

# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LGA EXECUTIVE

Special Interest Group on Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning

16 April 07



## Introduction

The last year has seen significant developments in nuclear legacy management and in NuLeAF's associated work programme.

These developments include:

- Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) recommendations to Government on the long-term management of higher activity wastes;
- the Government's response to those recommendations;
- publication of Government policy on the long-term management of Low Level Radioactive Wastes (LLW); and
- implementation of key aspects of the strategy of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), including review of nuclear site end states and development of a socio-economic policy.

These developments have important implications for how and where radioactive wastes will be managed in the short and long-term, raising significant issues for local authority decision-making in the light of community leadership, well-being and local development responsibilities.

Against this background, this report outlines:

- NuLeAF's aims
- Local Government support
- Organisational developments
- Key Activities

## NuLeAF's Aims

NuLeAF's primary aims are two-fold:

- to represent the views of its member authorities in discussion with national bodies, including Government, the NDA and the regulators; and

Annual Report to the LGA Executive, 16 April 07, p1

- to develop the capacity of its member authorities to engage with nuclear legacy management on a local level.

NuLeAF's activities to achieve these aims are set out below.

## **Local Government Support**

As of the end of March, NuLeAF had the support of 98 authorities (including contributing, corresponding and associate members). Local authorities joining during the course of the year were Purbeck District Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. All three have a nuclear site within their area. A full list of member authorities is attached at Annex 1.

It is intended to launch a drive for new members in June of this year.

## **Organisation**

### ***Steering Group***

NuLeAF's work is overseen by a Steering Group (SG) of elected members from member authorities. The Chair is Councillor Geoff Blackwell from Copeland Borough Council and the Vice Chair is Councillor Bill Risby from Manchester City Council.

The SG meets on average four times a year. The following meetings were held during the last year:

22 June	LGA house, London
12 October	County Offices, Kendal
11 December	Town Hall, Manchester
25 January	County Offices, Ipswich

The reports and minutes of the SG are published on the NuLeAF website ([www.nuleaf.org.uk](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk)).

### ***Staffing***

NuLeAF now has three full-time staff, which has enabled it to achieve a substantial increase in work. The staff are:

Executive Director	Fred Barker (part-time from February 06 and full-time from September 06)
Personal Assistant	Christine del Corral (full-time from May 06)
Project Officer	Jill Sutcliffe (full-time from February 07)

Annual Report to the LGA Executive, 16 April 07, p2

All three staff are hosted by Suffolk County Council, a leading NuLeAF member authority. The Executive Director and Project Officer have a flexible work base. The PA is based in Suffolk County Council Offices.

### ***Funding***

For the financial year 06-07, funding was secured from DEFRA, NIREX and the NDA, as well as from 11 member authorities. To ensure its independence, NuLeAF has signed a letter of agreement with each external funding body that specifies that "nothing in this letter of agreement shall in any way constrain or be regarded as exerting influence on the viewpoints reached by NuLeAF ..".

This was the first year that funding has been provided by DEFRA, in recognition of the input that NuLeAF is making to its Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely (MRWS) programme (see further details below). Funding will not be available from Nirex in future years as it has been integrated into the NDA. NuLeAF is actively seeking additional sources of funding to enable it to sustain activities at current levels.

### ***Organisational Links***

During the course of the year, NuLeAF has supported the creation of a Scottish equivalent by, for example, making a presentation on its work at the Scottish group's inaugural meeting in April 07. It is anticipated that a close working relationship will be developed with the Scottish Group. NuLeAF has also established links with officers in the Welsh LGA.

## **Key Activities**

### ***Representational Activities***

NuLeAF's work programme has included:

- **Responding to national consultations**, including CoRWM's draft recommendations (May 06), the Government's proposals for LLW management, the NDA's draft Annual Plan (Nov 06), the NDA's draft socio-economic policy (January 07), and CoRWM's Implementation Report (January 07). Consultation responses take into account discussions at the SG and feedback from individual member authorities and are published on the NuLeAF website.
- **A series of pre-consultation meetings** with Government and NDA to present proposals for a draft implementation framework for siting a

Annual Report to the LGA Executive, 16 April 07, p3

geological repository for higher activity wastes. Each meeting has discussed a NuLeAF Briefing Paper, setting out proposals on specific aspects of the framework, including the invitation process, siting partnerships, support packages, planning requirements and rights of withdrawal. These meetings have provided an important opportunity for local government to shape the Government's approach. The Briefing Papers are published on the NuLeAF website. Further meetings are scheduled for May-July.

- **A series of meetings with NDA officials**, for example, on the site end states review, the interim storage of Intermediate Level Waste, Magnox decommissioning, the disposal of LLW, socio-economic policy and arrangements for stakeholder engagement. NuLeAF has been invited to participate in a number of future NDA initiatives to progress work on some of these issues.
- **A briefing session with the Environment Agency**, to discuss its role in the siting of a geological repository. It is anticipated that further meetings will be held to discuss, for example, the relationship between regulatory and local authority decision points within the siting process.
- **Bilateral meetings with CoRWM**, to discuss issues associated with the implementation framework for siting a geological repository.
- **Evidence to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee.** Following the submission of written evidence on the Government's response to CoRWM's recommendations, NuLeAF was invited to present oral evidence, which it did on 19 February 07.
- **Preparation of Policy Statements.** Following discussion at the SG, NuLeAF has published three policy statements on key aspects of nuclear legacy management. These are, 'Implementing Policy on the Long-Term Management of Radioactive Wastes' (June 06), 'Institutional Arrangements for Implementation' (October 06), and 'Geological Disposal' (January 07). Each Policy Statement is published on the NuLeAF website.
- **Representation at meetings**, including the NDA's Waste Issues Group, the MoD ISOLUS Steering Group, SD:SPUR, an Environment Agency workshop on regulatory guidance, and a Magnox Electric workshop on decommissioning.
- **Presentations to outside bodies**, including a fringe meeting at the LGA Conference (July 06), the Waste Advisory Group of the Planning Officers Society (October 06), a Nuclear Decommissioning Conference, University

of Central Lancashire (Dec 06) and the North West Regional Assembly Nuclear Debate (March 07).

### ***Capacity Building Activities***

These have included:

- **Dissemination of information and guidance** through use of the NuLeAF website (see Annex 2 for the growth in use, circulation of e-bulletins (5 issues have been published during the year), and publication of Briefing Papers and articles (in Public Servant and the Journal of the Institute of Economic Development).
- **Opportunities for discussion**, including a programme of regional seminars for member authorities (the seminar report is on the NuLeAF website), and presentations to member authorities (including Copeland Borough Council's Nuclear Issues Group, Cumbria County Council's Nuclear Issues Group, Manchester City Council's Physical Environment Scrutiny Committee, and the Norfolk Local Authorities Radiation Monitoring Group). NuLeAF is working with the LGA to organise a major conference on the long-term management of radioactive wastes in the autumn of 07.
- **Involvement in European projects**, including applied research projects on governance issues in radioactive waste management. Involvement in these projects helps to ensure that international good practice is taken into account by local government in the UK. Details of these projects are included in reports to the NuLeAF Steering Group.
- **Commissioning research**, on the key features of a process for implementing the long-term management of radioactive wastes (Enviros, June 06) and on siting and planning in partnership (Hetherington Nuclear Consulting, April 07). Both research reports are available on the NuLeAF website.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Over the last year, NuLeAF has made considerable progress in engaging and influencing Government and the NDA in the complex arena of nuclear legacy management. It has also strengthened its communications and relationship with member authorities. This has helped ensure that the views of member authorities are carried into national policy and strategy development and implementation, and that services are provided to assist member authorities at a local level.

**NuLeAF Support as @ 31 March 2007**

Allerdale District Council – contributing  
Ashford District Council - corresponding  
Barrow Borough Council – corresponding  
Blackpool Borough Council - corresponding  
Braintree Borough Council – corresponding  
Breckland District Council - corresponding  
Broadland District Council – corresponding  
Bromsgrove District Council - corresponding  
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council - contributing  
Caerphilly County Borough Council – corresponding  
Caradon District Council – corresponding  
Carlisle City Council - corresponding  
Chester City Council - corresponding  
Chesterfield Borough Council – corresponding  
Copeland Borough Council - contributing  
Cumbria County Council - contributing  
Dacorum District Council – corresponding  
Denbighshire County Council - corresponding  
Dorset County Council - contributing  
Durham City Council - corresponding  
Durham County Council – corresponding  
Eden District Council - corresponding  
Essex County Council – corresponding  
Flintshire County Council – corresponding  
Forest of Dean District Council – corresponding  
Forest Heath District Council - corresponding  
Fylde Borough Council - corresponding  
Gosport Borough Council - corresponding  
Great Yarmouth Borough Council – corresponding  
Greater London Authority - corresponding  
Gwynedd County Council - corresponding  
Hackney London Borough Council – corresponding  
Halton Borough Council – corresponding  
Hampshire County Council - contributing  
Harlow District Council - corresponding  
Harrogate Borough Council - corresponding  
Harrow London Borough Council - corresponding  
Hartlepool Borough Council – contributing  
Hyndburn Borough Council - corresponding  
Kent County Council – corresponding  
Kerrier District Council – corresponding

Annual Report to the LGA Executive, 16 April 07, p6

Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council – corresponding  
Lancashire County Council - corresponding  
Lancaster City Council - corresponding  
Leeds City Council – corresponding  
Lewes District Council – corresponding  
Maldon District Council - corresponding  
Manchester City Council – contributing  
Melton Borough Council - corresponding  
Newcastle-u-Lyme Borough Council – corresponding  
Newham London Borough Council - corresponding  
Norfolk County Council - corresponding  
Northumberland County Council – corresponding  
North Norfolk District Council - corresponding  
Norwich City Council - corresponding  
Nottinghamshire County Council – corresponding  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council – corresponding  
Oxfordshire County Council - corresponding  
Pembrokeshire County Council – corresponding  
Penwith District Council - corresponding  
Plymouth City Council – contributing  
Preston City Council – corresponding  
Purbeck District Council - corresponding  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – contributing  
Rutland County Council - corresponding  
Scarborough District Council – corresponding  
Sedgefield Borough Council – corresponding  
Shepway District Council – corresponding  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding  
Somerset County Council – corresponding  
Southampton City Council - corresponding  
South Gloucestershire Council - contributing  
South Norfolk District Council - corresponding  
Spelthorne Borough Council - corresponding  
Staffordshire County Council – corresponding  
Suffolk Coastal District Council - corresponding  
Suffolk County Council – contributing  
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council – contributing  
Taunton Deane Borough Council - corresponding  
Tendring District Council - corresponding  
Tower Hamlets London Borough Council - corresponding  
Tunbridge Wells District Council – corresponding  
Vale of the White Horse District Council - corresponding  
Wansbeck District Council - corresponding  
Waveney District Council – corresponding  
West Berkshire District Council – corresponding

West Lancashire District Council - corresponding  
West Lindsey District Council – corresponding  
Ynys Mon County Council - corresponding

***National Parks Authorities***

Lake District National Park Authority – corresponding  
North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority – corresponding  
Snowdonia National Park Authority - corresponding

***Scottish Associates***

Argyll & Bute Council – contributing  
Dundee City - contributing  
East Lothian Council – corresponding  
North Ayrshire Council – corresponding  
Shetland Islands Council - corresponding

***Fire Services***

Dorset Fire & Rescue Service – corresponding

**Total = 98** (94 local authorities – 16 contributing (of which 11 contribute financially and 5 are NFLA nominees) 78 corresponding; 3 national park authorities - all corresponding; 1 fire service - corresponding)

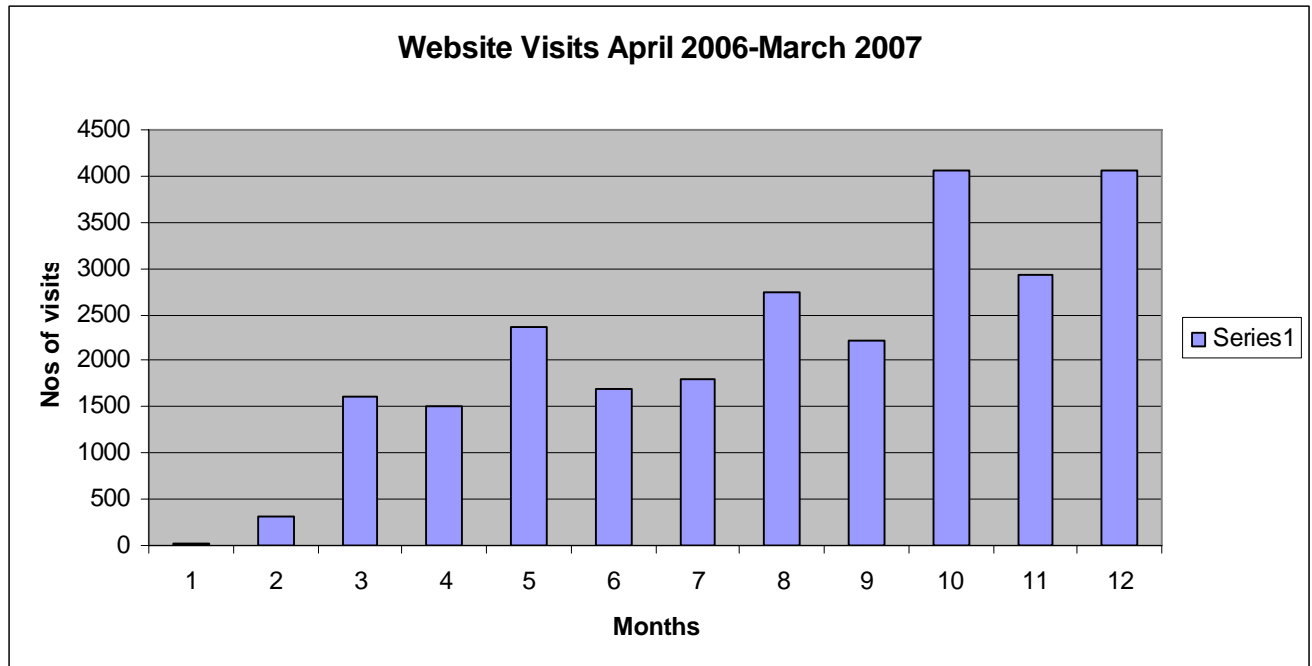
***Liaison***

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities represented by Fife Council  
Scottish Councils on Radioactive Waste Management (Dundee City Council)  
Wales LGA



## STATISTICS FOR THE USE OF NULEAF WEBSITE

APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007



The NuLeAF domain ([nuleaf.org.uk](http://nuleaf.org.uk)) was created on 21 March 06. The website was established in May and launched following the SG meeting of 22 June 06.