

Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum - NuLeAF

**Local Government Association (LGA) ‘Special Interest Group’ (SIG) on
Radioactive Waste Management and Nuclear Decommissioning**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The *Radioactive Waste Management and Nuclear Decommissioning SIG*, established by agreement of the LGA political group leaders at their meeting on 26 November 2003, has been operating for almost two and a half years now – there have been many significant changes within the nuclear agenda in that time. See Annex B for NuLeAF’s Terms of Reference, Aims and Goals.
- 1.2 This report reviews the period since the last Annual Report to the LGA Executive – April 2005 to April 2006.
- 1.3 The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), established on 1 April 2005, took over the funding and direction of the clean-up of those UK civil nuclear sites previously owned by British Nuclear Fuels Limited and the UK Atomic Energy Authority. NuLeAF has closely monitored the development of the NDA, ensuring that the views of Local Authorities have been fed into NDA workshops and consultations.
- 1.4 Central Government is currently engaged, through the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), in a major consultative exercise concerning policy on future solid, radioactive waste management. Again, NuLeAF has become involved in workshops and consultations, ensuring that member Local Authorities are kept abreast of the issues and also providing feedback to CoRWM and DEFRA.
- 1.5 These matters affect local government nationally, have inter-generational impacts and will involve substantial public expenditure. Current estimates show clean-up costs of around £70 billion, with the NDA spending between £1.5 and £2 billion per year.

2. Local Government Support

- 2.1 Currently, NuLeAF has the support of 91 Local Authorities, 3 National Park Authorities and 1 Fire Service – giving a total of 95 bodies (see Annex A). Many of these authorities host nuclear sites, some are neighbouring authorities concerned about local economic, safety and environmental impacts of future legacy management, others are more widely dispersed and affected, for example, by nuclear transportation or historic (and potentially future) nuclear facility siting issues. All have decided to co-operate in the collective community interest on radioactive waste and nuclear legacy issues.

3. Wider Contacts

- 3.1 NuLeAF has established links with both the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA); and continues to develop contacts with Government departments, the NDA, regulatory agencies, nuclear operators and professional bodies in the field, in order to facilitate the exchange of germane information and experience.

4. Steering Group

- 4.1 NuLeAF has an elected Chairman – currently Councillor Geoff Blackwell of Copeland Borough Council - and an elected Vice Chair - currently Councillor Bill Risby of Manchester City Council. The Steering Group is comprised of those NuLeAF member authorities that are ‘contributing’ (paying) – they are eligible to attend NuLeAF meetings, manage NuLeAF business and represent the forum on outside bodies. Conversely, corresponding (non paying) member authorities are kept informed of the Group’s work, are consulted by the Group on issues of national nuclear waste and legacy management that are brought forward from bodies like the NDA and CoRWM (or identified as important by the forum itself) and are invited to participate in NuLeAF seminars. Corresponding member opinion is fairly reflected in submissions and positions adopted by the forum.
- 4.2 Meetings of the Steering Group are held quarterly - venues are chosen to alternate between north and south.
- London – 14 July 2005
 - Manchester – 13 October
 - Newbury – 26 January 2006
 - Irvine, Scotland – 6 April
- 4.3 The meeting on 6 April in Scotland was held at the invitation of North Ayrshire Council, who have actively participated in NuLeAF, pending the establishment of a similar grouping of Scottish Councils under the auspices of CoSLA.
- 4.4 An important strand of the meetings has been the presentations provided by a range of bodies pertinent to current and ongoing nuclear issues;
- Committee Examining the Risks of Radiation from Internal Emitters (CERRIE)
 - Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) - MOD/AWE section
 - Scottish Executive
- 4.5 It seemed apposite that the Scottish Executive gave a presentation on the current Low Level Waste policy consultation at the meeting in Scotland. If the meeting had been held in England or Wales, DEFRA would have been approached to present on the topic.
- 4.6 Future meetings are planned at LGA House, London (22 June 2006) and Kendal, Cumbria (12 October).

5. Funding and Staffing

5.1 In order to provide an effective and efficient Secretariat, NuLeAF has secured funding from a variety of sources, including its own membership, UK Nirex Ltd. and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. It has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with each of the latter organisations, which ensure the independence of the forum's work.

5.2 Executive Director and PA Appointments

During 2005 it was recognised that the work necessary to develop NuLeAF further needed a high level, dedicated postholder, rather than part-time support from the Local Authority officers of the group's Secretariat. Interviews were held in December 2005 resulting in the appointment of Fred Barker, currently a member of the CoRWM committee. Fred has taken up his post on a part-time basis and will become full-time in September 2006. To support his work, a PA has been appointed, who will work from Suffolk County Council offices. Both staff members are employed by Suffolk County Council, a leading NuLeAF member authority.

