

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LGA EXECUTIVE

Special Interest Group on Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning

April 2013



Introduction

The past year has seen further significant developments in nuclear legacy management, in NuLeAF's associated work programme and in the organisation itself. Developments include:

- continued participation in the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership, which has now published its final report.
- the subsequent decision by Cumbria County Council not to proceed further in the MRWS process, effectively stalling the government's search for a site for a Geological Disposal Facility for Higher Activity Waste.
- further strategy development by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, including assessment of the potential for consolidating the treatment and storage of radioactive wastes at a smaller number of sites;
- MoD consultation on approaches to dismantling laid-up nuclear submarines and managing the resultant radioactive wastes and publication of the post consultation report;
- the conclusion of the application by EDF to the National Infrastructure Directorate for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point C, and subsequent decision by the Secretary of State to grant planning permission, including arrangements for radioactive waste storage and disposal;
- a review of plans for the next use of nuclear sites following decommissioning by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (Site Restoration programme);
- publication of the Final Report by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on the EC Stress Tests Report, to assure safe nuclear site operations; and
- government consultation on the management of the UK civil plutonium stockpile.

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, current organisation and main activities.



Remit and Objectives

NuLeAF's remit continues to encompass all aspects of the management of the UK's nuclear legacy. This includes the implications for legacy management of any new developments (including construction of new nuclear power stations) that are likely to impact on that management.

NuLeAF's primary aims 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.

At its AGM in October 2012, NuLeAF adopted the Service Plan 2012-14 which highlights the priority actions for the period. The actions are then delineated in the Work Programme which highlights key tasks, achievements to date and performance indicators. The Service Plan can be found in on NuLeAF's [website](#).

Local Government Support

NuLeAF has 108 member authorities. Membership comprises 17 contributing authorities, 87 corresponding members and 4 Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) co-optees. This is an increase of 3 corresponding members on the previous year.

The list of member authorities is attached as Annex 1.

The benefits of becoming a contributing member authority include:

- A regular e-mail newsletter providing alerts and highlighting latest developments and updates
- Free registration at NuLeAF seminars and workshops.
- Voting rights at the NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM.

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

A decision was taken at the 2012 AGM not to increase the membership fee for the FY 2012-13 in light of the severity of local government financial restrictions. Fees have remained unchanged since April 2009.



Organisation

Steering Group

NuLeAF's work is overseen by a Steering Group (SG) of elected members from member authorities. At the AGM in October 2012 Councillor Tim Knowles from Cumbria County Council was re-elected as Chair. Councillor Neil Swannick of Manchester City Council stood down as Vice-Chair due to pressures of work and Councillor Richard Smith MVO of Suffolk County Council was voted to succeed him. Following the decision by Cumbria County Council not to enter into Stage 4 of the MRWS process, Councillor Knowles resigned his County Cabinet portfolio and stood down as NuLeAF Chair. At a meeting on 27 February, the Steering Group decided that Councillor Smith would act as Interim Chair until after the May elections, and the situation would be reviewed at the July Steering Group meeting.

The SG meets on average four times a year. The following meetings were held during FY 12-13:

25 April, 2012	Town Hall, Manchester
20 July, 2012	Town Hall, Manchester
24 October, 2012	Priory Rooms, Birmingham
27 February, 2012	Westminster Kingsway College, London

Copies of reports to the SG can be found at [Steering Group Reports](#), as can minutes of the meetings.

Staffing

After six years with NuLeAF, Fred Barker decided not to renew his contact when it expired in June 2012. Working closely with the Chair and Vice-Chair, Suffolk County Council undertook the recruitment process and Philip Matthews and Stewart Kemp were duly appointed on two year contracts on a job-share basis. Philip is an energy and climate change specialist with CAG Consultants and was previously a Senior Policy Advisor and Acting Director of the Sustainable Development Commission in Scotland. Stewart was Nuclear Issues Manager with Cumbria County Council, with over 25 years experience of working on nuclear issues within local government. Catherine Draper remains in post as Business Support Co-ordinator.

Funding

For FY 12-13, increased funding was secured from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and sustained funding from 17 contributing member local authorities. In addition remunerated work was carried out for the West Cumbrian MRWS Partnership and a discrete piece of work was undertaken for Kent County Council to assist them in their Waste Local Plan preparation. A proposal was

submitted to the Low Level Waste Repository Ltd to undertake work on planning issues which also secured additional funding.

Partial funding for FY 13-14 has already been achieved, including a contribution from NDA held at the higher level. Possibilities for increasing the level of commissioned work are also being explored. Indications are that the level of support from contributing member local authorities' membership should hold for the new financial year. Our current finance report, approved at the 2012 AGM, is available on our [website](#).

Working Groups

NuLeAF has an Officer Working Group known as the Radioactive Waste Planning Group, which provides a mechanism for officer review and discussion of key issues prior to preparation of reports for the Steering Group. During the course of the year issues considered include:

- NDA Low Level Waste Strategy implementation
- NDA Strategy development on Integrated Waste Management and Site Restoration
- Outcome of the Somerset County Council Waste Core Strategy Hearing in Public and the implications for other local authorities
- Storage of spent fuel for new nuclear power stations
- Scope of review of Briefing Paper 21 (interim advice on approaches to radioactive waste management in MWDFs) .

The meetings continue to be well attended, with current attendance at around 12 officers, plus NuLeAF. Core membership includes: Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, Dorset County Council, Essex County Council, Hampshire County Council, Kent County Council, Lancashire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Somerset County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and Suffolk County Council.

Liaison with the LGA

Waste portfolio members are kept informed with regular e-bulletins and are invited to attend Steering Group meetings. A meeting with LGA staff to discuss NuLeAF's work is scheduled for 5 June.

Scottish Local Authorities

Steps are taken to ensure liaison with NuLeAF's sister organisation north of the border, the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS).

New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)

As an organisation, NuLeAF does not take a view on whether new nuclear power stations should be built, but it does consider the decommissioning and radioactive waste management implications.

NuLeAF liaises with the New Nuclear Authorities Group, itself an LGA SIG, in respect of waste management issues for new build nuclear stations. A [joint protocol](#) has been developed to define the working relationship of the two groups.

NFLA

As indicated above, NFLA member authorities are invited to contribute to NuLeAF work and NuLeAF staff regularly liaise with their NFLA counterparts.

Key Activities

Representational Activities

NuLeAF's work programme addresses:

- **The siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for higher activity radioactive wastes.** NuLeAF continues to represent the interests of local government through attendance at: the Geological Disposal Implementation Board (currently in abeyance); Sustainability Assessment Group, and the Regulatory Interface Management Group. At the direction of the Steering group, NuLeAF has written to Mark Higson of the Department of Energy and Climate Change to offer thoughts and assistance in the future development of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process. NuLeAF was sponsored by the NDA to attend the [MoDeRN](#) conference and workshop in Luxembourg in March 2013 on Monitoring of Geological Disposal of Radioactive Wastes. This work is in support of country safety assessments and confidence building in national programmes.
- **Development and implementation of UK strategy for managing Low Level Waste.** NuLeAF participates in the NDA's LLW Programme Delivery Group and the Low Level Waste Repository's Delivery Overview Group, Regulatory Group and Steering Group.
- **Development of NDA Strategy.** NuLeAF is a new member of two NDA groups that input into strategy development on (a) integrated waste management and (b) site restoration. NuLeAF has also made representations to NDA about the case for a Protocol to ensure consistency in approaches to the delivery of community benefits across areas hosting radioactive waste management facilities.

- **Development of MoD approach to the Submarine Dismantling Project.** The Submarine Disposal Project (SDP) has now moved on to the next stage, screening potential ILW storage sites. NuLeAF has accepted an invitation to be part of the Advisory Group Sub-Group dealing with site selection processes.
- **Responding to national consultations.** NuLeAF responded to 5 consultations during 2012-13. These were:
 - Comments on the proposed justification process for the reuse of the UK Civil plutonium stockpile.
 - Comments on the proposal to dispose of Low Level Waste in a near surface repository at Dounreay
 - Comments on the NDA consultation re credible options for storage of Intermediate Level Waste in Central and Southern Scotland
 - Comments on the NDA Draft Business Plan for 2013-16
 - Comments on the consultation by EDF for a new nuclear plant at Sizewell in Suffolk.

All consultation responses can be viewed on the NuLeAF [website](#).

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). The Executive Co-Directors attended a meeting of CoRWM members in Preston on 22 March as the group has been recently reconstituted and a number of new members appointed. A presentation was given on NuLeAF and its work.

Support to Member Authorities

This has included:

- **Information and guidance** through use of the website and circulation of [e-bulletins](#) (3 issues in FY 12-13), NuLeAF has kept its membership and the wider community informed of issues of interest. A review of Briefing Paper 21 on planning issues in radioactive waste management is being undertaken and will be published in late Spring 2013.
- **Opportunities for discussion:** a seminar was held in London (12 March) to brief local authority representatives on spatial planning and radioactive waste management issues. Representatives from the Planning Officers Society, Department of Communities and Local Government and the Low Level Waste gave presentations. The Department for Energy & Climate Change and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority participated in the discussion panel. The seminar attracted a large audience from across local government and elsewhere. A seminar report is available on the NuLeAF [website](#).

- **Improving engagement between member authorities and NDA, Site Licensee Companies (SLCs) and regulators.** The engagement meetings established in 2011 have continued with 2 further meetings in 2012, one in London which received a presentation on and discussed the Magnox Optimised Decommissioning Programme and the other in Birmingham which discussed NDA's engagement with local communities, planning issues and received a presentation from NDA on developments in their integrated waste management programme. Reports and presentations from the meetings are available on the [website](#).
- **Advice and assistance:** NuLeAF continued to make an active, and remunerated, contribution to the work of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership until it completed its work in July 2012. It has also provided advice to Kent County Council on its Waste Local Plan.

Concluding Remarks

Over the last year, NuLeAF has continued to represent local authority interests and influence Government and the NDA in the complex arena of nuclear legacy management. NuLeAF has also strengthened its relationship with member authorities, helping 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 at 31 March 2013

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Allerdale Borough Council - contributing

Arun District Council - corresponding
Ashford District Council - corresponding
Barrow Borough Council - corresponding
Birmingham City Council - corresponding
Blackpool Borough Council - corresponding
Braintree Borough Council - corresponding
Breckland District Council - corresponding
Broadland District Council - corresponding
Bromsgrove District Council - corresponding
Caerphilly County Borough Council - corresponding
Carlisle City Council – corresponding
Cornwall Council - corresponding
Chelmsford Borough Council - corresponding
Chesterfield Borough Council – corresponding
Cheshire West and Chester Council – corresponding
Colchester Borough Council - corresponding

Copeland Borough Council – contributing

Cumbria County Council - contributing

Dacorum District Council - corresponding
Denbighshire County Council – corresponding
Derby City Council – corresponding
Derbyshire Dales District Council - corresponding

Dorset County Council – contributing

Dorset Fire and Rescue – 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

Hartlepool Borough Council - contributing

Hyndburn Borough Council - corresponding

Kent County Council - corresponding

Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council - corresponding

Lancashire County Council - corresponding

Lancaster City Council - corresponding

Leeds City Council – corresponding

Leicestershire County Council - corresponding

Lewes District Council - corresponding

Liverpool City Council - corresponding

London Borough of Bromley - corresponding

London Borough of Hackney - corresponding

London Borough of Harrow – corresponding

London Borough of Hillingdon - corresponding

London Borough of Newham - corresponding

London Borough of Tower Hamlets - corresponding

Maldon District Council – corresponding

Manchester City Council - contributing

Melton Borough Council – corresponding

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service - corresponding

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council - corresponding

Newport City Council – NFLA Co-optee

Norfolk County Council – corresponding

North London Waste Plan - corresponding

Northamptonshire County Council - corresponding

North East Derbyshire District Council - corresponding

North Norfolk District Council - corresponding

Norwich City Council - corresponding

Nottinghamshire County Council – corresponding

Northumberland County Council - corresponding

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council – corresponding

Oxfordshire County Council - contributing

Pembrokeshire County 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

Sedgemoor District Council – contributing

Shepway District Council - contributing

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding

Somerset County Council – contributing

South Gloucester Council – contributing

South Lakeland District Council – corresponding

South Ribble Borough Council - corresponding

Southampton City Council - corresponding

South Norfolk District Council – corresponding

Stroud District Council - corresponding

Spelthorne Borough Council - corresponding

Staffordshire County Council – corresponding

Suffolk Coastal District Council – contributing

Suffolk County Council – contributing

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding

Taunton Deane Borough Council - corresponding

Tendring District 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 District Council – contributing

Worcestershire County Council - corresponding

Ynys Mon County Council – contributing

NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITIES

Lake District National Park Authority

North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority

Snowdonia National Park Authority