

SSGs Chairs Report on NDA SSG Summit

8 and 9 July 2019

Firstly can I say thanks to Jill for organising the train tickets for Henry and myself getting to Bangor by train is a bit of a journey but went smoothly, however like the 2018 summit the ensuing logistical arrangements were far from ideal.

After arriving at Colleg Menai, the summit area was well laid out, we held the main presentations in the Construction Hall which was packed with nearly 220 delegates (the place was pretty warm to say the least).

First up was Bill Hamilton who was attending his last Summit as the NDA Head of Stakeholder Relations before moving to his NDA Magnox subsidiary position who welcomed everyone to the Isle of Anglesey.

Tom Smith the Chairman of NDA kicked off the first session on Mission Delivery and expressed his thanks to all sites who were involved in the NDA estates and had helped deliver the programme of work over the last year since the last summit. He went on to say how Colleg Menai proved an important part of the partnership working that the NDA had looking at the skills necessary for the future of the Nuclear Sector whether that was in direct employment or with the supply chain that had been built up over the years. The positive legacy that the NDA was leaving whether in Magnox Sellafield or Dounreay was a key part to the future of the NDA and he suggested that as part of the future transparency of the NDA asked that delegates advice where there were areas of concern to be raised during the two day summit.

Bill then introduced Aled who took us through a history of Anglesey and also took the chance to invite all delegates back to Anglesey for a holiday after the summit.

The CEO of the NDA David Peattie was up next going through the last two years work and discussed the relationship between the NDA and Government especially after the Holliday report which was still awaiting to be published but from going from a strained relationship with the Government the NDA were now in a position that they were building that trust back up.

We had to look at the potential Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and what that would mean for the industry and the decommissioning programme across all sites.

He made a clear commitment to Anglesey by advising delegates that they had just signed a £495k partnership agreement with Anglesey Council in a socio-economic package of work similar to the one signed with Chapelcross a couple of years back.

Lunch was held in the main exhibition hall which gave delegates a chance to see the exhibitors displays over the hour period.

After lunch the Presentations went onto to discuss the Magnox Fuel Cycle by Stuart Law Closure Director of Wylfa and Rebecca Weston, Enterprise Director Sellafield. Wylfa looked to be fuel free by end of September 2019 and Calder Hall shortly afterwards.

The Summit then looked at the process that Sweden were taking on GDF Siting. Marie Berggren Head of Unit Final Repositories for radioactive waste Municipality of Osthhammar Sweden. She discussed the legal and Environmental process which Sweden had to follow.

Workshops were then held after a coffee break. Both Henry and myself attended the workshop on integrated waste management, lifetime planning and reactor decommissioning strategy looking at the current lifetime plan, and being advised about where the next steps of this was going (for instance the situation with the assets such as buildings may need to be looked at more carefully and would be a common theme for all sites especially Dungeness as their Turbine Hall needed to be dismantled quicker than had been expected). There was also discussion on reactor decommissioning and if this was brought forward back to Bio-shield or to brownfield site.

After the Workshop back in the main hall we had a presentation from LLWR on what had happened there over the last few years and how they had increased capacity by up to 95% because of the work that they had carried out. One of the members of the audience was dressed up in C3 equipment and taken through some of the work that the team had done, which was pretty funny for the rest of us because of the heat in the place.

This was followed by a reception in Colleg Menai before all the Chairs/vice-Chairs enjoyed an evening meal as guests of David Peattie and the NDA.

Day 2.

The day started with the New NDA Head of Stakeholder Relations John McNamara, who advised that this day would be about developing our people.

Jacq Longrigg NDA Head of Skills and Talent advised where the NDA were with their Planning on the skills agenda prior to Beccy Pleasant Head of Nuclear skills Strategy, Nuclear Skills Strategy Group and ECITB advising what were the main objectives of the NSSG. Beccy was on secondment from Magnox and had been for a number of years looking at the strategy moving forward. To be honest I was a bit concerned that this had not moved on further than had been advised, there appeared to have been an awful lot of talking and not much doing on the skills agenda. The industry needed 7000 new people every year but were only getting 3,500 with so many opportunities in a well-paid job why was the industry not getting the footfall of new people that it quite rightly needed?

Jacq then went through the People Strategy and apprentices set up which was being relooked at.

Next up was the NDA Sponsored Nuclear Graduate Scheme discussed by Adrienne Easterbrook General Manager of the Nuclear Graduate Scheme and a graduate Eddie Pennington who discussed his experience of the scheme.

Before the break we heard from North Wales Outdoor Partnership who had received NDA funding and gave volunteers and staff opportunities for employment in the area in the outdoor area. They had a very successful period since the NDA funded some projects in

2012. They were now getting match funding for every £1 the NDA gave they were getting £90 and the project was going Wales wide which included a female only project increasing confidence and health and wellbeing issues.

Dafydd Evans Chief Executive Officer of Colleg Menai advised how the college had grown supported by Partners including the NDA and how the Horizons pull out had initially caused concern but the 30 apprentices had all been able to continue their apprenticeships in Somerset. They also advised that others like Rolls Royce had been able to support programmes as well.

I attended the Workshop Skills for the future and Henry attended the Exciting the Next Generation skills discussion workshops and gave our advice about some of the local issues that could affect the future generation of employees and the potential for Borderlands Growth Deal and what it could do for the area.

Gavin Stevenson, (Chief Executive of Dumfries &Galloway Council) returned to advise the Summit about the Borderlands heads of terms agreement and what it would mean for the future of the non-licensed site and the big opportunity for the area, not that these were agreed.

David Peattie then closed the summit by saying how impressed he had been with the speakers and how reinvigorated he was after another successful Summit.

All in all the speakers, as far as I was concerned were ok, they did their job, but I did not come away thinking that anything had changed from the previous year.

Looking forward to next year, the NDA SSG Summit could be hosted in Scotland, potentially Edinburgh.

Archie Dryburgh

CX SSG Chair