

A BRIEFING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PLANNERS ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT



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1 Introduction

Developments in radioactive waste management – covering nuclear and non-nuclear industries – are likely to impact on all counties of England and Wales, suggesting that all waste planning authorities should address relevant developments in their Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks (MWDFs).

This Briefing Paper is provided to help local authority planners identify those issues that should be taken into account in preparing or updating MWDFs. It seeks to provide a high level overview of radioactive waste management in the UK and references to where more detailed material can be found. It covers:

Section 2	National responsibilities
Section 3	Categories of radioactive wastes and materials
Section 4	Main steps in the management of radioactive wastes
Section 5	Government policies for radioactive waste management
Section 6	Legislative and regulatory systems
Section 7	Strategies for implementing policy
Section 8	Key issues for planners
Section 9	Guidance for planners
Section 10	Approaches to community benefits
Section 11	Stakeholder engagement
Section 12	Overview of key dates

2 National Responsibilities

National responsibilities are allocated in the following way:

- Government maintains and develops policy and the regulatory framework
- Regulators have the duty to ensure that the policy and regulatory framework is properly implemented
- The producers and owners of radioactive waste are responsible for developing their own waste management strategies to implement policy and regulatory requirements.

Within Government, DEFRA and the Devolved Administration have overall responsibility for policy and legislation. However, the Secretaries of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and for Defence remain accountable for radioactive wastes kept or stored at civil and military related nuclear licensed sites. Other departments also have an interest.

Coordination is achieved through the Radioactive Waste Policy Group¹.

For the responsibilities of the regulators, see Section 6, and for the role of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), see Section 7.

3 Categories of Radioactive Wastes and Materials

Radioactive waste is any material that is either radioactive itself, or is contaminated by radioactivity, for which no further use is envisaged. Most radioactive waste is produced by nuclear power station operators and associated fuel cycle facilities. A substantial amount arises from nuclear research and development sites. Some also arises from Ministry of Defence sites, and small amounts are produced by medical, industrial and educational establishments.

In the UK, radioactive waste is classified under the following broad categories:

- **High Level Wastes (HLW)** – these are highly radioactive and generate substantial amounts of heat. HLW is a product from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel at Sellafield in Cumbria. It arises as highly radioactive nitric acid, which is converted into glass within stainless steel containers ('vitrification') at the Sellafield site. If declared a waste, spent fuel would also be categorised as HLW.
- **Intermediate Level Wastes (ILW)** – these are wastes where the radioactively levels are higher than for Low Level Waste, but which do not require heating to be taken into account in the design of management facilities. ILW is sufficiently radioactive to require shielding and containment. It arises mainly from the reprocessing of spent fuel and from operations and maintenance at nuclear sites, including fuel casing and reactor components, moderator graphite from reactor cores, and sludges from the treatment of radioactive effluents.
- **Low Level Waste (LLW)** – these are radioactive wastes other than that suitable for disposal with ordinary refuse, but not exceeding 4 gigabecquerels per tonne of alpha activity, or 12 gigabecquerels per tonne of beta or gamma activity². Unlike HLW and ILW, LLW does not normally require shielding during handling or transport. Currently, LLW consists largely of paper, plastics and scrap metal items that have been used in hospitals, research establishments and the nuclear industry. In future there will be large volumes in the form of soil, concrete and steel, as nuclear plant are decommissioned. LLW represents about 90% by volume of UK radioactive wastes (but contains less than 0.0003% of the radioactivity).
- **Very Low Level Waste (VLLW)** – this is a sub-category of LLW, consisting of the same sorts of materials, and divided into Low Volume ('dustbin loads') and High Volume ('bulk disposal'). Low volume VLLW can be disposed of to unspecified destinations with municipal, commercial or industrial waste. High volume VLLW can be disposed of to specified landfill sites and controls are necessary as specified by the environmental regulators³.

¹ See further detail at the DEFRA website [Defra, UK - Radioactive Waste Policy Group \(RWPG\)](#)

² A Becquerel is the unit of radioactivity, representing one disintegration per second. A gigabecquerel is 1000 million becquerels.

³ For low volume VLLW, each 0.1 m cubed of waste must contain less than 400 kilobecquerels of total activity or single items must contain less than 40 kBq. For high volume VLLW, the maximum concentration should be 4 MBq/tonne. Different activities are specified for wastes containing Carbon 14 and Tritium.

Historically, spent fuel and the other products of its reprocessing (plutonium and uranium) have not been considered to be radioactive wastes. However, it is now recognised that some of these materials may in the future be categorised as waste. In principle, it is anticipated that these materials could be disposed of with higher activity wastes in a geological repository.

A national inventory of radioactive wastes is updated about every three years. It describes all stocks of radioactive wastes held in the UK, together with predictions of future arisings⁴. The next version of the inventory is scheduled for publication in 2008.

4 Main Steps in the Management of Radioactive Wastes

Radioactive waste will undergo some or all of the following steps depending on the type of waste and strategy for its management:

- **Pre-treatment** – the aim is to segregate waste into streams that will be managed in similar ways.
- **Treatment** – involves changing the characteristics of the waste by volume reduction, radionuclide removal or change of composition.
- **Conditioning** – involves transforming wastes into a form suitable for handling, transport, storage and disposal, usually by immobilisation and packaging.
- **Storage** – involves emplacement of waste in a facility with an intention to retrieve for another step in the management process.
- **Retrieval** – involves removing wastes from storage for inspection, further storage or disposal.
- **Disposal** – occurs when packages of radioactive waste are emplaced in a facility with no intention of retrieval. Disposal can also include discharging liquid and gaseous effluent into the environment.

Strategies and plans for managing radioactive wastes need to address all the steps that are relevant to a particular waste.

5 Government Policies for Radioactive Waste Management

The UK Government maintains a rolling summary of radioactive waste management policies⁵. These can be summarised as follows:

Higher Activity Wastes (mainly HLW and ILW)

In October 2006, Government announced that it accepted the primary recommendations of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) for geological disposal, preceded by safe and secure interim storage. CoRWM's recommendations are available at [Final Recommendations](#) and the Government's response at [Gov Response to CoRWM](#)⁶.

⁴ [The 2004-UK-Radioactive-Wastes-Inventory](#) (DEFRA/RAS.05.002, October 05).

⁵ [Rolling Summary of Policy](#) (Radioactive Waste Policy Group, September 07).

⁶ 'Managing our Radioactive Waste Safely – CoRWM's Recommendations to Government', Doc 700, July 2006, and 'Response to the Report and Recommendations from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management', UK Government and Devolved Administrations', October 2006.

Government subsequently consulted on an implementation framework for geological disposal, based on the concepts of willingness to participate and partnership⁷.

NuLeAF's Policy Statement on geological disposal provides a qualified endorsement, with acknowledgement that there are a range of views on the confidence that can be placed in its very long term safety⁸. Its response to the consultation on the implementation framework was broadly supportive, but with comments about how to improve and develop the proposed framework⁹.

It is expected that the Government will publish a White Paper in the Spring of 2008 setting out the implementation framework and inviting Expressions of Interest in participating in the siting process for a geological repository.

At the Government's request, the NDA is carrying out a review of the adequacy of current interim storage arrangements for higher activity wastes, taking into account CoRWM's recommendations. The outcome of the storage review will require approval by Government and will be incorporated in a review of NDA Strategy. The storage review includes storage arrangements across nuclear sites in the UK. It is addressing the robustness of current facilities against timescale changes, planning constraints, monitoring and inspection regimes and future waste arisings. A final report is expected in Spring 2008.

Low Level Wastes

Government published a policy statement on LLW management in March 2007¹⁰. This sets out what Government describes as a flexible and pragmatic approach, stressing the need to minimise the amount of LLW created and effectively utilise existing disposal routes, including the LLW repository near Drigg in Cumbria, controlled burial and incineration (see Section 7 below).

NuLeAF encourages member authorities to engage constructively with industry on proposals for managing LLW, but highlights the importance of taking forward proposals in ways that address local authority views and can inspire public confidence. It has published a Policy Statement on LLW management¹¹.

Spent Fuel (SF) and Plutonium

Government policy is that the question of whether to reprocess SF or hold it in storage is a matter for the commercial judgement of the owner of the SF, subject to meeting the necessary regulatory requirements.

Government has recently confirmed its view that in the absence of any proposals from industry, new nuclear power stations built in the UK should proceed on the basis that SF will not be reprocessed¹².

⁷ [Consultation on a framework for implementing geological disposal](#) (DEFRA et al, 25 June 2007)

⁸ [Policy Statement 3, Geological Disposal](#) (NuLeAF, January 2007)

⁹ [Response to Implementation Framework](#) (NuLeAF, 29 October 2007)

¹⁰ [LLW Policy Statement](#) (DEFRA et al, 26 March 2006)

¹¹ [Policy Statement 4, Management of Low Level Wastes](#) (NuLeAF, July 2007)

¹² [Nuclear Power White Paper](#) (BERR, Cm 7296, January 2008)

The plutonium separated from spent fuel by reprocessing is currently considered a 'zero-rated' asset. However, the NDA is reviewing what portion should be retained as a strategic stock (for future reactor fuel) and how much should be regarded a waste.

Liquid and Gaseous Waste Discharges

Under the terms of the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA 93), disposal includes the discharge of liquid and gaseous wastes to the environment. Such disposals are made as part of normal operations from hospitals, research establishments and the nuclear industry, and are controlled by means of authorisations issued under RSA 93. The Government is committed to progressive and substantial reductions in radioactive discharges. The strategy for achieving this is currently under review¹³.

Decommissioning

This is the process whereby a nuclear facility is taken permanently out of service, dismantled and its site made available for other purposes. Government policy on decommissioning was updated in 2004¹⁴. This states that decommissioning should be carried out as soon as reasonably practicable, taking all relevant factors into account, including the availability of waste disposal routes. Government states that the relevant factors, and their respective importance, can only be determined on a case-by-case approach.

Contaminated Land

Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 addresses radioactively contaminated land. Annexes 4 and 5 of DEFRA Circular 01/2006 explain how¹⁵.

Import and Export

Government policy is that radioactive waste should not be imported or exported from the UK, except for the recovery of reusable materials and, in specific cases, for treatment that will make its subsequent storage and disposal more manageable. Where such processes would add materially to the wastes needing to be disposed in the UK, the presumption should be that they will be returned to the country of origin. However, waste may be imported for treatment and disposal in the UK if it is in the form of spent sources that were manufactured in the UK or, in certain cases, if the waste is from small users such as hospitals (see the Rolling Summary above, p48).

Advisory Bodies, International Guidelines and Regulations

Government and others are advised by a number of different bodies:

- Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) – provides scrutiny and advice on the long-term management of radioactive wastes¹⁶
- Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee (NuSAC) – advises the Health and Safety Commission on nuclear safety policy and its implementation¹⁷

¹³ [Discharges Strategy 2002](#) (DEFRA, July 2002).

¹⁴ [Decommissioning Policy](#) (BERR, September 2004)

¹⁵ [Circular 01-2006](#) ('Contaminated Land', DEFRA, September 2006).

¹⁶ See the CoRWM website at [Welcome to CoRWM](#)

¹⁷ See the NuSAC website at [Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee](#)

- Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) – provides assessments and advice on the health effects of radiation in the environment¹⁸
- Health Protection Agency Radiation Protection Division (HPA) – provides advice, research, laboratory services and training courses¹⁹.

Government policies are framed within the context of international guidelines and regulations, involving the following:

- European Union legislation and the Euratom Treaty
- International Commission on Radiological Protection
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD

A description of these organisations and their roles is contained in the Rolling Summary above.

6 Legislative and Regulatory Systems

The primary regulators in England and Wales are:

- **HSE Nuclear Directorate** – ensures that the public and workers are protected from radiation, enforcing the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 and the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999, through its Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII). The NII regulates radioactive waste management through conditions attached to a nuclear site licence²⁰.
- **The Environment Agency** – regulates any disposal, discharge or off-site transfer of radioactive waste through authorisations issued under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA93). It advises HSE on the long-term disposability of conditioned waste and scrutinises plans for disposal²¹.

Other regulators are:

- The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) – responsible for regulating security arrangements²².
- The Radioactive Materials Transport Division (RMTD) of the Department of Transport – responsible for regulating the transport of radioactive materials, including packaging, labelling and vehicle marking²³.
- Food Standards Agency (FSA) – responsible for the food safety implications of discharges of radioactive wastes²⁴.
- Safeguards Inspectorates – the inspectorates of the European Commission or the IAEA perform inspections to verify that the amounts of plutonium, uranium and thorium are as declared²⁵.

¹⁸ See the COMARE website at [Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment](#)

¹⁹ See the HPA website at [Health Protection Agency | Radiation Protection Division](#)

²⁰ See the NII website at [Health and Safety in the Nuclear Industry](#)

²¹ See the EA website at [Environment Agency - Nuclear Industry](#)

²² See the OCNS website at [Office for Civil Nuclear Security](#)

²³ See the RMTD guidance at [Department for Transport - Guidance \(Class 7\)](#)

²⁴ See the FSA website at [Radiological Safety of Food](#)

²⁵ See the safeguards section of the BERR website at [UK Nuclear Safeguards](#)

The regulators look to licensees to demonstrate strategic planning for managing all radioactive wastes and material. Strategies should be integrated within a single site and across sites where appropriate. The regulators seek to ensure that the waste hierarchy is applied, involving:

- Avoiding the production of wastes where reasonably practicable
- Reducing the volume of wastes that are produced
- Reusing or recycling material in wastes where reasonably practicable
- Only disposing of wastes that cannot otherwise be dealt with.

The regulators have issued a series of documents and guidance about the regulation of radioactive wastes. These include:

- A statement about the fundamentals of the management of radioactive wastes²⁶.
- A statement of intent that underpins cooperation between the EA and NII to deliver consistent regulation²⁷.
- Guidance that explains the regulatory process associated with the management of higher activity waste on nuclear licensed sites²⁸.
- Guidance for the assessment of Best Practicable Environmental Option studies at nuclear sites²⁹.

The environment agencies are also in the process of revising their Guidance on Regulations for Authorisation of near-surface and geological disposal facilities for solid radioactive wastes. Formal consultation is expected in April 2008.

The regulators commission monitoring of radioactive waste discharges and assess their impact on the environment. The results of all regulatory monitoring are published in a joint report³⁰.

7 Strategies for Implementing Policy

The owners and producers of radioactive waste are responsible for developing strategies to implement policy and regulatory requirements. The owners and producers are as follows:

- Civil public sector nuclear sites are owned by the NDA, and operated by Site Licensee Companies³¹.
- Private sector nuclear sites are owned and operated by British Energy.
- Defence-related sites are usually owned by the Ministry of Defence, and operated by private sector companies.

NDA Strategy

The NDA published its Government approved Strategy for years 2006-11 in March 2006³². This set out the NDA's top six priorities:

²⁶ [Fundamentals](#) ('Fundamentals of the Management of Radioactive Wastes', HSE/EA/SEPA, December 2007)

²⁷ [Statement of Intent](#) ('The Working Relationship between HSE and the EA on Nuclear Safety and Environmental Regulatory Issues', August 2001)

²⁸ [Management of Higher Activity Wastes on Nuclear Sites](#) ('Part 1: The Regulatory Process', HSE/EA/SEPA, December 2007)

