

Please find attached the original press statement issued by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority announcing the land sale and also a press statement from the successful consortium



Press Release: 28/10/2009

NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATION FOR CUMBRIA – WORK TO START IN 2015

THE ambition to establish Britain's Energy Coast™ in Cumbria received a significant boost today (Wednesday, October 28) with the announcement that a consortium including energy giants Iberdrola S.A, GDF SUEZ S.A and Scottish & Southern Energy plc has purchased land earmarked for a new nuclear power station near Sellafield.

In March 2009, the land just to the north of the existing Sellafield facility was nominated as a site for a new nuclear power station as part of the Britain's Energy Coast™ initiative – which aims to establish West Cumbria and Furness as a nationally significant generator of low carbon and renewable energy over the next 20 years. It was the only nomination out of the 11 submitted to Government which was prepared by an area partnership rather than a utility company.

The consortium – which comprises of British, Spanish and French companies – will now progress to the next stage of the nuclear new build process after completing the purchase of Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) owned land just north of the existing Sellafield site. They aim to begin construction of the new power station in 2015.

The Britain's Energy Coast Board (formerly West Cumbria Vision) is the local regeneration organisation which has led on the nomination of the site and assisted the NDA in the marketing of it to potential buyers. **Brian Wilson, former Government energy minister and Chair of the Britain's Energy Coast Board, said:** "This is the news West Cumbria has been waiting for and paves the way for thousands of jobs in the construction phase and many highly skilled posts long into the future. The purchase of this prime site is a significant milestone in our goal to have a new nuclear power station generating electricity by around 2021 and a strong indication of the confidence of major players in the global energy industry to invest in West Cumbria. Together with our cutting-edge skills, research and infrastructure programmes, this makes West Cumbria the most attractive place for a wide range of energy investment opportunities in Britain."

A wide range of organisations and individuals have been instrumental in driving forward the nomination of the land at Sellafield and its marketing to energy companies from around the world.

Roger Liddle, Chairman of the county's strategic economic development agency Cumbria Vision, said: "New nuclear power is a key to unlocking £140 billion worth of energy and related business opportunities in Cumbria, which in turn will create thousands of skilled and well paid jobs and stimulate investment in projects to help make this area a superb place to live as well as work. The importance of the land sale cannot be overemphasised. Considering Cumbria did not feature in Britain's plans for a nuclear renaissance two years ago, today's achievement demonstrates how a wide range of partners can combine their efforts to achieve a common local and national goal."

Jamie Reed MP for Copeland, said: "This is a landmark announcement – the most important for our part of the world for decades. It confirms West Cumbria's place at the very heart of the UK nuclear industry and we can now look forward with optimism to the future we have worked so hard to create with the Energy Coast initiative."

"The development will have an incredibly positive impact upon this area; the career and life opportunities for thousands of West Cumbrians of all ages will be changed for the better. Every aspect of life will be touched by this: our schools, our health care services, our businesses, our town centres and our transport networks. A great deal of hard work still needs to be done, but this community's best days now lie ahead."

"Iberdrola, GDF SUEZ and Scottish & Southern Energy have been keenly engaged with us for some time and have shown commendable enthusiasm and support for our vision. They share our ambitions and our partnership will create real mutual benefit: for West Cumbria, for the consortium and for the UK's energy and climate change objectives. The consortium has always recognised the unique skills and abilities of our local workforce and the strong industry support of the local community, and both of these factors have been essential in attracting this huge investment. It's a massive vote of confidence in West Cumbria."

Councillor Elaine Woodburn, the leader of Copeland Council, added: "We are delighted the auction of the land adjacent to Sellafield has now taken place. We hope that land in Copeland will play an important part in the Government's strategic plans for nuclear new build. The next significant stage will be the announcement of the Nuclear Policy Statement, which is due in the near future. It was important for the sale to be agreed prior to this being announced."

The Northwest Regional Development Agency has funded the Britain's Energy Coast Board-led push to build the case for nuclear new build at the NDA-owned site and expects to invest around £50 million over the next three to four years in Energy Coast-related projects. **Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive, Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)**, said: "The NWDA welcomes today's announcement. For over 60 years the Northwest has been widely recognised as the UK's premier location for nuclear infrastructure and is home to 50 per cent of the UK's civil nuclear workforce, an excellent research base and internationally recognised technical ability across all areas. As part of Britain's Energy Coast™, a new nuclear power station will ensure Cumbria continues to play an important role within the UK's future energy mix and is at the forefront in delivering a low carbon economy. The NWDA will continue to work closely and effectively with all partners, to ensure the delivery of a new power station in West Cumbria, maximising benefits not only for the local community, but England's Northwest as a whole."

Councillor Tony Markley, Cumbria County Council's cabinet member for economic development, said: "West Cumbria has been at the centre of Britain's

nuclear industry for the past half century or so and this announcement ensures the region will retain this position for many decades to come. It will create and sustain thousands of highly skilled jobs and attract a massive amount of money, making West Cumbria one of the most cutting edge and desirable places anywhere in the country in which to work, live and invest in anywhere in the country."

Tony Cunningham, MP for Workington, said: "This announcement is a huge step forward in our aim to build a new economy based around energy in West Cumbria. Nuclear and related industries have been at the forefront of our economy for so long and it is recognition of the area's abilities and pioneering spirit that we will continue to lead the way.

"The key to sustainable success will be partners from along Cumbria's west coast working together to capitalise on the once-in-a-generation opportunity nuclear new build offers. With the recent opening of Energus – a world-class centre of excellence for training and research in the nuclear and renewable energy industries – and the continued growth of the Port of Workington, we are starting to see the pieces of the Energy Coast puzzle coming together to paint a brighter picture for both businesses and communities, in particular our young people.

"Momentum is gathering and I now look forward to playing a role in helping to bring new build and the associated benefits to Allerdale, West Cumbria and beyond."

Councillor Tim Heslop, leader of Allerdale Borough Council, added: "I welcome the news that land has been purchased for a new power station on the west coast of Cumbria. Allerdale is part of the Energy Coast and this news will mean ever more jobs for the people of the borough."

The land adjacent to Sellafield is one of 11 sites currently going through the Government's nomination process. 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. The final list of sites is to be published shortly and partners are confident the land at Sellafield will be among those going forward to the public consultation phase, which is expected to start in the Winter.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Britain's Energy Coast™

Britain's Energy Coast™ initiative aims to establish the boroughs of Copeland, Allerdale and Furness as major generators of low carbon and renewable energy, helping to transform the local economy while at the same time supporting Britain's response to the pressing challenges of climate change and energy security. The initiative includes not only the construction of a least one new nuclear reactor, but also improvements in grid transmission, infrastructure, education, hospitals, skills and R&D and enterprise as well as the development of other renewable and low carbon energy sources. Together these developments will transform the West Cumbrian economy whilst providing clean sustainable energy for the UK.

www.britainsenergycoast.com.

1: For further information and interview opportunities contact Luke Diccico, PR & Communications Manager for Cumbria Vision on 07799035390 or email luke.diccico@cumbriavision.co.uk.

2: The Britain's Energy Coast Board (formerly 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).

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

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