

E-BULLETIN

June 2006,
Issue 1



Welcome to the first issue of NuLeAF's e-bulletin.

This first issue comes at an important time. Developments are taking place that could impact significantly on how and where radioactive wastes are managed, raising issues of considerable concern for local authorities and their communities.

As an organisation, NuLeAF has been striving to increase the level of service it can provide to member authorities, including the appointment of staff, commissioning research and the creation of a website (www.nuleaf.org.uk).

The purpose of the bulletin is to keep Member Authorities up-to-date with developments and to encourage feedback. This issue focuses on the strategy of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), initiatives on the long-term management of radioactive wastes and NuLeAF organisational developments.

NDA Strategy

The NDA has been created by Government to provide the first UK-wide strategic focus on decommissioning and cleaning up nuclear sites. The NDA published its approved strategy at the end of March 2006 (www.nda.gov.uk).

NuLeAF has identified the following priorities for initiatives on issues in the NDA's strategy.

- Rationalising the Storage of Intermediate Level Waste: the NDA has initiated a review of alternative approaches to ILW interim storage, including the scope for regional or national facilities. This is likely to involve discussion with stakeholders, including local authorities, before the end of the year.
- Low Level Waste Management: the NDA has expressed a preference, where possible, for existing sites to host their own disposal facilities for LLW. It expects that Site Licence Companies will submit proposals around the turn of the year. Consultation is likely to follow in the New Year.
- Site End States: the NDA is undertaking a review of site end states through a consultation exercise involving Site Stakeholder Groups and local communities. SSG and community views are being sought by the end of the financial year, with

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management



a view to the NDA advising Government on site end states during the course of 2007.

- Socio-Economic Support: the NDA is working on the development of a socio-economic strategy, which is likely to be subject to consultation later this year.
- NDA Strategy Review: a review of parts of the NDA strategy will be undertaken during 2007, once the outcome of reviews of the long-term management of radioactive wastes are known (see below). The NDA review is likely to involve a period of formal consultation.

NuLeAF is in discussion with the NDA to establish further details, so that guidance and advice can be produced for member authorities.

Is your authority involved in discussions with local stakeholders, site licensees or the NDA on any of these issues? Are there examples of local initiatives that should be drawn to the attention of NuLeAF's membership? Are there issues where your authority would value further information or advice from NuLeAF? If there are, contact us using the address at the end of the bulletin.

Long-Term Management of Radioactive Wastes

Two initiatives are reaching a critical stage for the development of Government policy. The first is the review of policy for managing Low Level radioactive wastes ([DEFRA LLW Policy Review](#)). The NuLeAF response to Government consultation took into account the views of member authorities and was circulated on 31 May ([LLW Response](#)).

The second is the review of policy for the long-term management of higher activity wastes being undertaken by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management ([CoRWM draft recommendations](#)). CoRWM will be submitting its recommendations to Government at the end of July. These are likely to involve a combined strategy of geological disposal and robust interim storage.

NuLeAF submitted comments on CoRWM's draft recommendations in late May ([Response to CoRWM](#)). Broadly speaking, NuLeAF welcomed the draft recommendations, subject to various points of emphasis and comments on points requiring clarification. NuLeAF was particularly pleased that CoRWM's draft recommendations included proposals for ways of implementing policy that align closely with its own views, as expressed in its recent policy statement ([Implementation Policy on Long-Term Management](#)).

The policy statement explains that implementation strategy should be built on the concepts of:

- willingness to participate
- right of withdrawal
- partnership
- support packages

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

- a step-wise process of decision-making and
- implementation bodies that engender trust and confidence.

NuLeAF's policy statement was informed by research examining UK and international practices ([Implementation Report](#)).

NuLeAF will be undertaking work on the practical application of these concepts, for example:

- Identifying appropriate models of local partnership.
- Identifying appropriate arrangements for support packages (taking into account existing UK practices, including operation of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and the Sullom Voe Capital and Harbour Authority Reserve Funds).
- Identifying ways of integrating siting processes with planning and regulatory requirements, including the potential need for development of Local Development Frameworks and Regional Spatial Strategies and the preparation of a Planning Policy Statement.

Is your authority concerned about the way in which policy for the long-term management of radioactive wastes will be implemented? Is this issue addressed in the LDFs and RSS in your area? If so, please let us know. Would your authority like to be involved in NuLeAF's work on implementation issues? Contact us for further details.

Organisational Developments

NuLeAF is improving the level of service it can provide to member authorities. Steps include:

- Appointment of staff: the new Executive Director – Fred Barker – becomes full-time at the start of September. Fred's role is to focus on policy development, promotion and advice. Christine del Corral started work as Fred's PA in May. She also has responsibility for NuLeAF's administration. A Project Officer is also to be appointed, with responsibility for research and preparation of materials.

Would your authority like the opportunity to meet with NuLeAF's Executive Director to discuss any aspects of nuclear legacy management? If so, please contact us to arrange a meeting.

- Website: the first stage of development of the NuLeAF website has recently gone live, providing further information about NuLeAF initiatives and access to key documents, including Steering Group papers, consultation responses and research reports.
- Database of member authority reports: NuLeAF wishes to develop its work on the basis of a good understanding of member authority views on all aspects of nuclear legacy management. The database could also provide a useful resource for member authorities.

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

Has your authority recently taken a report through committee on any aspect of nuclear legacy management? If so, please send NuLeAF a copy (preferably in electronic form). We would also like to receive copies of future reports, so that we can add them to our database.

- Advice and 'Best Practice' Guidance: NuLeAF will be providing advice notes to member authorities on specific aspects of nuclear legacy management. It also wishes to identify and promote examples of 'best practice' in local government on these issues.

Become a Contributing Member

In order to develop its work on behalf of member authorities, NuLeAF needs to increase the number of members that contribute financially. Contributing Members form the NuLeAF Steering Group and are eligible to vote on issues and represent the Forum on outside bodies.

Annual costs of becoming a Contributing Member are based on a sliding per capita scale:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Rate</u>
A. up to 100k	£ 500
B. 100k - 200k	£ 750
C. 200k - 500k	£1,000
D. 500k - 1,000,000	£1,500
E. above 1,000,000	£2,000

This issue of the e-bulletin has highlighted the developments that are likely to impact significantly on how and where radioactive wastes will be managed in the future. It has also explained how NuLeAF is increasing the level of service it provides to member authorities. In order to continue to do this, we need to increase the number of contributing authorities. Please contact us to make an annual payment.

Dates for the Diary

Wed 5 July	LGA Conference – NuLeAF Fringe Meeting, 7.00pm Gladstone Suite, Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth
Thur 12 October	NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 11.00am, County Offices, Kendal
Thur 25 January	NuLeAF Steering Group, 11.00am, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

For further details, contact NuLeAF at the address below.

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

Advance warning: NuLeAF is organising a series of regional seminars in the autumn on (a) NDA strategy and (b) implementing policy for the long-term management of radioactive wastes. The seminars are for officers who work in planning, economic development, environmental health, local strategic partnerships or community involvement. To register an interest in attending, contact us at the address below.

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: christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk.