

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LGA EXECUTIVE

Special Interest Group on Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning

16 April 07



Introduction

The last year has seen significant developments in nuclear legacy management and in NuLeAF's associated work programme.

These developments include:

- Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) recommendations to Government on the long-term management of higher activity wastes;
- the Government's response to those recommendations;
- publication of Government policy on the long-term management of Low Level Radioactive Wastes (LLW); and
- implementation of key aspects of the strategy of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), including review of nuclear site end states and development of a socio-economic policy.

These developments have important implications for how and where radioactive wastes will be managed in the short and long-term, raising significant issues for local authority decision-making in the light of community leadership, well-being and local development responsibilities.

Against this background, this report outlines:

- NuLeAF's aims
- Local Government support
- Organisational developments
- Key Activities

NuLeAF's Aims

NuLeAF's primary aims are two-fold:

- to represent the views of its member authorities in discussion with national bodies, including Government, the NDA and the regulators; and

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- to develop the capacity of its member authorities to engage with nuclear legacy management on a local level.

NuLeAF's activities to achieve these aims are set out below.

Local Government Support

As of the end of March, NuLeAF had the support of 98 authorities (including contributing, corresponding and associate members). Local authorities joining during the course of the year were Purbeck District Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. All three have a nuclear site within their area. A full list of member authorities is attached at Annex 1.

It is intended to launch a drive for new members in June of this year.

Organisation

Steering Group

NuLeAF's work is overseen by a Steering Group (SG) of elected members from member authorities. The Chair is Councillor Geoff Blackwell from Copeland Borough Council and the Vice Chair is Councillor Bill Risby from Manchester City Council.

The SG meets on average four times a year. The following meetings were held during the last year:

22 June	LGA house, London
12 October	County Offices, Kendal
11 December	Town Hall, Manchester
25 January	County Offices, Ipswich

The reports and minutes of the SG are published on the NuLeAF website (www.nuleaf.org.uk).

Staffing

NuLeAF now has three full-time staff, which has enabled it to achieve a substantial increase in work. The staff are:

Executive Director	Fred Barker (part-time from February 06 and full-time from September 06)
Personal Assistant	Christine del Corral (full-time from May 06)
Project Officer	Jill Sutcliffe (full-time from February 07)

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All three staff are hosted by Suffolk County Council, a leading NuLeAF member authority. The Executive Director and Project Officer have a flexible work base. The PA is based in Suffolk County Council Offices.

Funding

For the financial year 06-07, funding was secured from DEFRA, NIREX and the NDA, as well as from 11 member authorities. To ensure its independence, NuLeAF has signed a letter of agreement with each external funding body that specifies that "nothing in this letter of agreement shall in any way constrain or be regarded as exerting influence on the viewpoints reached by NuLeAF ..".

This was the first year that funding has been provided by DEFRA, in recognition of the input that NuLeAF is making to its Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely (MRWS) programme (see further details below). Funding will not be available from Nirex in future years as it has been integrated into the NDA. NuLeAF is actively seeking additional sources of funding to enable it to sustain activities at current levels.

Organisational Links

During the course of the year, NuLeAF has supported the creation of a Scottish equivalent by, for example, making a presentation on its work at the Scottish group's inaugural meeting in April 07. It is anticipated that a close working relationship will be developed with the Scottish Group. NuLeAF has also established links with officers in the Welsh LGA.

Key Activities

Representational Activities

NuLeAF's work programme has included:

- **Responding to national consultations**, including CoRWM's draft recommendations (May 06), the Government's proposals for LLW management, the NDA's draft Annual Plan (Nov 06), the NDA's draft socio-economic policy (January 07), and CoRWM's Implementation Report (January 07). Consultation responses take into account discussions at the SG and feedback from individual member authorities and are published on the NuLeAF website.
- **A series of pre-consultation meetings** with Government and NDA to present proposals for a draft implementation framework for siting a

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geological repository for higher activity wastes. Each meeting has discussed a NuLeAF Briefing Paper, setting out proposals on specific aspects of the framework, including the invitation process, siting partnerships, support packages, planning requirements and rights of withdrawal. These meetings have provided an important opportunity for local government to shape the Government's approach. The Briefing Papers are published on the NuLeAF website. Further meetings are scheduled for May-July.

- **A series of meetings with NDA officials**, for example, on the site end states review, the interim storage of Intermediate Level Waste, Magnox decommissioning, the disposal of LLW, socio-economic policy and arrangements for stakeholder engagement. NuLeAF has been invited to participate in a number of future NDA initiatives to progress work on some of these issues.
- **A briefing session with the Environment Agency**, to discuss its role in the siting of a geological repository. It is anticipated that further meetings will be held to discuss, for example, the relationship between regulatory and local authority decision points within the siting process.
- **Bilateral meetings with CoRWM**, to discuss issues associated with the implementation framework for siting a geological repository.
- **Evidence to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee.** Following the submission of written evidence on the Government's response to CoRWM's recommendations, NuLeAF was invited to present oral evidence, which it did on 19 February 07.
- **Preparation of Policy Statements.** Following discussion at the SG, NuLeAF has published three policy statements on key aspects of nuclear legacy management. These are, 'Implementing Policy on the Long-Term Management of Radioactive Wastes' (June 06), 'Institutional Arrangements for Implementation' (October 06), and 'Geological Disposal' (January 07). Each Policy Statement is published on the NuLeAF website.
- **Representation at meetings**, including the NDA's Waste Issues Group, the MoD ISOLUS Steering Group, SD:SPUR, an Environment Agency workshop on regulatory guidance, and a Magnox Electric workshop on decommissioning.
- **Presentations to outside bodies**, including a fringe meeting at the LGA Conference (July 06), the Waste Advisory Group of the Planning Officers Society (October 06), a Nuclear Decommissioning Conference, University

of Central Lancashire (Dec 06) and the North West Regional Assembly Nuclear Debate (March 07).

Capacity Building Activities

These have included:

- **Dissemination of information and guidance** through use of the NuLeAF website (see Annex 2 for the growth in use, circulation of e-bulletins (5 issues have been published during the year), and publication of Briefing Papers and articles (in Public Servant and the Journal of the Institute of Economic Development).
- **Opportunities for discussion**, including a programme of regional seminars for member authorities (the seminar report is on the NuLeAF website), and presentations to member authorities (including Copeland Borough Council's Nuclear Issues Group, Cumbria County Council's Nuclear Issues Group, Manchester City Council's Physical Environment Scrutiny Committee, and the Norfolk Local Authorities Radiation Monitoring Group). NuLeAF is working with the LGA to organise a major conference on the long-term management of radioactive wastes in the autumn of 07.
- **Involvement in European projects**, including applied research projects on governance issues in radioactive waste management. Involvement in these projects helps to ensure that international good practice is taken into account by local government in the UK. Details of these projects are included in reports to the NuLeAF Steering Group.
- **Commissioning research**, on the key features of a process for implementing the long-term management of radioactive wastes (Enviros, June 06) and on siting and planning in partnership (Hetherington Nuclear Consulting, April 07). Both research reports are available on the NuLeAF website.

Concluding Remarks

Over the last year, NuLeAF has made considerable progress in engaging and influencing Government and the NDA in the complex arena of nuclear legacy management. It has also strengthened its communications and relationship with member authorities. This has helped ensure that the views of member authorities are carried into national policy and strategy development and implementation, and that services are provided to assist member authorities at a local level.

NuLeAF Support as @ 31 March 2007

Allerdale District Council – contributing
Ashford District Council - corresponding
Barrow Borough Council – corresponding
Blackpool Borough Council - corresponding
Braintree Borough Council – corresponding
Breckland District Council - corresponding
Broadland District Council – corresponding
Bromsgrove District Council - corresponding
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council - contributing
Caerphilly County Borough Council – corresponding
Caradon District Council – corresponding
Carlisle City Council - corresponding
Chester City Council - corresponding
Chesterfield Borough Council – corresponding
Copeland Borough Council - contributing
Cumbria County Council - contributing
Dacorum District Council – corresponding
Denbighshire County Council - corresponding
Dorset County Council - contributing
Durham City Council - corresponding
Durham County Council – corresponding
Eden District Council - corresponding
Essex County Council – corresponding
Flintshire County Council – corresponding
Forest of Dean District Council – corresponding
Forest Heath District Council - corresponding
Fylde Borough Council - corresponding
Gosport Borough Council - corresponding
Great Yarmouth Borough Council – corresponding
Greater London Authority - corresponding
Gwynedd County Council - corresponding
Hackney London Borough Council – corresponding
Halton Borough Council – corresponding
Hampshire County Council - contributing
Harlow District Council - corresponding
Harrogate Borough Council - corresponding
Harrow London Borough Council - corresponding
Hartlepool Borough Council – contributing
Hyndburn Borough Council - corresponding
Kent County Council – corresponding
Kerrier District Council – corresponding

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Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council – corresponding
Lancashire County Council - corresponding
Lancaster City Council - corresponding
Leeds City Council – corresponding
Lewes District Council – corresponding
Maldon District Council - corresponding
Manchester City Council – contributing
Melton Borough Council - corresponding
Newcastle-u-Lyme Borough Council – corresponding
Newham London Borough Council - corresponding
Norfolk County Council - corresponding
Northumberland County Council – corresponding
North Norfolk District Council - corresponding
Norwich City Council - corresponding
Nottinghamshire County Council – corresponding
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council – corresponding
Oxfordshire County Council - corresponding
Pembrokeshire County Council – corresponding
Penwith District Council - corresponding
Plymouth City Council – contributing
Preston City Council – corresponding
Purbeck District Council - corresponding
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – contributing
Rutland County Council - corresponding
Scarborough District Council – corresponding
Sedgefield Borough Council – corresponding
Shepway District Council – corresponding
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding
Somerset County Council – corresponding
Southampton City Council - corresponding
South Gloucestershire Council - contributing
South Norfolk District Council - corresponding
Spelthorne Borough Council - corresponding
Staffordshire County Council – corresponding
Suffolk Coastal District Council - corresponding
Suffolk County Council – contributing
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council – contributing
Taunton Deane Borough Council - corresponding
Tendring District Council - corresponding
Tower Hamlets London Borough Council - corresponding
Tunbridge Wells District Council – corresponding
Vale of the White Horse District Council - corresponding
Wansbeck District Council - corresponding
Waveney District Council – corresponding
West Berkshire District Council – corresponding

West Lancashire District Council - corresponding
West Lindsey District Council – corresponding
Ynys Mon County Council - corresponding

National Parks Authorities

Lake District National Park Authority – corresponding
North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority – corresponding
Snowdonia National Park Authority - corresponding

Scottish Associates

Argyll & Bute Council – contributing
Dundee City - contributing
East Lothian Council – corresponding
North Ayrshire Council – corresponding
Shetland Islands Council - corresponding

Fire Services

Dorset Fire & Rescue Service – corresponding

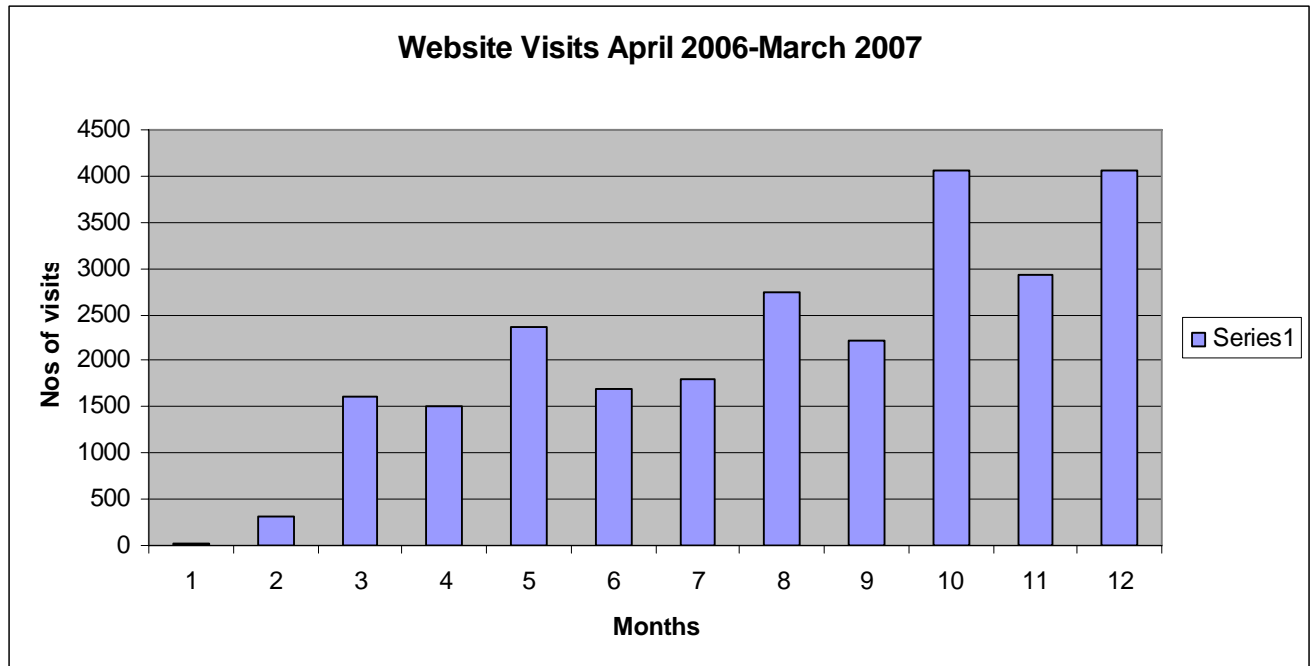
Total = 98 (94 local authorities – 16 contributing (of which 11 contribute financially and 5 are NFLA nominees) 78 corresponding; 3 national park authorities - all corresponding; 1 fire service - corresponding)

Liaison

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities represented by Fife Council
Scottish Councils on Radioactive Waste Management (Dundee City Council)
Wales LGA

STATISTICS FOR THE USE OF NULEAF WEBSITE

APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007



The NuLeAF domain (nuleaf.org.uk) was created on 21 March 06. The website was established in May and launched following the SG meeting of 22 June 06.