

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 22 June 2006
Agenda Item:	14
Subject:	Magnox Electric Presentation on Assessing Options for Managing LLW and ILW
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Purpose:	To provide background to Magnox Electric's presentation

1 Introduction

This report provides a brief introduction to Magnox Electric's work on assessing options for managing LLW and ILW. It draws attention to two workshops on ILW management being organised by Magnox Electric in October, at which NuLeAF participation is being sought.

2 LLW Options Assessment

In anticipation of possible future policy change on LLW management, Magnox Electric has embarked on a project to determine what may be the most appropriate means of managing and disposing of decommissioning LLW, which is the solid waste that arises from the dismantling of buildings, plant and equipment. The project is focusing on the LLW at the lower activity end of the range of wastes covered by the term.

The options being considered are:

- disposal on existing Magnox sites
- near-surface disposal at a site-specific facility near to site
- near-surface disposal in a national or regional facility appropriate for LLW
- near-surface disposal in a national facility designed to accept wastes suitable for the repository near Drigg

Site-specific workshops have taken place at Bradwell, Dungeness, Hinkley Point and Sizewell to weight the criteria that will be used in assessing the options. These workshops have been attended by officers from NuLeAF member authorities in the areas concerned.

As reported in item 7, the NDA expects site operators to submit proposals for LLW management before the end of the year. The NDA anticipates that consultation on these proposals will be undertaken in the New Year.

3 ILW Options Assessment

Magnox Electric has also initiated a project to identify the preferred approach to managing ILW that arises during the operation of Magnox stations, which are currently stored in tanks and vaults on site. The project is focusing on

four waste types: fuel element debris, miscellaneous metals, sludges and ion exchange materials.

The assessment will consider treatment and deployment options for each waste type.

Magnox Electric is using telephone conferencing to engage with national stakeholders, including the NDA, Nirex, the regulators and NuLeAF. So far consideration has been given to the overall option assessment process, screening and assessment criteria, and data requirements. The Executive Director has been participating in these telephone conferences on behalf of NuLeAF.

Magnox Electric is holding two sets of two-day workshops (October 16-19) to establish the weighting to be applied to each assessment criteria. The company has indicated that it would welcome NuLeAF participation in the workshops.

Following the presentation by Magnox Electric, the Steering Group should consider what approach it wishes to take to involvement in the workshops. Options include:

- identifying a small number of SG members that wish to participate in a workshop;
- contacting member authorities around Magnox sites to ask for nominees to attend a workshop.