

Our Ref : AS/SF

6 July 2023

Mr David Peattie
CEO, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Herdus House
Westlakes Science and Technology Park
Moor Row
Cumbria
CA24 3HU

Dear David

Thank you for giving us your time at the NDA's Innovation Event at Energus on the 8 June. Our discussion then, followed on by the Minister's attendance and speech at the Northern Nuclear Conference in Carlisle on 30 June has helped us to crystalise our thoughts and position, as CEO and Leader of Cumberland Council, with regard to the proposed Small Modular Reactor (SMR) development by the Solway Community Power Company (SCPC), at the NDA owned Moorside site in West Cumbria.

First, we would like to put on record our support for this proposed development and we would respectfully request the NDA to facilitate the initial surveys and investigations on the site by SCPC without delay.

Building on our pioneering history and renowned skills in the nuclear sector, we want Cumberland to become host to a new nuclear cluster, attracting national training facilities and spin off businesses (such as hydrogen generation) with leading edge technology and innovation. It is therefore important to the Council that Cumberland is the first region in the UK to initiate the new build of SMRs (and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs).

In return, the Council pledges to expedite any requirements that may be placed on it in an efficient and timely manner, within our statutory frameworks, to assist the development to be established as the first in the UK and it will encourage other stakeholders to do the same.

We understand that SCPC has drafted a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) and Licence to Occupy the Moorside site for early characterisation and survey work and is seeking NDA endorsement of these documents. In doing so, early development work on the site could start with immediate effect, as could the process of releasing the private funding that SCPC has secured (under Letters of Intent) from its investors.

Page 2

Mr David Peattie

6 July 2023

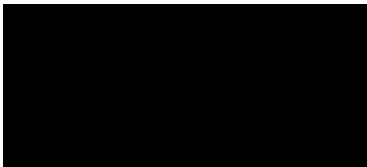
We also understand that these agreements are in effect a “no regrets” option for the NDA as all information gathered will be shared with the NDA, who will have the rights to terminate the development work at any point it wishes, should it need the land for alternative means. Additionally, we understand that there is nothing that SCPC want to do in its development work that would preclude the use of SMR technologies other than Rolls Royce, if they were not selected by Great British Nuclear (GBN) in its technology competition.

We would therefore urge the NDA to provide SCPC and its investors the confidence they need, in relation to access to land as soon as possible, to allow the process of releasing some £6bn of private investment funding to start with immediate effect, which would of course be transformational to our community.

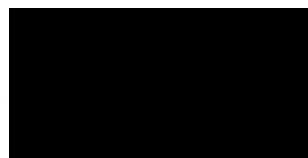
We understand that GBN is to be formally launched by the Secretary of State on 13 July and we would urge the NDA to endorse the Memorandum of Intent and Licence to Occupy ahead of that date, to allow for a parallel announcement of the commencement of the UK’s first privately funded SMR project, here in Cumberland.

In the meantime, if there is anything that the Council can do to help the NDA or Government expedite this exciting opportunity, please simply contact us without delay.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Seekings
CEO Cumberland Council



Mark Fryer
Leader of Cumberland Council

cc:

Andrew Bowie MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Nuclear and Networks)
Trudy Harrison MP
Mark Jenkinson MP
John Stevenson MP