6. Key Activities

6.1 Response to Consultations

There is a constant stream of Government and Regulatory Agency consultations on different aspects of UK nuclear legacy management policy and practice. Consistent with its aim to provide a forum, through which to seek to establish a common local government view, NuLeAF has made (or is in the process of making) considered responses to the following national consultations;

- Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Proposals for the redrafted Guidance on the Implementation of the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations 1999 (EIADR99)
- Clearance and Exemption Principles, Processes and Practices for use by Nuclear Industry
- Public and Stakeholder Engagement – Phase 2 (CoRWM)
- 2nd draft Strategy – Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- HSE Consultation on Criteria for Delicensing Nuclear Sites
- Trade & Industry Select Committee review of Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
- DTI - Draft Nuclear Industries Security (Amendment) Regulations 1999
- DEFRA - Low Level Waste Management Policy

Concerning the DTI's Energy Review consultation, NuLeAF have also fed member views on radioactive waste implications of a Government commitment to new nuclear build into the LGA's response.

6.2 Participation and Monitoring

In order to act as an interface between the communities represented by local authorities and the Government or regulatory bodies, NuLeAF attends or monitors various meetings and projects. For example;

- CoRWM plenary meetings that are held in public around the UK
- the CoRWM National Stakeholder Forum
- the CIRIA project on sustainable practices for the use of resources from site decommissioning – SD: SPUR
- the CIRIA project considering issues relating to the management and rehabilitation of nuclear contaminated sites – SAFEGROUNDS
- the NDA National Stakeholder Group and its working groups on Waste Issues and on Materials
- the NDA Prioritisation Working Group

6.3 In order to exchange best practice and lessons learned, NuLeAF is also represented at several of the European nuclear community forums, such as CARL (**C**itizen-stakeholders, **A**gencies for radioactive waste management, **R**esearchers, **L**icensing and regulating authorities) and COWAM (**C**ommunity **W**aste **M**anagement).

6.4 Report Commissioning

In September 2005, it was agreed by the NuLeAF membership that there was an information gap that required consultancy support to research worldwide experience on implementing policy on the long-term management of radioactive wastes and to identify the implications for the UK. The aim of the study was to assist NuLeAF in developing a common Local Government view of the key features of a future process for implementing the long-term management of the UK's Low, Intermediate and High Level radioactive waste. In addition, NuLeAF aimed to assist Government in developing a legitimate process for resolving community acceptance issues. Therefore, a multi-stage study was commissioned, working with an active Steering Group drawn from NuLeAF membership.

6.5 To date, the draft study has been presented to the Government's Inter-departmental Planning Group (with responsibility for providing advice to Ministers on CoRWM's recommendations and the implementation of resultant policy) and to the MoD's Interim Storage Of Laid Up Submarines (ISOLUS) Steering Group (with responsibility for informing the development of policy on the interim and long-term management of decommissioned nuclear submarines).

6.6 The draft study and responses to it from member authorities are being used to develop NuLeAF policy on the implementation of policy on long-term radioactive waste management. A draft outline statement has been endorsed by the NuLeAF Steering Group and is being circulated to member authorities for comment. Following review of comments, the statement will be finalised and forwarded to the LGA for consideration and adoption.

7. Summary

- 7.1 NuLeAF is seeking to engage with, influence and assist central Government and the NDA in the complex radioactive waste and nuclear legacy management tasks that lie ahead. To have legitimacy and to speak with authority, NuLeAF has established a capacity to consult widely within local government and carry the outcome of its internal consultation into the arena of national policy development.
- 7.2 In order to aid this work and be proactive rather than reactive, the newly appointed Executive Director will participate at a high-level with central Government, its Departments/Agencies and with the NDA. As part of his role, the Executive Director will co-ordinate projects and studies, assist and advise member authorities, raise the profile of NuLeAF and expand its revenue base.

If any further clarification is required or expansion on any points raised in the report, please contact a member of the NuLeAF Secretariat.

Stewart Kemp
Room 6005
Town Hall
Manchester
M60 3NY
0161 234 4438
0161 234 3379 (fax)
s.kemp@manchester.gov.uk

Sue Crisp
County Offices
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4RQ
01539 773409
01539 773439
susan.crisp@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Sue Crisp
NuLeAF Secretariat
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Local Government Association for England & Wales

Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum

**(Special Interest Group on Radioactive Waste Management
& Nuclear Decommissioning)**

Support @ 1 January 2006

Allerdale District Council	Flintshire County Council
Ashford District Council	Forest of Dean District Council
Barrow Borough Council	Forest Heath District Council
Bedfordshire County Council	Fylde District Council
Blackpool Borough Council	Gosport Borough Council
Braintree Borough Council	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Breckland Council	Greater London Authority
Broadland Council	Gwynedd County Council
Bromsgrove District Council	Hackney London Borough Council
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	Halton Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council	Hampshire County Council
Caradon District Council	Harlow Council
Carlisle City Council	Harrogate Borough Council
Chester City Council	Harrow London Borough Council
Chesterfield Borough Council	Hartlepool Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council	Hyndburn Borough Council
Cumbria County Council	Kent County Council
Dacorum District Council	Kerrier District Council
Denbighshire County Council	Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council
Dorset County Council	Lake District National Park Authority
Durham City Council	Lancashire County Council
Durham County Council	Lancaster City Council
Eden District Council	Leeds City Council
Essex County Council	Lewes District Council

Maldon District Council	Shepway District Council
Manchester City Council	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Melton Borough Council	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	Somerset County Council
Newham London Borough Council	Southampton City Council
Norfolk County Council	South Norfolk District Council
Northumberland County Council	Spelthorne Borough Council
North Norfolk District Council	Staffordshire County Council
North York Moors National Park Authority	Suffolk County Council
Norwich City Council	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Nottinghamshire County Council	Taunton Deane Borough Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Tendring District Council
Oxfordshire County Council	Tower Hamlets London Borough Council
Pembrokeshire County Council	Tunbridge Wells District Council
Penwith District Council	Vale of the White Horse District Council
Plymouth City Council	Wansbeck District Council
Preston City Council	Waveney District Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	West Berkshire District Council
Rutland County Council	West Lancashire District Council
Scarborough District Council	West Lindsey District Council
Sedgefield Borough Council	Ynys Mon County Council

Scottish Associates

Argyll & Bute Council
 East Lothian Council
 North Ayrshire Council
 Shetland Islands Council

Fire Services

Dorset Fire Service

Total = 95 (91 Local Authorities; 3 National Park Authorities; 1 Fire Service)

Liaison

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) represented by Fife Council

Terms of Reference and Aims

The **goals** of NuLeAF are to;

- provide a mechanism to identify a common, local government viewpoint on nuclear clean-up issues
- act as an interface with Government and regulatory bodies as they consult on waste management and clean-up policy and practice
- influence government policy in the interests of the communities affected.

The current **Terms of Reference** are;

Bearing in mind the renewed emphasis on stronger local government and the recognition by Government of each authority's role as leader of its community, the LGA SIG on radioactive waste management and decommissioning issues will:

- *seek to ensure that all nuclear waste management and nuclear decommissioning activities operate to the highest safety, security and environmental standards by contributing to best practice in the development of a policy framework for radioactive waste management and NDA strategy and implementation*
- *provide a forum through which to seek to establish a common local government view about*
 - (i) the Government's radioactive waste management policy development process*
 - (ii) policies to monitor, inform and influence the formation, strategy and operation of the NDA, and*
 - (iii) other nuclear issues*
- *seek to promote such agreed views by engaging with Government, the NDA and other agencies about legacy issues in the short and long term*
- *provide advice and support to local authorities that request it, and*
- *having regard to the foregoing, hold meetings as appropriate, seek appropriate local government representation on relevant bodies, provide for the briefing of LGA members on the issues concerned, publicise the issues within the local government community, and seek a mechanism that will ensure appropriate community representation in all relevant decision making.*

The current **Aims** are;

- *to seek to ensure that all nuclear, waste management and decommissioning activities operate to the highest safety, security and environmental standards*
- *to raise the profile of debate within local government on any issue with very significant implications for any area affected by future proposed radioactive waste development*
- *to increase and aid 'capacity building' within local government and enable informed responses to Government and the NDA from a broader based local government grouping*
- *to be an interface with government and the NDA on future strategic radioactive waste policy, decommissioning and liabilities management issues*

- *to confer greater democratic legitimacy on Government and NDA engagement processes in the decommissioning and legacy management sphere*
- *to add weight and credibility to the current local government input into the radioactive waste, decommissioning and liabilities engagement processes now in hand*
- *to effectively utilise the democratic legitimacy of local government and increase influence over policy and strategy proposals that will be critical to national progress on nuclear industry legacy issues*
- *to provide representatives on Government and NDA consultative, stakeholder and advisory bodies reporting back to local government through the SIG mechanism*
- *to lever resources, in addition to those conferred through the establishment of a SIG*, to enable 'capacity building' within local government so that Government policy can develop with broad based democratic consent*

(*Note: Resources 'conferred through the establishment of a SIG' are room use free of charge at LGA House)