

E-BULLETIN

November 2008,
Issue 12



Welcome to Issue 12 of the e-bulletin. This issue contains news about:

- the NuLeAF seminar on 2 December
- developments in the NDA Strategy Review
- consultation on the NDA Business Plan
- the Safe, Secure Sites contingency plan
- the siting process for a geological disposal facility (GDF)
- the interim storage of higher activity wastes
- the management of Low Level Wastes (LLW)
- community funds for non-GDF developments
- the outcome of the NuLeAF AGM, and
- dates for the diary.

NuLeAF Seminar, 2 December

NuLeAF is organising a seminar on the future of nuclear legacy management at Local Government House in London on 2 December. The seminar will consider:

- the prioritisation of spending across NDA sites and the timetable for decommissioning and clean-up
- issues around local, regional or national approaches to LLW management and interim storage of Intermediate Level Waste
- the potential commercialisation of nuclear legacy management.

Senior officials from the NDA will make an introductory presentation on each topic, which will be followed by discussion.

Councillors and officers from member local authorities are encouraged to register for the seminar. The registration form and further details are available at [Seminar registration form](#).

Developments in the NDA Strategy Review

NuLeAF has established a Strategy Review Group to “review developments relating to the NDA strategy review and promote an effective input from NuLeAF and its member authorities.” The outcome of the first meeting was reported to the SG on 29 October [NDA Strategy Review](#). This included:

- development of a paper recommending NuLeAF strategic objectives for 2009 (see below under AGM)
- comments on the NDA’s Pu Options Paper (see link to ‘NDA Strategy Review’ above).

Any member authority that wishes to participate in the NuLeAF Strategy Review Group should contact the secretariat catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk.

The NDA has published new information to brief stakeholders on how it intends to move forward with review of each of its strategy topics (see [Topics Overview](#)). NuLeAF is seeking clarification about when consultation will start on key topics.

Consultation on NDA Business Plan

The NDA launched consultation on its draft Business Plan on 3 November ([NDA publishes Draft Business Plan for Consultation](#)). The NDA states that it is seeking to “bring a sharper focus to key deliverables ... for 2009/10”.

The draft plan reports that:

- new competition plans will be announced before the New Year
- SLCs are looking at alternative funding mechanisms
- a programme of ‘best practice’ conferences are being planned
- impacts of cost pressures will be reduced by maximising income from the sale of assets
- the absence of a disposal route for graphite militates against an early Magnox decommissioning project
- life extension of Oldbury and Wylfa stations is being explored.

Comments on the draft plan are being sought by 26 Jan and can be submitted via [Main Home Page for NDA Consultations](#). A draft NuLeAF response will be considered at the next meeting of its Strategy Review Group.

Safe Secure Sites (S3) Contingency Plan

S3 is a potential programme to put all Magnox sites into a ‘safe’ state by 2012-15 and thereafter to maintain them for 10 years with a limited workforce to allow cost savings to be re-invested elsewhere and to allow new techniques of remediation to be proven. NDA describes S3 as one of a range of options for Magnox sites and intends to publish a report shortly. It is not yet able to say when decisions will be taken on whether to implement the programme. NuLeAF is monitoring the situation and will press for any programme to pay proper regard to the impacts upon local communities.

Developments in the Siting Process for the GDF

The White Paper on the implementation framework for siting a geological disposal facility (GDF) for higher activity wastes was published in June. This was accompanied by an invitation to communities to express an interest in the possibility of participating in the siting process.

The main interest to date in the GDF siting process has come from local authorities in Cumbria:

- Copeland Borough Council has made a formal Expression of Interest (EoI) to Government about potential participation and is taking steps to establish a ‘shadow’ Community Siting Partnership (CSP) which will advise the authority on a decision about

participation. A preliminary meeting to discuss the nature of the initial geological screening exercise took place on 20 October.

- Allerdale Borough Council organised a stakeholder workshop on 21 October which will help inform a decision about whether to make a formal EoI.
- Cumbria County Council has taken soundings from potential partners and will take a decision in early December about whether to make an EoI ([News & Star](#)).

At its meeting on 29 October, the SG considered an invitation from Copeland BC to participate in the shadow CSP being established by the local authority. The SG agreed to appoint the Vice-Chair and Executive Director as its representatives. This will enable NuLeAF to feed a national perspective into shadow CSP discussions and be kept fully informed about developments in the CSP.

Member authorities are encouraged to keep the secretariat informed of any developments in their area in response to the invitation to make an EoI.

The NDA has three consultations underway on matters associated with the siting of the GDF:

- Consultation on a Public and Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Framework for Geological Disposal ([PSE and Communications](#))
- Consultation on a Framework for Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Assessment for Geological Disposal ([SA and EA](#))
- Consultation on Proposed Research and Development Strategy ([Proposed R&D Strategy](#)).

The closing date for these consultations is 30 November. The SG has agreed comments on each of the consultation papers, as set out in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 of the report at [GDF Siting Process](#). Responses have been submitted to the NDA on the first two consultations (see [Comments on GDF PSE and Comms](#) and [Comments on GDF SEA/SA](#)).

Interim Storage of Higher Activity Wastes

NuLeAF has been represented at two recent workshops on interim storage:

- 16 Oct: a Magnox South workshop to contribute to the company's review of strategy for the interim management of ILW. The workshop discussed the company's proposals to switch to the use of 'yellow boxes', which may allow less costly storage buildings to be built as individual containers would be more robust than those currently in use. The proposals are subject to further assessment, including discussion with the regulators and further stakeholder engagement.
- 28 Oct: a NDA workshop on their review of interim storage arrangements. The workshop discussed a draft report which sets out the findings of the review, focusing on the extent to which current arrangements meet the parts of CoRWM's 2006 recommendations that address storage. The workshop recommended ways in which the review findings could be clarified and developed.

Developing Strategies for Managing LLW

The key target dates for developing NDA's strategy on LLW are:

24 October 08	Draft Strategic Review Document
19 February 09	Draft LLW Management Plan
31 March 09	Draft LLW Strategy
31 December 09	Final LLW Strategy

Meetings of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group are scheduled for 13-14 November and 26-27 February (see [Low Level Waste Strategy Group](#) for further information). Progress will be discussed at the next meeting of NuLeAF's LLW Officer Working Group on 27 November.

Community Funds for Non-GDF Developments

The SG was briefed on a meeting with Government officials to explore the possibility of establishing community funds for non-GDF radioactive waste management developments. The meeting discussed the legal powers that might be available and potential criteria for when funds might be established. The Government's preference was for the S106 mechanism to be used when specific projects were under consideration. Further consideration needs to be given to the potential role of local government's 'well-being' powers in utilising any funds that might be made available, and whether it would be possible to specify criteria which could be used to identify which types of development could be subject to such Funds. The secretariat is currently researching the use of S106 and 'well-being' powers to inform this further consideration. It is also monitoring the position at Dounreay where there is a proposal for a Community Fund linked to development of a LLW disposal facility. The SG agreed that a paper should be prepared for the next meeting of the NuLeAF Strategy Review Group.

Outcome of the AGM

The main outcomes of the AGM were that:

- Councillors Holliday (Copeland BC) and Swainson (Suffolk CC) were re-appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.
- An annual report was accepted as a true picture of NuLeAF developments and activities ([Annual Report](#)).
- An out-turn finance statement for 07-08 was accepted, and a decision made to increase NuLeAF fees by 10% for FY 09-10 ([Finance Report](#)).
- A set of strategic objectives for 2009 was agreed ([Strategic Objectives](#)).

NuLeAF Meetings

27 November	LLW Officer Working Group, London
2 December	NuLeAF Seminar, 'Future of Nuclear Legacy Management, London
3 December	GDF Officer Working Group, Kendal
3 February	Steering Group, Endeavour House, Ipswich

Officers from member authorities that wish to join the GDF or LLW Officer Working Groups should contact the secretariat.

Contacting NuLeAF

NuLeAF can be contacted via the Secretariat c/o Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, Tel: 01473 264833 e-mail: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk.