



Press Release: 10/06/2009

## **QUICK SALE OF SELLAFIELD LAND NEEDED FOR NEW NUCLEAR STATION – REGEN AGENCIES**

REGENERATION agencies pushing for a new nuclear power station to be built on land adjacent to Sellafield have welcomed a pledge to sell the site by the end of the year.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has announced the start of the process to dispose of the land by inviting expressions of interest from potential bidders. It aims to conclude the sale process by the end of 2009. Economic development agency Cumbria Vision and new regeneration delivery organisation West Cumbria Vision welcomed the start of the process but have stressed the need for the sale to be completed quickly if a new power station is to generate electricity by 2025.

The 250 hectare site to the north of Sellafield has been nominated as a potential site for nuclear new build under the Government's Strategic Siting Assessment process. The nomination was prepared by the Nuclear New Build Nomination team\*, which is led by West Cumbria Vision, and submitted to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. It was the only nomination out of the 11 submitted to the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) which was prepared by an area partnership rather than a utility company.

Nuclear new build is a key component of the Britain's Energy Coast™ initiative\*\*, which aims to establish West Cumbria as a major national hub for low carbon and renewable energy generation. Locally it could create thousands of new jobs during the construction and operation phases; safeguard and create thousands more throughout the nuclear supply chain; and attract investment in infrastructure and local services, such as improvements to transport links and access to health and leisure services. Nationally, it could play an important role in helping tackle the pressing issues of climate change and energy security.

**Rosie Mathisen, Energy Opportunities Director at West Cumbria Vision**, said: "West Cumbria Vision and partners are pushing for the earliest possible build on the site adjacent to Sellafield. If we are to supply electricity to the National Grid by 2025 we need to address a large number of issues, in particular securing an improved grid connection

and ensuring the site has the right infrastructure links. Obviously the new owner would have a key role to play in addressing these challenges so it is important we have them on board as soon as possible so we can push ahead with the vital work ahead.”

**Simon Sjenitzer, Strategy Director of Cumbria Vision**, said: “It has been acknowledged nationally that West Cumbria has risen from the bottom of the pile to the top of the class when it comes to nuclear new build. This is testament to the huge amount of work which has been carried out to raise our profile among utility companies and consummate proof the County is open for business.

“The NDA site is ideal for new build and we will continue to drive home this message. We firmly believe Cumbria has an important role to play in the UK’s nuclear renaissance, as part of the wider push to create a balanced “energy mix”, and through its involvement can help provide a significant contribution to the nation’s future energy needs.”

**Councillor Elaine Woodburn, Leader of Copeland Borough Council**, said: “I am delighted this phase of the process has begun and hope it moves quickly. Once the land is bought we can begin working directly with the developers to discuss the best way of achieving a new nuclear power station in Copeland. This will mean more than the sale of a piece of land. It is a major step towards what we have been working so hard for – nuclear new build – and the economic benefits for our communities will be considerable.”

**Councillor Stewart Young, Leader of Cumbria County Council**, added: "Cumbria County Council welcomes this important first step which could eventually lead to Cumbria hosting part of the new generation of British nuclear power stations. It's still very early days, but the launch of the land disposal process at Sellafield could give greater clarity for communities in Kirksanton and Braystones, who are understandably concerned that areas near to them have also been nominated for nuclear new build. The focus for developing land for nuclear new build should be at Sellafield, where there are already nuclear installations."

Partners have been working for almost two years on the nuclear new build nomination, ensuring the NDA site meets criteria set out by Government and generating market interest among utility companies. The nomination was submitted on March 31 and is currently being considered by DECC. A full publication consultation on the nomination, along with others submitted, is expected to take place in the Winter.

RWE npower has also submitted two sites in West Cumbria through the Strategic Siting Assessment process – one at Braystones near Sellafield and the other at Kirksanton near Millom.

To find out more about new nuclear power stations and how to make your views heard visit: [www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk](http://www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk) or call 020 7215 3331

**Ends**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

\* Partners behind the Sellafield nomination for nuclear new build are; West Cumbria Vision; Cumbria Vision; Invest in Cumbria; Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; Cumbria County Council; Allerdale Borough Council; Copeland Borough Council; Northwest Regional Development Agency; Furness Enterprise.

\*\*The Britain's Energy Coast™ initiative includes 29 regeneration projects in West Cumbria ranging from nuclear new build and new training and research facilities, such as Energus and the National Nuclear Laboratory, to improvements to health services and significant investment in transport links, leisure, culture and sporting facilities. For more information visit [www.britainsenergycoast.com](http://www.britainsenergycoast.com).

1: For further information contact Luke Diccico, PR & Communications Manager for Cumbria Vision on 07799035390 or email [luke.diccico@cumbriavision.co.uk](mailto:luke.diccico@cumbriavision.co.uk).

2: West Cumbria Vision is the new single decision-making body for all regeneration activity across the boroughs of Copeland and Allerdale. Its primary role is to deliver Britain's Energy Coast™ projects in West Cumbria. It operates under the guidance of Urban Regeneration Company West Lakes Renaissance, which is being retained at Board level to oversee the collective performance of West Cumbria Vision and Barrow Vision. It also operates under the strategic umbrella of economic development agency Cumbria Vision ([www.cumbriavision.co.uk](http://www.cumbriavision.co.uk)).

3: Cumbria Vision and West Lakes Renaissance are supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), which leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest and is responsible for: Supporting business growth and encouraging investment; Matching skills provision to employer needs; Creating the conditions for economic growth; Connecting the region through effective transport and communication infrastructure; Promoting the region's outstanding quality of life. [www.nwda.co.uk](http://www.nwda.co.uk)

4: Cumbria County Council is a founding partner of and the accountable body for Cumbria Vision and West Lakes Renaissance. [www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)