

Making a PiT-Stop at Wylfa

Wylfa has been the first site to trial the Pit-Stop – a system for generating ideas and solving problems in teams.



Like a Formula One pit-stop, problems are identified by the drivers (in this case, the employees) and quickly reported. Decision-making and problem-solving soon follow once the problem has been identified.

The Pit-Stop initiative will also be used to gather ideas which will be eligible for the 2009/10 i4 Innovation competition, which is gearing up for its launch across Magnox north – and for the first time in Magnox South.

During the first two days, various members of staff could be seen wearing orange braces (inspired by Bernie Sander, who devised Pit-Stop) as they toured the site to gather ideas and identify problems and opportunities in various areas, including: security, HR, health and safety, sustainable development, waste management, document approval, procurement, and planning.

Bernie Sandler said: "By using this technique, work hardly needs to be interrupted and employees feel much more comfortable talking about issues in their own working environment."

Jeff Palmer, one of the idea gatherers said: "At first, employees were a bit unsure, but they soon opened up and offered some great suggestions and ideas to improve things at Wylfa. Even if they didn't know what the solution was, we encouraged them to share their concerns."

A total of 204 ideas were identified during the two days, covering subjects varying from issues with documents and procedures right the way through to potential increases in electricity generation.

Chris Skarratt, the Project Lead for Workforce Ideas spoke about the week, "It was encouraging to see so many ideas coming from a very engaged workforce. The next step will be taking them forward and communicating the results. We hope to repeat PiT-Stop at the other four sites and are confident that the ideas which emerge will contribute significantly towards improving Magnox North's safe delivery"