

Nuclear Insurance Claims Response Plan – Introductory Meeting

Present:

Duncan Poole – Insurance Manager, NDA

Mark Armitage – Head Of Risk, NDA

Andy Wooldridge – Deputy Head of Emergency Planning, DTI

Louise Robson – Head of Emergency Planning, DTI

Issue

The concern is that there is no process or system set up to handle a deluge of liability claims flowing from an escape of radiation from a nuclear site.

Such claims would come from individuals or businesses and relate to either bodily injury or property damage or both. Bodily injury could actually take weeks or months to manifest themselves, but property/ hardship/ financial loss claims would come in much more quickly. This would be a challenge.

Good Practice

We discussed examples of good and not so good practice that we can consider. On the good side:

Belgium has a website that has been set up to deal with such an eventuality Coal Health Claims are paid by Capita and, whilst not being set up to deal with a massive influx of calls, they are in the business of paying out on behalf of Government (and an NAO report on their systems and set up is due out soon)

GDS has call off contracts with a number of contractors that they would use if necessary.

The not so good:

FCO was heavily criticised for not having a help line set up to take calls after the Boxing Day Tsunami

Post-Katrina claims are still being disputed based on whether the damage was caused by flood or wind.

Next Steps

Duncan Poole agreed to chair a working group under the auspices of NEPLG to take this forward, made up of NDA, NRI, BE. It will aim, by July NEPLG main meeting, to establish terms of reference and a project plan. Duncan will aim to attend the January 08 meeting to report to on what has been agreed.

It will look in particular at logging claims, addressing the needs of the people in the DEPZ in the first instance and more widely after that. In addition, it

would need to address the issue of fraudulent claims and exaggerated claims c.f. Foot and Mouth claims. It is hoped that we can build on the work already done by NRI to get something agreed that can be set up at very short notice. It would also look at how a telephone number/website could be made publicly available in the early stages of the recovery phase.

**Louise Robson,
03 May 2007**