

E-BULLETIN

October 2009,
Issue 16



Welcome to Issue 16 of the e-bulletin, which contains news about:

- developments in Low Level Waste (LLW) Management
- the next meeting of NuLeAF's Strategy Review Group (15 December)
- implications of Community Infrastructure Levy proposals
- interactions between nuclear legacy management and potential new nuclear stations
- the process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility
- publication of a new Briefing Paper on applications to the NDA's Socio-Economic Fund
- NDA 'value framework' and corporate planning
- the outcome of the 2009 AGM
- membership fees for 2010-11 and
- dates for the diary.

Stop Press: Consultation on LLW Strategy Extended

Consultation on the NDA's proposed LLW Strategy for the UK has been extended to 30 November to enable more local authorities to respond. Member authorities that wish to respond are encouraged to take NuLeAF's comments into account. These can be viewed at [Consultation Response on UK LLW Strategy](#).

National LLW Management Plan

NuLeAF is also considering the national LLW Management Plan, jointly published by the NDA and LLWR Ltd. This sets out the proposed approach to implementing the strategy, providing outline plans for the way in which 54 strategic initiatives will be carried forward. The plan is available on the LLWR Ltd website at [LLW Management Plan](#) (but note that the file size is 3.3 MB).

The following initiatives are likely to be of particular interest:

- Developing a Waste Management Hierarchy Guidance Document (by November 2009)
- Developing a new service for metal treatment (service roll out is scheduled for November 2009)
- Commissioning an independent study on optimising the use of existing incinerator capacity in the UK (schedule for study unclear, but roll out of service anticipated in June 2010)
- Promoting re-cycle and re-use of waste in construction projects outside the nuclear industry (from June 2010 onwards)
- Development of alternative disposal routes for VLLW, including landfill (framework subcontracts and consignor document from early 2010)

- Development of a guidance document for developing business cases for on-site or near-site disposal of VLLW (to be prepared between November 2009 and February 2010)
- Development of a national strategic business case for on-site or near-site disposal of LLW (to be prepared between November and December 2009)
- Undertaking a feasibility study into the use of transport hubs, the increased use of rail transport, and integration with Spent Fuel transport (scheduled for August to September 2010).

A number of questions arise, including progress with the early initiatives, the scope for review and comment on draft documentation, and what final documentation will be publicly available. NuLeAF will be seeking further detail, with a view to review and comment where appropriate.

The next meeting of NuLeAF's LLW Officer Working Group on 8 December is likely to focus on the key initiatives in the National LLW Management Plan. This meeting is open to officers from any NuLeAF member local authority. Please let the secretariat know if you wish to attend (catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk).

Next Meeting of NuLeAF's Strategy Review Group (SRG)

The next meeting of the SRG is on 15 December (1.15 – 3.30) in Manchester. It will receive a presentation from NDA on strategy development for managing Higher Activity Wastes (HAW). This will be followed by discussion about the issues raised and next steps.

Discussion is likely to cover the pros and cons of:

- consolidating storage and treatment at a smaller number of sites;
- the near surface disposal of short-lived Intermediate Level Wastes (ILW);
- two stage containerisation for high hazard wastes; and
- thermal treatment of some ILW.

The SRG meeting is open to members and officers from any member authority. Please let the secretariat know if you wish to attend (catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk).

Implications of Community Infrastructure Levy Proposals

The Government has published its detailed proposals for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), with a deadline for comments of 23 October 2009 ([CIL consultation document](#)). The proposals explain that:

- The CIL will apply to most types of new development and will be based on simple formulae which relate the size of the charge to the size and character of the development. The proceeds can be spent on local and sub-regional infrastructure.
- The facility to enter into a planning obligation will remain when the CIL is introduced to ensure that the specific impacts of a development can be mitigated, but Government proposes to introduce restrictions on its use.

At its meeting on 15 October, the Steering Group discussed a report on the implications for radioactive waste management facilities ([Item 6 CIL](#)). Preliminary conclusions are that:

- it is likely that the CIL could in principle be applied to some radioactive waste management developments, but the size of the charge would not always be in proportion to the implications of the development for infrastructure planning; and
- it is likely that the restrictions to be placed on planning obligations could affect the breadth of projects that can be funded using Community Funds established through such obligations.

The SG agreed to submit comments taking into account the views of the Planning Officer Society. The response will be posted on the NuLeAF website by the end of October.

Interactions between Nuclear Legacy Management and Potential New Nuclear Stations

Although it is not within NuLeAF's remit to form a view on whether new nuclear power stations should be built, it does have responsibility to comment on any implications for nuclear legacy management. In this context, the Strategy Review Group meeting on 23 September included a discussion about the potential interactions between legacy management and new nuclear build with Adrian Simper, NDA Strategy Director.

The discussion raised a number of points for further consideration, including:

- NDA and Government are considering the implications for nuclear skills. Discussion is taking place about the scope for timetabling legacy management and new build activities in a way that avoids significant skill shortages. NDA is considering the scope for 'labour leasing', where workforce could be made available for new build during periods of low activity in legacy management.
- There is concern amongst local authorities about whether staffing levels in nuclear legacy management can be maintained, if people working on NDA sites seek employment in new build projects.
- There is a view amongst local authorities with multiple neighbouring nuclear sites that a more coordinated approach should be taken to waste management and clean-up across those sites (ie across A, B and potential C station sites). Further thought needs to be given to the potential roles of NDA and local planning authorities in how to achieve this. There are likely to be a number of institutional barriers to address or overcome (eg different ownership, nuclear site licensing and planning permissions).
- Such an approach could take a number of forms. For example, waste management facilities at or adjacent to NDA sites could be offered on a commercial basis to operators of new build stations; or waste management facilities could be developed by new build operators that provide a commercial service to the NDA site. The business case for a facility at or adjacent to an NDA site would probably be stronger if the facility were also to be used for neighbouring B and possible C sites.
- Some local authorities would be concerned if the boundaries between legacy management and new build became too blurred.
- There is a need for more discussion and debate about where the boundaries should be, and on the pros and cons of the different ways in which the synergies with new nuclear build could be exploited to the benefit of nuclear legacy management.
- The debate is not currently taking place within the NDA's formal review of Strategy.

At its meeting on 15 October, the Steering Group agreed to write to the NDA to request that it encourage and promote debate amongst its stakeholders at national and local level about: the potential interactions between nuclear legacy management and new nuclear build; how a more coordinated 'across site' approach could be taken to waste management

and clean-up in locations that have or are proposed to have multiple licensed nuclear sites; and the pros and cons of the ways in which the synergies with new nuclear build could be exploited to the benefit of nuclear legacy management.

Siting a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

The Government has written to the Leaders of all local authorities in England to provide an update on progress and to highlight that further Expressions of Interest about possible participation in the siting process would still be welcome.

In West Cumbria, Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council are all involved in the Partnership formed to advise on whether a decision to participate in the GDF siting process should be taken. Reports from the Partnership meetings can be found at westcumbriamrws.

Preparations are now well advanced for the first stage of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE) in West Cumbria. This will seek to build understanding of the siting process and gain feedback on the Partnership's work programme, criteria for a decision about participation and future plans for PSE.

Briefing Paper on Applications to the NDA's Socio-Economic Fund

Each year the NDA awards up to £10 million in socio-economic funding to a diverse range of projects and organisations. Awards have ranged from £33,000 towards a feasibility study into tidal energy developments on the Solway Firth, to £2.5 million for the Chapelcross Industry Park.

NuLeAF has published a new Briefing Paper to encourage more local authorities with NDA sites to consider submitting, or help other local organisations to submit, bids for funding to the NDA Socio-Economic Fund. As experience has grown, the application process has been improved and a greater level of assistance is being offered by the NDA in the preparation of applications. The Briefing Paper draws on that experience and offers some pointers in how to prepare and make a successful bid to the NDA Socio-Economic Fund ([BP18](#)).

NDA 'Value Framework' and Corporate Planning

Lesley Sewell, Head of Corporate Planning at the NDA, gave a presentation to the SG and answered questions on the role of corporate planning within the NDA. The presentation will shortly be posted on the NuLeAF website, alongside a companion paper on the 'value framework' used by the NDA in their decision making processes ([Value Framework Paper](#)).

Outcome of the AGM

The main outcomes of the AGM on 15 October were that:

- Councillors Holliday (Copeland BC) and Swannick (Manchester CC) were appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.
- An annual report was accepted as a true picture of NuLeAF developments and activities ([AGM item 3](#)).
- A finance and staffing report was accepted ([AGM item 5](#)).

- A set of strategic objectives for 2010 were agreed. These will be published as a Policy Statement on the NuLeAF website by the end of October.

Membership Fees for 2010-11

In view of the current financial climate, the AGM agreed to hold the level of requested payments from contributing authorities in 2010-11 to the current rates. This means that the levels will be:

Population	Annual Contribution 2010-11
Up to 100k	£665
100k-200k	£995
200k-500k	£1330
500k-1m	£2035
Above 1m	£2660

All corresponding member authorities are asked to consider becoming contributors so that NuLeAF can maintain and develop its work.

Dates for the Diary

8 December	LLW Officer Working Group, Local Government House, London (12.30 – 3.30)
15 December	Strategy Review Group, Manchester Town Hall (1.15 - 3.30)
27 January	Steering Group, Manchester Town Hall (11.00 – 3.30)

Dates for subsequent Steering Group meetings during 2010 will be published on the website shortly. Please book them in your diary at the earliest opportunity.

Contact Points

All member authorities are asked to ensure that NuLeAF is kept informed of any changes to officer or councillor contacts. It is important that these are kept up-to-date, so that the right people receive e-bulletins, invitations to NuLeAF meetings and other information.

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.