

E-BULLETIN

February 2009,
Issue 13



Welcome to Issue 13 of the e-bulletin. This issue contains news about:

- developing strategies for managing Low Level Wastes (LLW)
- an invitation to attend NuLeAF seminars on LLW strategies in May
- approaches to community funds associated with facilities for managing radioactive wastes
- NuLeAF case studies on nuclear legacy management
- developments in the NDA Strategy Review
- the siting process for a geological disposal facility (GDF)
- the MoD submarine dismantling project
- radioactive waste management and new nuclear build and
- dates for the diary.

The NuLeAF Steering Group meeting on 3 February had to be cancelled because of the snow and ice. However, the recommendations contained in reports to the meeting have been agreed with the Chair, following opportunity for electronic feedback from those that would have attended. Copies of the reports can be found at [Steering Group Reports](#).

Developing Strategies for Managing LLW

The NDA's emerging strategy for managing LLW is likely to cause great concern within local government because of the anticipated emphasis on encouraging private companies to develop or offer the use of facilities away from existing nuclear sites, including metal treatment, incineration and disposal to landfill.

In response, NuLeAF's Strategy Review Group (SRG) has recommended that consideration be given to a 'hierarchy of siting preferences'. The intention is to encourage concentration of LLW facilities at or adjacent to licensed nuclear sites. Adoption of the hierarchy would not completely rule out the use of facilities at existing off-site locations, but it would need to be demonstrated that the latter are preferable in specific circumstances and have the consent of the local community. See the SG report at [Item 4 LLW Strategies](#) for further discussion. The SG report also outlines the development of strategy for non-nuclear industry (NNI) LLW.

Invitation to NuLeAF Seminars on LLW Strategies

Both NDA and NNI strategies for LLW management will be formally consulted on in the Spring. NuLeAF is organising three seminars to ensure that local authority members and officers have the opportunity to discuss the strategies during the consultation.

The dates and venues are:

7 May, 2009, Conference Hall, The Town Hall, Manchester
12 May, 2009, LGA House, Smith Square, London
14 May, 2009, The Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton

Speakers will come from the NDA, NNI Project Board and Environment Agency. There will be ample opportunity for Q&A and for discussion of key points that might be made in response to the consultations.

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

Approaches to Community Funds

NuLeAF has drafted a paper for discussion with Government about approaches to community funds associated with facilities for managing radioactive wastes. The paper proposes two parallel approaches to the provision of Community Funds:

- The first is the existing practice of Community Fund provision through the use of Section 106 agreements ('planning obligations'). In principle, such agreements should be applicable to any development where there is a need to mitigate local impacts or meet local needs arising from the development.
- The second is a proposed 'strategic' approach to provision of Community Funds, applicable only where a new radioactive waste management facility is developed specifically to provide a regional or national role. In this case, it is proposed that provision of a fund would not be dependent on, or constrained by, an S106 agreement. Instead, it would rely on a combination of the NDA's power to make socio-economic grants and a local authority's Well-Being Power, which would allow it to manage and utilise any Fund that is set up.

A *draft* version of the discussion paper can be found at [Item 5 Community Funds](#).

NuLeAF Case Studies on Nuclear Legacy Management

NuLeAF is producing a series of case studies to help promote understanding and good practice in the way local authorities approach issues in nuclear legacy management. The first four are available at:

[Springfields VLLW Disposal Case Study 1](#)

[LLWR Community Fund Case Study 2](#)

[LLWR Vault 9 Planning Permission Case Study 3](#)

[Suffolk Planning Policy Case Study 4](#)

Further case studies are in preparation. If you have any suggestions for future case study topics, please email the [secretariat](#).

Developments in the NDA Strategy Review

The report to the Steering Group at [Item 6 NDA Strategy](#) provides an overview of progress with the NDA strategy review and other NDA-related developments. It covers:

- The meeting of NuLeAF's Strategy Review Group on 5 January
- Output from the NuLeAF seminar on 2 December 08
- An update on NDA topic reviews
- Plans for the next meeting of NuLeAF's Strategy Review Group (SRG)

The next meeting of the SRG will take place in Manchester Town Hall between 11.00 and 3.00 pm on 23 March. Members of the NDA strategy team will attend the meeting to provide an update and discuss progress in key topical strategy reviews.

Any member authority that wishes to attend the Strategy Review Group meeting on 23 March should contact the secretariat.

Developments in the Siting Process for the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

These include:

- The first meeting of the shadow siting partnership established by Copeland Borough Council has taken place (see [Meeting Report](#)). The meeting discussed options for the form of partnership, and draft terms of reference. Future meetings are taking place on 19 February and 17 March.
- Cumbria County Council has made an expression of interest to Government (see [CCC News Release](#)).
- Allerdale Borough Council has also made an expression of interest to Government (see [ABC News release](#)).
- The question of whether to express an interest in the siting process has been debated by Cornwall County Council (see ['Nuclear waste site could bring billions'](#) and [People power sees nuclear waste invitation scrapped](#))

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

The MoD Submarine Dismantling Project

Latest developments include:

- Previously known as ISOLUS, the project is being re-named the 'Submarine Dismantling Project'
- a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken of dismantling and storage options
- public consultation on the SEA will be undertaken towards the end of 2009
- a 'technology demonstration' project is being developed to establish the industrial processes for dismantlement
- options for interim storage of Intermediate Level Waste are being explored with NDA.

Radioactive Waste Management and New Nuclear Build

One of NuLeAF's strategic objectives is to seek to ensure that proposals for radioactive waste management and decommissioning of new nuclear power stations do not prejudice effective management of the nuclear legacy.

To this end, a report to the February SG considered developments relating to the Government's proposals for a 'Funded Decommissioning Programme', and consultation on the Nuclear Industry Association's application for justification of new nuclear build. Draft responses to these developments are at [Item 7 Future of Nuclear Power](#). Final versions will be published on the NuLeAF website shortly.

The Government has also published its response to consultation on Strategic Siting Assessment Criteria. This states that the next steps are:

Before 31 Mar 2009	Nomination of sites for consideration in the strategic siting assessment, and raising community awareness that a site is to be nominated
After 31 Mar 2009 Summer – Autumn	Publish nominations and allow a month for pre-consultation comment Government conducts strategic siting assessment and consults on a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) and Sustainability Appraisal
Before Spring 2010 From 2010	Parliamentary scrutiny and revision of NPS Developers expected to apply for planning consent for new nuclear power stations on sites listed in the NPS. Applications considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

NuLeAF Meetings

March

- 5 LLW Officer Working Group, London School of Economics
- 18 GDF Officer Working Group, Copeland Borough Offices, Whitehaven
- 23 Strategy Review Group, Manchester Town Hall

April

- 28 Steering Group, The Wave, Maryport, Cumbria

May

- 7 LLW Strategy Seminar, Town Hall, Manchester
- 12 LLW Strategy Seminar, LGA House, Smith Square, London
- 14 LLW Strategy Seminar, County Offices, Taunton

July

- 15 Steering Group, County Offices, Oxford

Member authorities that wish to be represented at any of these meetings should contact the secretariat.

Contacting NuLeAF

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