

WM2017 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 22: Sellafield Legacy Ponds and Silos

Co-Chairs: **Graham Jonsson**, *Sellafield Ltd (United Kingdom)*
Keith Miller, *National Nuclear Laboratory (United Kingdom)*

Panel Reporter: *Graham Jonsson, Sellafield Ltd (United Kingdom)*

Panelists:

1. **Adrian Simper**, *Director of Strategy and Technology, NDA, (United Kingdom)*
2. **Alan Parry**, *Divisional Head of strategy and technical, Sellafield Ltd (United Kingdom)*
3. **Paul Dicks**, *Principal Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation (United Kingdom)*
4. **Stuart Page**, *Nuclear Regulator, Environmental Agency, (United Kingdom)*
5. **Ann McCall**, *Director for Waste Management, RWM, (United Kingdom)*

The panel session was led by **Graham Jonsson** from Sellafield Ltd who provided an overview of the panel and the key messages. The panel had been constituted to describe progress that has been made in the legacy ponds and silos (LP&S) facilities at Sellafield UK. **Adrian Simper** (UK NDA) as the owner of Sellafield was the first presenter and gave an overview of the NDA estate but with a focus on the facilities which pose the greatest risk to the public, that being the LP&S facilities at Sellafield.

The key point that **Adrian** emphasized was the need to develop appropriate approaches for each of the facilities and stop trying to find the perfect solution.

The second speaker was **Alan Parry** from Sellafield Ltd who described how Sellafield Ltd as the operator of the site was responding to the challenge of cleaning up the legacy facilities. **Alan** described the approach that was being undertaken and the considerable progress that was being made across the board in each of the areas. In particular, he described how by working in collaboration with stakeholders a new approach to remediating one of the silos had resulted in a much simpler process that had accelerated the programme by several years.

Paul Dicks and **Stuart Page** are nuclear regulators from the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environmental Agency (EA) who each presented the regulators perspective on progress at Sellafield and introducing the “G6” concept where the key decision making bodies who can affect progress at Sellafield meet on a regular basis to understand why progress is not being made and how barriers can be overcome.

A very strong message came across about the need to work collaboratively however both regulators stressed that the operator still had to operate legally and that the regulator had to always remain independent in order to provide stakeholder confidence.

The final presentation was from **Ann McCall** from NDA who described how the disposal arm of NDA worked with Sellafield and the regulators to ensure that from a disposal perspective, mistakes of the past were not being repeated and that the pragmatic decisions being made today were not problems for future generations.

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A Q&A session then was undertaken to clarify and elaborate on the points that had been made which led to a lively discussion especially around how the G6 concept could work on USDOE sites.