of people would be even less.

Confirmation of the results is expected around 29th September when all analysis and accountancy measures are completed.

The source of the discharge is associated with the decanning of irradiated fuel in the Magnox Fuel Handling Plant.

Magnox reprocessing operations were halted briefly in June, before resuming on the basis that it was the best long term environmental option.

Sellafield Ltd is obliged to apply the principles of Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) to all of our operations on the Sellafield site.

The company continue to work closely with the Environment Agency, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and other key stakeholders to find a long term solution to the issue of the Antimony 125 discharge limit.

The organisation has asked the EA to raise the discharge limit and we await the outcome of that request.

However, the existing limit cannot be revised formally until a European Community opinion, required under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, has been received.

In the meantime, the justification for continued reprocessing of nuclear fuel identified in the BPM case has been accepted by the regulators.

The issue has been given a classification of INES level 1 (anomaly).

VIP Visits to Sellafield

2.9.09: URS
Infrastructure

2.9.09: Manchester
University
Decommissioning
Section

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