



NSG

legacy management



Project Profile

Sellafield Windscale Piles DQO Workshop

NSG recently supported ADAPT, a joint venture between Orano, Doosan Babcock and Atkins supporting Sellafield through the Decommissioning Delivery Partnership, and Sellafield Ltd in the study phase of the removal of the fuel and isotope cartridges from the Windscale Pile 1 reactor core, including the material in the Fire Affected Zone which was damaged during the 1957 fire.

NSG undertook a Data Quality Objectives (DQO) exercise to determine whether further characterisation activities would be required prior to the removal of wastes which are obstructing access to the fuel and prior to the removal of the fuel and fuel debris. The exercise utilised a holistic approach, looking for the information needed to develop and underpin the entirety of the waste and fuel management process, from retrieval through to repository disposal.

The aim was to apply the DQO process to define how any required characterisation activities would be undertaken and to improve their overall efficiency and effectiveness. The DQO process also provides a better understanding of the project risks and characterisation challenges, allowing the acceptability of the project risks to be considered at the earliest opportunity.

Key to the success of the approach was ensuring a structured engagement with key stakeholders, including the ADAPT and Sellafield technical and project experts working on the study. The structured and systematic DQO approach applied by NSG concluded that the retrieval and subsequent management of the disposal of the obstruction wastes, fuel and fuel debris would not require intrusive characterisation. The existing information is sufficient to underpin the management strategy and support the development of the concept design.



The DQO exercise was undertaken in a prompt and cost-effective manner. The outcome of the work, particularly the avoidance of nugatory characterisation activities, will provide significant cost and time savings as the study and project is taken forward.

