

# E-BULLETIN

July 2011,  
Issue 23



Welcome to Issue 23 of the e-bulletin, which contains news about:

- the review of the implications of the Fukushima accident for the UK
- community benefits and radioactive waste management
- low level waste (LLW) management
- NDA Strategy development and implementation
- the process for siting a geological disposal facility
- the Submarine Dismantling Project and
- dates for the diary.

## **Review of the Implications of the Fukushima Accident for the UK**

At its meeting on 6 July the NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) considered a summary of the findings of the Chief Nuclear Inspector's interim report on the implications of the Fukushima accident for the UK nuclear industry (the 'Weightman review'). The summary highlighted the interim report's conclusions and the key recommendations relevant to nuclear legacy management and is available on the NuLeAF website at [July 11 SG item 4](#).

The SG agreed to write to the Chief Inspector to request that key issues be addressed in more detail in his full report and indicating areas for discussion when he meets with the SG after the SG/AGM on 21 October.

*Note that all NuLeAF member authorities are invited to send representatives to the SG/AGM and the discussion with the Chief Inspector on 21 October. Please contact the secretariat if you wish to attend.*

Issues highlighted by the Steering Group included concerns about the interim management of spent fuel, the lack of coverage of the management of high hazard legacy facilities, flood risk and its implications, and the relationship between the Chief Inspector's recommendations and European level 'stress tests'.

The SG also considered the wider implications of the Weightman review, including schedules for the publication of the National Policy Statement (NPS) on nuclear power, the regulatory Generic Design Assessment process, and Government consultation on the nuclear third party liability regime. The SG agreed to consider a report at its next meeting on how that regime would operate in practice in the event of a large-scale nuclear accident in the UK. This report will also address the review of emergency planning arrangements for nuclear accidents that is being undertaken by the Government.

## **Community Benefits and Radioactive Waste Management**

The 6 July SG meeting also considered a discussion paper about a potential Radioactive Waste Community Benefits Protocol. This is available on the NuLeAF website at [July 11 SG item 5](#).

The purpose of a protocol would be to provide a flexible framework within which local authorities and communities can be engaged in discussion of the community benefits that might be agreed in association with a radioactive waste management facility. The benefits arising from those discussions would be separate and different to those measures that are necessary to make a proposed development acceptable in planning terms. Hence, the short-hand phrase 'beyond S106' benefits is often used.

The SG noted that the recent Government review of waste management policy had stated that with regard to community benefit protocols it "will explore with the waste management industry whether such approaches could be suitable for waste infrastructure". The Government response to consultation on the draft Nuclear NPS also states that it is "giving further consideration to issues raised about the provision of community benefit outside the planning regime".

After discussion, the SG agreed to: support in principle the development of a Radioactive Waste Community Benefits Protocol; liaise with other organisations involved in developing or applying similar protocols; and to delegate authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director to agree future approaches to Government to discuss a potential protocol.

## **Low Level Waste Management**

The July meeting of the SG also considered a wide-ranging report on issues associated with the management of LLW. This is available at [July 11 SG item 6](#).

The issues covered were:

- the Government's review of waste policy in England;
- the Secretary of State's decision to allow the appeal by Augean and grant planning permission to dispose of LLW to the hazardous landfill site at King's Cliffe in Northamptonshire;
- LLW developments in West Cumbria;
- outcome of discussion with LLWR Ltd to develop understanding of the scale, timing and location of LLW arisings; and
- initial consideration of future approaches to community engagement about the development of facilities for LLW management.

The SG noted that the proposal and decision about disposal of LLW to landfill at King's Cliffe appeared to fall far short of the Government's aspirations for cooperation, meeting community needs and localism as expressed in its review of waste policy. This raises the question of how can things be done differently in future, particularly in relation to community engagement about the development of facilities for LLW management. The SG agreed to consider a more detailed report on this issue at a future meeting.

The issue was also discussed in the afternoon discussion with representatives of the Environment Agency (EA). The EA presentation on 'LLW disposal to landfill – recent EA

experiences' will shortly be available on the NuLeAF website. Further discussions will be taking place with the EA to inform preparation of the further report to the SG.

### **NDA Strategy Development and Implementation**

In order to enhance local authority engagement with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Site Licensee Companies (SLCs) on strategy development and implementation, NuLeAF has started organising meetings for representatives from local authorities with Magnox and RSRL sites in England and Wales.

The first two meetings with NDA, Site Licensee Companies and regulators took place as follows:

- 22 June, Birmingham & Midland Institute for local authorities associated with Berkeley, Hinkley Point, Oldbury, Trawsfynydd and Wylfa sites; and
- 27 June, Local Government House for local authorities associated with Bradwell, Dungeness, Sizewell, Harwell and Winfrith sites.

The note of the meetings is available on the NuLeAF website at [Note of Meetings 22 and 27 June](#). Discussions are underway about organising a further meeting/s in early November.

### **Process for Siting a Geological Disposal Facility**

The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership has entered the assessment phase of its work programme and anticipates consulting in the autumn on its draft advice about whether to participate in the siting process. The NuLeAF Executive Director (ED) has been contributing to the assessment work through involvement in the Partnership's Technical Review Group and has made an officer input to the Partnership's assessment meetings. Meeting reports are published on the Partnership website at [West Cumbria MRWS Partnership](#).

The second meeting of the Government's Geological Disposal Implementation Board took place on 28 June. The meeting considered a geological situation report, an update on the work of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership, and a report on NDA and regulatory 'issue resolution processes'. Further information will be available on the DECC website at [Geological Disposal Implementation Board](#).

The Government has also published its first 'Implementing Geological Disposal' annual report. This is available at [Annual Report](#).

### **The Submarine Dismantling Project**

MoD is currently undertaking detailed options analysis and environmental assessment of 'integrated options' for managing the radioactive wastes from laid-up nuclear submarines. These options combine different technical approaches, dismantling sites and generic storage options. MoD plans to conduct public consultation in the autumn. Then, taking Strategic Environmental Assessment, options analysis and public consultation responses into account, MoD will complete its analysis leading to strategic decisions on the project. Key documentation relating to the project is available on the MoD website at: [Submarine Dismantling Project | Background Information](#). This includes documents which explain MoD's approach in the project to decision making and to public and stakeholder engagement.

Potential candidate sites for the removal of radioactive elements ('initial dismantling') of submarines are Devonport and Rosyth Royal Dockyards. The MoD is in discussion with representatives of Plymouth City Council about assessment to date and plans for the local aspects of consultation in around Devonport and neighbouring areas.

### **Dates for the Diary**

8 September	Radioactive Waste Planning Group, London (12.30 – 3.30)
21 October	Steering Group, AGM and Discussion with the Chief Nuclear Inspector about the review of the Fukushima accident, Manchester (11.00 – 3.00)
8 December	Radioactive Waste Planning Group, London (12.30 – 3.30)
25 January	Steering Group, London

### **Contact Points**

All member authorities are asked to ensure that NuLeAF is kept informed of any changes to officer or councillor contacts. It is important that these are kept up-to-date, so that the right people receive e-bulletins, invitations to NuLeAF meetings and other information.

NuLeAF can be contacted via the Secretariat c/o Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, Tel: 01473 264833 e-mail: [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk).