

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LGA EXECUTIVE

Special Interest Group on Radioactive Waste
Management and Decommissioning

3 April 08



Introduction

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

- preparation of an implementation framework for siting a geological repository for higher activity wastes;
- steps to develop strategies for managing low level radioactive wastes from nuclear and non-nuclear industries;
- agreement to establish a Community Fund in association with the Low Level Waste (LLW) Repository near Drigg in Cumbria; and
- pressures on the budget of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), leading to significant delays in programmes of waste management, decommissioning and clean-up at some nuclear sites.

NuLeAF is closely involved in developments to ensure that local authority views and interests are recognised and addressed.

This report outlines NuLeAF's remit and objectives, support within local government, organisation and main activities.

Remit and Objectives

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 (including construction of new nuclear power stations) that are likely to impact on that management.

NuLeAF's primary objectives are:

- to provide a mechanism to identify, where possible, a common, local government viewpoint on nuclear legacy management issues;

- to represent that viewpoint, or the range of views of its member authorities, in discussion with national bodies, including Government, the NDA and the regulators;
- to seek to influence policy and strategy for nuclear legacy management in the interests of affected communities; and
- to develop the capacity of its member authorities to engage with nuclear legacy management at a local level.

NuLeAF's activities during the financial year 07-08 to achieve these objectives are set out below.

Local Government Support

NuLeAF has 96 member local authorities, made up of 18 contributing members, 73 corresponding members and 5 NFLA co-optees. There has been a significant increase in the number of contributing members (from 9 in FY 06-07). The list of member authorities is attached as Annex 1.

All member authorities are invited to attend the NuLeAF Steering Group and are kept informed about developments and activities through a regular e-bulletin and Briefing Papers (see below).

Organisation

Steering Group

NuLeAF's work is overseen by a Steering Group (SG) of elected members from member authorities. At the AGM in October 2007 Councillor Allan Holliday from Copeland Borough Council was elected as Chair, and Councillor Julian Swainson from Suffolk County Council was elected as Vice Chair.

The SG meets on average four times a year. The following meetings were held during FY 07-08:

19 April 2007	Town Hall, Manchester
27 June 07	LG House, London
18 October 07	Town Hall, Manchester
29 January 08	County Offices, Ipswich

The reports and minutes of the SG are published on the NuLeAF website (www.nuleaf.org.uk).

Staffing

NuLeAF currently has two full-time staff members:

Executive Director	Fred Barker
Personal Assistant	Christine del Corral

Both members of staff are hosted by Suffolk County Council, a leading NuLeAF member authority. The Executive Director has a flexible work base. The PA is based in Suffolk County Council Offices.

The Executive Director has accepted an offer of a further two year contract (June 08-10). Christine del Corral is leaving in May on completion of her current two year contract. A new PA – Catherine Draper – takes up her post at the end of April.

Funding

For FY 07-08, funding was secured from DEFRA, the NDA and from 18 contributing member local authorities. NuLeAF actively seeks to increase the number of member authorities that make a financial contribution. To ensure its independence, NuLeAF has 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 ..”. NuLeAF also keeps under review the possibility of securing alternative sources of funding.

Working Groups

In order to provide detailed input from member authorities, NuLeAF convenes Officer Working Groups on (a) the siting process for a geological repository and (b) LLW management. The work of these two groups informs decision-making at the NuLeAF SG and inputs to meetings with other national bodies.

NuLeAF seeks to ensure that those authorities most affected by developments are involved in the Officer Working Groups. Membership of the groups is also open to any NuLeAF member authority.

Organisational Links

Steps have recently been taken to improve liaison with the LGA’s Environment Board. In January, the first of a regular series of written updates was submitted to the Board. In March a meeting was held with a waste portfolio holder and policy consultant to the Board. It was agreed to arrange more regular liaison meetings, invite waste portfolio holders to SG meetings and to advise the Board when it might

be appropriate for LGA to adopt policy positions on nuclear legacy management issues. NuLeAF has also established links with officers in the Welsh LGA.

NuLeAF has sought to support the establishment of a Scottish equivalent of NuLeAF. It is anticipated that a close working relationship will be developed with the Scottish Group.

Key Activities

Representational Activities

NuLeAF's work programme has included:

- **Development of an implementation framework for siting a geological repository for higher activity radioactive wastes.** NuLeAF has contributed through participation in three sets of meetings: liaison meetings with Government and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA); a Government Communications Steering Group and Regulatory Interface Management Meetings. These meetings provide an important opportunity for local government to shape the approach that will be taken to siting a repository. A White Paper on the implementation framework is expected in May 08, accompanied by invitations to local communities to enter into exploratory discussions about potential participation in the siting process.
- **Development of NDA strategies for managing radioactive wastes.** NuLeAF is participating in the NDA National Waste Management Strategy Group, and has been invited to participate in the NDA's new LLW Strategy Group, which has its first meeting in April 08. NDA strategies will seek to implement the waste hierarchy, take an integrated approach and provide a framework for developing new facilities as required.
- **Responding to national consultations.** NuLeAF submitted comments on the HSE's draft guidance on the management of radioactive waste on nuclear licensed sites (May 07), the Government's proposals in the Planning White Paper (Aug 07), the Government's proposals on the Future of Nuclear Power (Oct 07), the Government's proposed framework for implementing geological disposal (Oct 07), the NDA's draft business plan (Jan 08) and CoRWMS' draft work programme (Mar 08). Consultation responses take into account discussions at the SG and feedback from individual member authorities and are published on the NuLeAF website.

- **Preparation of Policy Statements.** Following discussion at the SG, NuLeAF published a policy statement on the management of LLW (PS4, July 07). This is available on the NuLeAF website.
- **Meetings with CoRWM.** The Executive Director met with the Chair of CoRWM to discuss issues associated with the implementation framework for siting a geological repository (Nov 07). Members of CoRWM will be making a presentation to the SG at its meeting on 30 April 08.
- **Representation at workshops and meetings.** This has included membership of the NDA National Stakeholder Group and Engagement Reference Panel, the MoD ISOLUS Steering Group, and SD:SPUR. It has also included participation in: DEFRA workshops on developing the repository implementation framework (Apr 07) and on geological screening (May 07); NDA meetings on site end states (Jun 07) and a NDA workshop on developing a 'value framework' to inform decision-making about priorities (Jan 08); regulator workshops on guidance for regulatory authorisations (June 07), technical issues in geological disposal (Jan 08) and R&D on geological disposal (Mar 08); and a PAMINA workshop on communicating repository safety issues (Oct 07)
- **Presentations to outside bodies.** These have including presentations to a workshop on BPEO assessments (Sept 07), the Sizewell Stakeholder Group (Nov 07), the Waste & Minerals Group of the Planning Officers Society (Nov 07), and a workshop of the OECD/NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (Dec 07).
- **Meeting with an international delegation.** NuLeAF officers met with representatives from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Canada to discuss approaches to the long-term management of radioactive wastes in UK and Canada (Dec 07). The NWMO delegation also attended the NuLeAF regional seminar in Preston (Dec 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 (4 issues in FY 07-08), and publication of Briefing Papers (10 papers in FY 07-08, see Annex 3). Examples of recent Briefing Papers include a 'Briefing for Planners' and 'Community Funds and Radwaste Facilities'.
- **Opportunities for discussion**, including two regional seminars for member authorities (Nov and Dec 07) and meetings with member authorities, including southern district councils (April, July and September), the Nuclear Issues Group of Allerdale Borough Council (Sept 07) and officers from the Isle of Anglesey Council

(Sept 07). NuLeAF also worked with the LGA to jointly organise a major conference on the long-term management of radioactive wastes (Sept 07). The conference was jointly chaired by Councillors Swainson (NuLeAF) and Bettison (LGA), and included a presentation by the Minister for the Environment.

- **Involvement in European projects.** This includes chairing meetings of the UK Stakeholder Group of the COWAM-In-Practice (CIP) project (July 07 and Feb 08). The CIP project aims to improve the governance of radioactive waste and also involves stakeholders from France, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. NuLeAF was also represented at the final workshop of the CARL project, held in Oskarshamn, Sweden. 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 SG.

Concluding Remarks

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

NuLeAF Support as @ 31 March 2008

Allerdale Borough Council – contributing

Arun District Council - corresponding
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 – NFLA co-optee
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 – NFLA co-optee
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
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
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council – corresponding
Lancashire County Council - contributing
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
Newport City Council – NFLA co-optee
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 - contributing
Pembrokeshire County Council – corresponding
Penwith District Council - corresponding
Plymouth City Council – contributing
Preston City Council – NFLA co-optee
Purbeck District Council - corresponding
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – NFLA co-optee
Rutland County Council - corresponding
Scarborough District Council – corresponding
Sedgefield Borough Council – corresponding
Sedgemoor District Council - contributing
Shepway District Council – contributing
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding
Somerset County Council – corresponding
Southampton City Council - corresponding
South Gloucestershire Council - contributing
South Lakeland District Council - corresponding
South Norfolk District Council - corresponding
Spelthorne Borough Council - corresponding
Staffordshire County Council – corresponding
Suffolk Coastal District Council - contributing
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
West Somerset Council - contributing
Ynys Mon County Council - contributing

National Parks Authorities

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

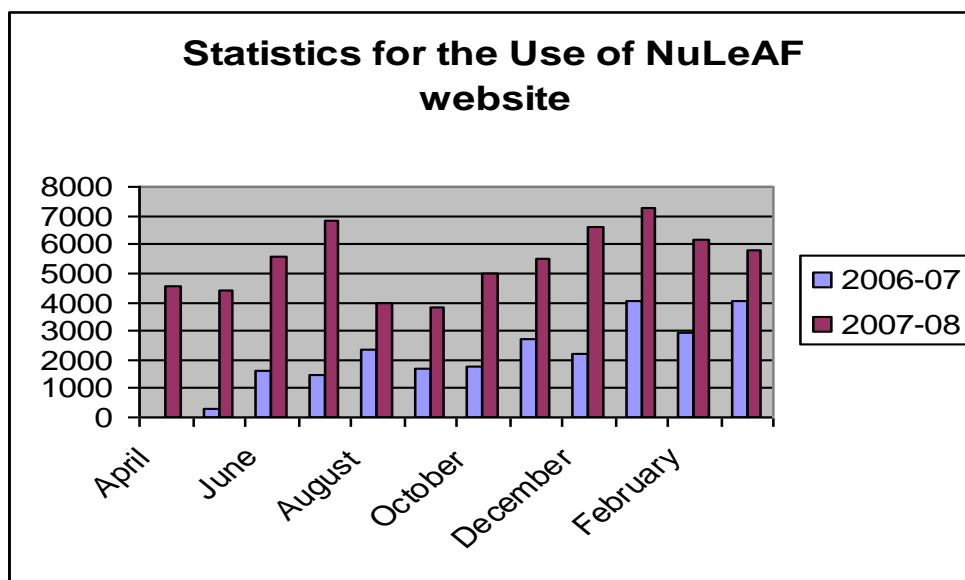
Total - 96 members

18 CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS
73 CORRESPONDING
5 NFLA CO-OPTees

Statistics for the Use of NuLeAF Website

April 2007 to March 2008

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2006-07	-	308	1606	1503	2364	1687	1794	2734	2209	4059	2922	4066
2007-08	4561	4410	5562	6795	3977	3784	4980	5498	6638	7252	6131	5789



The NuLeAF website was established in May 2006.

BRIEFING PAPERS ISSUED IN FY 2007-08

Briefing Paper 6	April 2007	Developing the Implementation Framework: Siting Planning Requirements and Rights of Withdrawal
Briefing Paper 7	May 2007	Overview of NuLeAF Input to Government on Developing the Implementation Framework
Briefing Paper 8	July 2007	Retrievability and Design of a Geological Repository
Briefing Paper 9	July 2007	New Nuclear Build – the Implications for Nuclear Legacy Management
Briefing Paper 10	July 2007	Preliminary Comments on Consultation on the Proposed Implementation Framework
Briefing Paper 11	November 2007	Site End States
Briefing Paper 12	January 2008	NDA Local Engagement Arrangements
Briefing Paper 13	March 2008	Briefing for Local Authority Planners
Briefing Paper 14	March 2008	Community Funds and Radwaste Facilities
Briefing Paper 15	March 2008	Measures to Enhance Retrievability