

E-BULLETIN

February 2008,
Issue 9



Welcome to Issue 9 of the e-bulletin. This covers developments on:

- the process for siting a geological repository for higher activity wastes
- the management of Low Level Wastes
- the NDA's draft Business Plan, review of local engagement arrangements and engagement activities
- the White Paper on the future of nuclear power
- NuLeAF organisation, including a job vacancy and officer working groups.

Process for Siting a Geological Repository

At its meeting on 29 January, the NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) considered an update on developments, including input to discussions with Government, the NDA and the regulators. The update is available at:

http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-29_item_4_MRWS_Update_and_Future_Work.pdf

It is expected that a White Paper setting out the implementation framework for a geological repository will be published in the Spring. This is likely to be accompanied by an invitation from Government to local communities to express an interest in participating in the siting process.

The update to the SG includes annexes on potential steps leading to a local decision about participation (annex 2), and key questions to address in designing a local engagement programme to inform such a decision (annex 3).

Workshop on the Process of Regulatory Review of the Repository Science and Technical Programme

The Environment Agency is organising this workshop on 4 March in Manchester. The objectives are to raise awareness of the process of regulator review and identify ways of developing stakeholder confidence in the science underpinning geological disposal.

NuLeAF has been allocated a number of places at the workshop. Member authorities that wish to attend the workshop should contact the secretariat (christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk) before close of play on 5 February.

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The Management of Low Level Wastes

At its meeting on 29 January, the NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) considered an update covering:

- the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg
- arrangements for overseeing the development of NDA strategy for LLW
- preparation of a Briefing Paper for local authority planning officers
- strategy development for managing non-nuclear industry LLW.

The update is available at:

http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-29_item_5_Management_of_LLW.pdf

The update includes reference to the planning permission for vault 9 at the LLWR near Drigg and agreement to the setting up of a Community Benefits Fund. The SG agreed to consider a full report on LLW management and community benefits at its meeting in April.

Comments on the draft NDA Business Plan

NuLeAF has submitted comments on the NDA's draft Business Plan:

http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-31_NuLeAF_Response_to_NDA_draft_business_plan.pdf

These comments cover:

- NDA funding arrangements
- The process for prioritisation of spending
- The forthcoming strategy review
- Repository implementation
- Demonstration decommissioning of a Magnox station
- Magnox reprocessing and
- Socio-economic support and development

The comments highlight concerns about current NDA funding arrangements and the need for flexibility so NDA can drive forward clean-up in ways that maintain stakeholder confidence.

Proposals for NDA Local Stakeholder Engagement Arrangements

The SG endorsed a set of proposals for local NDA engagement arrangements, particularly to improve engagement with local authorities. These proposals have been submitted to the NDA and published as Briefing Paper 12:

http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-12_BP12_NDA_Local_Engagement_Arrangements.pdf

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The Briefing Paper should also be of use to those member authorities that wish to improve the way they engage with the NDA and the operator of their local nuclear site.

NDA Engagement Programme

The SG also considered a report that provides an overview of developments relating to topics in the NDA Engagement plan. This overview is at:

http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-29_item_6_NDA_Engagement_Activities.pdf

In particular, it covers the forthcoming NDA strategy review, work to develop a 'value framework' for informing decisions about priorities, an integrated waste strategy, asset strategy and skills strategy.

Note that NuLeAF has also published a Briefing Paper summarising and commenting on the outputs from the site end states review:

http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2007-11-16_Briefing_Paper_11_Site_End_States.pdf

Future of Nuclear Power

The SG considered a report summarising the statements in the recent White Paper of relevance to its remit on waste management and decommissioning:

http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-29_item_9_Future_of_Nuclear_Power.pdf

The SG agreed to:

- continue to monitor developments with a view to seeking to ensure that they do not prejudice effective management of the nuclear legacy; and
- consider a report at its April meeting on the consultation on waste and decommissioning funding provisions guidance.

Presentations by British Energy

In the afternoon session of its meeting on 29 January, the SG heard presentations from British Energy on (a) its plans for radioactive waste management and decommissioning of existing plant and (b) the radioactive waste management implications of new build. Copies of the presentation are available on request from the secretariat (christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk).

Job Advert

NuLeAF is currently advertising the post of Administrator and PA:

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[http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-15_Advertisement\(1\).pdf](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/2008-01-15_Advertisement(1).pdf)

The closing date for applications is 12 February.

Working Groups

NuLeAF has two officer working groups. The first focuses on the implementation framework for siting a geological repository, and the second on the management of Low Level Waste. Officers from member authorities that are interested in participating in these 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: christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk.

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