²⁹ [Assessment of BPEO Studies](#) ('Guidance for the Environment Agencies Assessment of Best Practicable Environmental Option Studies at Nuclear Sites', EA/SEPA, February 2004)

³⁰ The report is available from the FSA website at [Radiological Surveillance](#)

³¹ For further information on Site Licensee Companies go to [NDA Confirms Names of New Site Licence Companies](#)

- Create robust, costed and funded plans to clean-up sites
- Demonstrate real progress in reducing high hazards in legacy ponds and silos, especially at Sellafield
- Complete competitions for managing and operating most of our sites
- Determine a better approach to ILW storage and LLW disposal
- Accelerate the decommissioning timescale for reactor sites, if supported by a sound business and safety case
- Review site end states and agree decommissioning timescales for all sites.

The NDA has recently consulted on its proposed Business Plan for the years 2008-11, setting out how it intends to implement its strategy during that time period³³. NuLeAF's comments on the draft plan highlight concerns about current NDA funding arrangements and the need for flexibility so NDA can drive forward clean-up in ways that maintain stakeholder confidence³⁴.

The NDA is preparing to undertake a full review of its Strategy. This will involve a Strategic Environmental Assessment and opportunity for stakeholder engagement. Formal consultation on a draft revised strategy is not anticipated until 2010.

Work is also underway within the NDA to produce a national Integrated Waste Strategy (IWS), which will build on individual site IWSs that are being produced on an annual cycle. It is currently anticipated that the IWS will consist of a set of position papers on individual waste-related topics. The NDA intends to publish draft position papers for comment on its website, and to have finalised all the position papers by early 2009³⁵.

The following developments relating to LLW strategy have also taken place:

- Planning permission for development of a new vault at the LLW repository (LLWR) near Drigg has been given (to be operated as an interim store pending resolution of long-term safety case issues). An in principle agreement for a community fund is also in place. Although the precise arrangements and payments are to be agreed, it is likely that an initial payment of £10 million will be made, followed by £1.5 million per year of waste emplacement in the new vault.
- The NDA is establishing a national nuclear industry LLW Strategy Group (LSG) to promote innovation, value for money, application of the waste hierarchy and planning for effective approaches to disposal. The Group is likely to hold its first meeting in Spring 2008 and then once every two months thereafter.

The NDA's interim LLW Strategy includes:

- Optimised use of the LLWR
- Resolution of issues on the long-term suitability of the LLWR for disposal
- Implementation of the waste hierarchy
- Identify and evaluate alternative and diversified approaches to LLW management

³² [NDA Strategy](#) (NDA, March 2006)

³³ [Draft Business Plan 2008-to-2011](#) (NDA, 2007)

³⁴ [Response to Draft Business Plan](#) (NuLeAF, January 2008)

³⁵ See further information on the NDA website at [New Group will help NDA develop Waste Strategies](#)

- Support initiatives to investigate and consult on potential on-site disposal at some Magnox station sites.

British Energy (BE) Strategy

The NDA has responsibility for oversight of British Energy's planning for decommissioning and radioactive waste management. In practice this means that the NDA has to give approval for spending to meet the company's waste management liabilities.

Key aspects of British Energy's plans are:

- AGR Operational Wastes – LLW is sent to the LLWR near Drigg, ILW is stored on site in tanks or vaults (and will require retrieval during decommissioning), and SF is sent to Sellafield for storage or reprocessing.
- AGR Decommissioning – the strategy is known as 'safestore', with clearance of all buildings except the reactor block within 10 years, a 70-80 year period of storage, followed by dismantlement of the reactor block and site clearance.
- Sizewell B Operational Wastes – LLW is sent to the LLWR, ILW is conditioned and packaged as it arises and stored on site, and SF is stored on site (and may be transferred from pond to cask storage at some point in the future).
- Sizewell B Decommissioning – the strategy is 'early site clearance' within 25 years.

For new nuclear power stations, BE anticipates that lifetime arisings of ILW and SF would be stored on site, pending disposal, and that decommissioning strategy would be based on 'early site clearance'.

Ministry of Defence Strategy

The MoD is committed to complying with legislation and "so far as is reasonably practicable" with national policy relating to the management of radioactive wastes and decommissioning³⁶. MoD's approach includes sending LLW to the LLWR and interim storage of ILW at the sites where it arises. The intention is that ILW will be disposed of in the geological repository.

MoD has been running a specific project - ISOLUS - to determine the means of managing radioactive wastes and other material from laid up nuclear submarines. The project is developing a strategy for siting facilities for the processing of waste from submarines and the interim storage of ILW. These activities will not necessarily take place at the same site. The MoD is currently drafting an intergovernmental agreement with the NDA to enable a joint assessment of options for the interim storage of ILW.

Strategy for Managing Non-Nuclear Industry (NNI) LLW

A Programme Board has been established by DEFRA to develop and recommend a NNI waste strategy for the UK. The strategy will seek to address: increasing difficulties with securing disposal routes for NNI LLW; ways of discouraging unnecessary transport of NNI waste; and encouraging communities to take greater responsibility for arisings in their areas.

Strategy development is to be informed by data collection about waste arisings and assessment of management options. The aim of the Board is to make recommendations by

³⁶ [MoD Strategy](#) (MoD, 'Policy for the Decommissioning and Disposal of Radioactive Wastes and Residual Nuclear Material Arising from the Nuclear Programme', October 2007)

the end of 2008. It is anticipated that a period of formal consultation on the proposed strategy would then take place.

This work will build on a pilot study undertaken in the South East (SE) region, which showed that:

- No comprehensive central record is kept of the scale, nature and geographic distribution of non-nuclear LLW and VLLW arisings.
- In order to address the provision of non-nuclear LLW management facilities in regional and local waste strategies, a more comprehensive picture of waste arisings is needed.
- Concerns identified in the pilot study include: some wastes are transported over considerable distances for disposal; the future of the LLWR near Drigg is uncertain; the availability of landfill for the controlled burial of LLW is very limited; the capacity for incineration is very limited (alpha wastes) or run by one company (gamma/beta wastes).
- For non-nuclear radioactive wastes in the SE, it is estimated that 40% of VLLW currently goes to landfill and 60% to incinerators. For LLW, it is estimated that 58% goes to incinerators, 24% to the LLWR, 14% to storage and 4% to controlled landfill burial.

8 Key Issues for Planners

The nature and scale of potential radioactive waste developments that require consideration in MWDFs will vary significantly from area to area. These will depend on a number of factors:

- Whether an area contains a nuclear licensed site
- For areas that do contain a licensed site, whether permissions have been granted for all foreseeable radioactive waste management facilities on site (including LLW treatment, conditioning and disposal, and ILW treatment, conditioning and interim storage), and the possible use of off-site facilities for LLW or VLLW disposal (including the availability of landfill for controlled burial and incineration)³⁷
- For all areas, the adequacy of local provision for managing LLW and VLLW from the non-nuclear industry sector (including the availability of landfill and incineration)
- Whether an area may be interested in participating in the siting process for a geological repository (for higher activity wastes).

As the Briefing Paper seeks to make clear, dependent on location, policy and strategy development is such that MWDFs may need to address potential for:

- the development of LLW disposal facilities on or adjacent to nuclear licensed sites
- the increased use of controlled burial at landfill or incineration for LLW and VLLW
- the development of ILW treatment, conditioning and storage facilities at nuclear licensed sites
- the decommissioning of nuclear plant
- the siting of a geological repository.

Where new facilities might be proposed at some point in the future, local planning policy should take account of:

- the nature and purpose of potential facilities
- the need for such facilities

³⁷ A small number of authorities with nuclear sites will need to address a wider range of issues, including HLW, spent fuel and plutonium management at Sellafield and spent fuel management at Sizewell.

- the potential lifetimes of facilities
- the inventory of wastes to be managed in the facility, including the possibility of the 'import' of wastes from other sites or areas within the UK
- the benefits package that might be associated with the facility (see Section 10).

The possibility of the 'import' of wastes may be particularly relevant where a LLW disposal facility, or an ILW treatment, conditioning or storage facility, is proposed at an existing nuclear site. For LLW from decommissioning and clean up, the potential for 'imports' arises because some existing nuclear sites may not be suitable for LLW disposal and LLW from such sites will require off-site disposal. For ILW, the potential for 'imports' may arise from a desire to make cost-effective use of facilities at a particular site.

9 Guidance for Planners

Government policies on different aspects of land-use planning are set out in Planning Policy Statements (PPS). Although not written specifically to address radioactive waste management, PPS10 on 'Planning for Sustainable Waste Management' highlights the Government's policy of moving the management of waste up the 'waste hierarchy' of reduction, re-use and recycling and only disposing as a last resort, and the need for 'positive planning' that provides "sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities of the right type, in the right place, and at the right time".

PPS10 also states that planners should "take account of any waste management requirement identified nationally" (para 7). This provides an explicit linkage between PPS10 and more specific policies and strategies for radioactive waste management.

"National requirements" are identified, for example, in the Government's policy statement on the management of LLW (see above). This states that:

The NDA's Strategy and Annual Plans will provide guidance for national, regional and local planning authorities as necessary in the preparation of planning strategies and their appraisal. (para 32)

Similarly, the NNI waste strategy that is under preparation will also identify national requirements that should be taken into account in MWDF preparation.

The difficulty for local authority planners is that several radioactive waste management requirements are in the process of being reviewed nationally, including an impending review of NDA Strategy, of NDA LLW strategy and development of the NNI waste strategy (see Section 12 for an overview of key dates). In such circumstances, planners are encouraged to use this Briefing Paper to inform preparation or revision of their MWDF.

10 Approaches to Community Benefits

NuLeAF believes that the concept of community benefits should, in appropriate form, be applied to the development of new radioactive waste disposal facilities. Its views on the applicability to siting a geological repository are set out in Briefing Paper 5, 'Funding Participation and Enhancing Well-Being'³⁸. Its views on potential applicability to LLW disposal facilities are to be set out in a forthcoming Briefing Paper³⁹. Planners are encouraged to take

³⁸ [NuLeAF Briefing Paper 5](#) ('Developing the Implementation Framework: Funding Participation and Enhancing Community Well-Being', March 2007)

³⁹ This will be available on the NuLeAF website by the end of March 2008 (www.nuleaf.org.uk)

account of these papers when considering how to formulate local policy on benefit packages in MWDFs.

11 Stakeholder Engagement

NuLeAF advocates effective engagement between the nuclear industry and local authorities. There are a number of mechanisms through which this might be achieved:

- Site Stakeholder Groups and associated working groups and workshops
- Local regulatory fora
- Face to face meetings with the site operator and/or NDA

NuLeAF has recently submitted a range of proposals to NDA about improving local engagement arrangements⁴⁰. These suggest that engagement with planners might be particularly beneficial through:

- Industry option assessment workshops that could lead, ultimately, to proposals for specific developments;
- Local regulatory fora that promote an effective and coordinated approach to permissioning processes; and
- Direct discussions to identify those issues in a site's local engagement programme that will require face-to-face discussions between the site operator and local authority representatives, including potential future development proposals.

12 Overview of Key Dates

National requirements for radioactive waste management will be clarified by:

- Publication of a White Paper on a strategy for implementing geological disposal of higher activity wastes (Spring 08)
- Publication of an NDA LLW Strategic Review document (November 08)
- Recommendations for Non Nuclear Industry LLW strategy (end 08)
- Finalising of NDA position papers on waste related topics (early 2009)
- Revised NDA Strategy (formal consultation in 2010 and publication of revised Strategy in 2011).

⁴⁰ [NuLeAF Briefing Paper 12](#) ('NDA – Local Arrangements for Stakeholder Engagement', January 2008)