

PRESS STATEMENT

31 July 2006

NULEAF WELCOMES RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

The Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF) of the Local Government Association today welcomed the publication of CoRWM's recommended strategy for the long-term management of radioactive wastes.

www.nuleaf.org.uk

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NuLeAF supports CoRWM's package of recommendations, particularly:

- the staged approach to reaching an end point of geological disposal, with its in-built flexibility
- a programme of interim storage that is robust against the risk of delay or failure in the geological disposal programme
- an intensified programme of research and development into aspects of geological disposal and interim storage, and monitoring developments in alternative approaches to long-term management
- the focus on the need for community involvement and partnership in the implementation of CoRWM's proposed strategy
- the need to address socio-economic issues and enhance community well-being through the provision of involvement and community packages.

NuLeAF welcomes the deferral of a final decision about the form of geological disposal and considers that this should form part of the discussion and negotiation with potential host communities during the siting process.

NuLeAF commends CoRWM for their commitment to engaging with the public and stakeholders during their work. NuLeAF considers it essential that this commitment is maintained throughout the process of implementing CoRWM's recommendations.

NuLeAF urges the Government to respond promptly and positively to CoRWM's recommendations.

For further information contact Stewart Kemp, 07771 930 196 and visit <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/>

Notes

1 NuLeAF was established by agreement of Local Government Association Group Leaders in November 2003. NuLeAF's goals are: to provide a mechanism to identify a common, local government viewpoint on nuclear clean-up issues; to act as an interface with Government and regulatory bodies as they consult on waste management and clean-up policy and practice; and to influence government policy in the interests of the communities affected.

2 NuLeAF believes that implementation of policy for the long-term management of radioactive wastes should be based on the principles of: willingness to participate; right to withdraw; partnership with local communities; community benefits packages; and step-wise decision making. It considers that the implementation process should give a central decision-making role to local authorities, particularly with regard to opting in or opting out of the process. NuLeAF recognises that there are challenges to be overcome in the practical application of these principles in the UK setting. It believes that work to address these challenges should now be given priority.

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