

UPDATE FOR LGA ENVIRONMENT BOARD – FOR INFORMATION



22 October 2008

Introduction

This update covers:

- the NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM meeting on 29 October;
- the siting process for a geological disposal facility (GDF) for higher activity radioactive wastes;
- the development of strategy for managing Low Level radioactive Wastes (LLW) from the nuclear industry;
- the NDA review of its strategy for managing the nuclear legacy; and
- radioactive waste management and new build.

NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM, 29 October

The papers for these meetings are available on the NuLeAF website ([SG & AGM Papers](#)). The SG reports provide updates on key developments in nuclear legacy management (as outlined below). The AGM reports include annual and finance reports, and a set of proposed strategic objectives.

Members of the Board may be particularly interested in the report on proposed strategic objectives ([Strategic Objectives](#)). These are intended to guide NuLeAF's work and help ensure that it is open and transparent.

Siting Process for a GDF

As reported in the July update, the White Paper on the implementation framework for siting a geological disposal facility (GDF) was published on 12 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.
- Allerdale Borough Council organised a stakeholder workshop on 21 October to help inform a decision about whether to make a formal EoI.
- Cumbria County Council is taking soundings from potential partners about whether to make an EoI.

By mid-December, it is anticipated that both Allerdale BC and Cumbria CC will have taken decisions about whether to make an EoI.

NuLeAF is maintaining liaison arrangements with Government and NDA to discuss issues associated with the siting process. Topics at the most recent meeting with Government included benefits packages, local decision-making in the siting process and the potential role of the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

At its meeting on 29 October the Steering Group will consider whether to endorse proposed responses to three current NDA consultations relevant to GDF siting:

- Consultation on a Public and Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Framework for Geological Disposal
- Consultation on a Framework for Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Assessment for Geological Disposal
- Consultation on Proposed Research and Development Strategy.

The proposed responses can be found in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 at [SG item 4](#).

Developing Strategy for Managing Nuclear Industry LLW

As reported in earlier updates, the NDA has established a national nuclear industry LLW Strategy Group (LSG) to promote innovation, value for money, application of the waste hierarchy and planning for effective approaches to disposal.

The NDA LLW team has been focussing on:

- Consolidating baseline information about LLW management at NDA sites (waste inventory, assets, infrastructure, and disposal routes)
- Identifying potential opportunities for shared use of, for example, supercompactors, incinerators and metal recycling facilities
- Developing a service for segregating wastes
- Reviewing the business case for a LLW disposal facility at Hinkley Point
- Reviewing potential arisings of LLW from new build (to inform sensitivity testing of inventory increases)

The key target dates for future NDA work on LLW management 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

NuLeAF participates in the work of the LSG and will be commenting on the draft documents above.

NuLeAF is also undertaking the following initiatives:

- Preparing case studies about the development or potential development of LLW facilities at specific sites for publication on the NuLeAF website. The purpose of the case studies is to promote good practices.
- Encouraging waste planning authorities to address radioactive waste developments when preparing or revising Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks ([Briefing for Local Authority Planners](#)).
- Exploring the possibility of establishing community funds for non-GDF radioactive waste management developments. A preliminary discussion has taken place with Government officials. 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.

NDA Review of Strategy for Managing the Nuclear Legacy

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 main outcomes from the first meeting were:

- Development of a paper proposing NuLeAF strategic objectives for 2009 (see above)
- Comments on a NDA discussion paper on options for managing plutonium ([Comments on Pu options](#))
- Agreement to hold a seminar on the strategy review.

The seminar is taking place in Local Government House on 2 December, with speakers from the NDA. Further information and a registration form are available at [Registration Form](#).

Radioactive Waste Management and New Build

NuLeAF's remit encompasses all aspects of the management of the UK's nuclear legacy. This includes the implications for legacy management of any developments that are likely to impact on that management (including the management of radioactive wastes from new nuclear build).

In that context, on 29 October the Steering Group is considering a report on:

- the way radioactive waste management is addressed in the current consultation on the proposed process for Strategic Siting Assessment for new nuclear power stations; and
- the Government's response to the consultation on 'Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance' for new nuclear power stations (see [SG item 7](#) for further details).

Contacting NuLeAF

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