

<b>Meeting:</b>	NuLeAF Steering Group, 12 October 2006
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	11
<b>Subject:</b>	Involvement in European Initiatives
<b>Author:</b>	Fred Barker
<b>Purpose:</b>	To report on developments in COWAM, CARL and EUROCLI projects

## **Introduction**

NuLeAF is involved in two major collaborative research projects – COWAM and CARL. It has also been invited to participate in an initiative called EUROCLI. This report outlines recent developments.

## **Recommendations**

That the Steering Group:

- 1 delegate authority to the Executive Director to represent NuLeAF at the meetings of the UK group of stakeholders in COWAM 3; and
- 2 confirm the signing of the EUROCLI ‘statement of commitment’.

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## **COWAM**

COWAM stands for Community Waste Management and involves projects within the European Research Frameworks of the European Commission.

### *COWAM 2 (2003-2006)*

As reported to the last meeting of the Steering Group, COWAM 2 will finish in 2006 with the issue of practical guidance addressing:

- the role of local democracy and participatory assessment methods
- the influence of local actors on national decision-making processes
- arrangements for the long term governance of radioactive waste management
- the quality of decision-making processes.

Drafts of parts of the guidance have been made available and are being reviewed by the Executive Director (ED) for relevance to NuLeAF’s work.

### *COWAM 3 (2007-2009)*

This project – known as COWAM in Practice (CIP) – will focus on five countries: France, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and the UK. The aim is to support participants in their development of new governance arrangements for radioactive waste management.

In each participating country a national group of stakeholders will assess, from a local perspective, the governance approaches developed in their country. This group will be supported by a National Facilitator whose role is to organise the national work programme and prepare a case study. An international expert group (the Methodological Task Force, MTF) will give further support by providing research to each national group on issues the national group consider most relevant to analyse its experience. In the second part of the project, the MTF will analyse the case studies and develop guidelines for others to use.

Following discussions with Westlakes Scientific Consulting (WSC) – the UK National Facilitator – it is anticipated that NuLeAF's role in the project will consist of:

- a) provision of a Chair for 5 meetings of the UK national group of stakeholders; and
- b) in that capacity, attendance at three European meetings of the project Steering Group (SG).

It is understood that travel and subsistence costs will be met from the Project budget.

On the basis of the CIP Description of Work, it is anticipated that national meetings will be held in July 07, Jan 08, Aug/Sep 08, Jan 09 and July 09. It is anticipated that the European SG will meet in Feb 07, June 08 and Oct 09.

Once final budget confirmation has been obtained, WSC will convene a preliminary meeting to discuss arrangements for CIP with UK stakeholders. Prior to the first formal meeting of the national group of stakeholders, participants will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding about involvement in the project.

It is proposed that the Steering Group delegate authority to the Executive Director to represent NuLeAF at the meetings of the UK group of stakeholders.

## **2 CARL**

CARL is a social sciences research project into the effect of stakeholder involvement in decision-making on radioactive waste management. UK participants come from NuLeAF, Nirex, the University of East Anglia and the regulators. A Steering Committee meets twice a year. NuLeAF is represented on the SC by Councillor Tim Knowles from Cumbria County Council.

The annual CARL workshop is being held in Troon, Scotland on the 29 and 30 November 2006. It is anticipated that there will be up to 15 participants from NuLeAF and COSLA. The workshop will discuss the findings from the project's research on the sorts of questions above.

The CARL project is scheduled come to an end in September 2007, with a final workshop in Sweden.

### **3 EUROCLI**

An initiative is underway to form a European Association of nuclear site stakeholder groups and local liaison committees ('EUROCLI'). The initiative is supported by the French National Association of Local Commissions (ANCLI) and the Spanish equivalent (AMAC).

The purpose would be to:

- Promote a greater consideration of participatory democracy in the governance of nuclear activities;
- To voice at European level questions, concerns and comments of Site Stakeholder Groups and Local Committees
- To demonstrate the capacity of these groups to increase the quality of decision-making processes
- To disseminate good practices and enhance the exchange of experiences in the EU.

Following the decisions of the last meeting of the Steering Group, the ED has informed the organisers that NuLeAF cannot provide the lead UK input into the project because:

- It does not represent the views of Site Stakeholder Groups.
- NuLeAF's interest in nuclear issues is focussed on legacy management and does not extend to whether new nuclear power stations should be built (which will be addressed within the EUROCLI initiative).
- In addition to representing local authorities with nuclear sites in their area, NuLeAF represents a wider local government constituency.

The ED has subsequently met with organisers of the project (from Mutadis and ANCLI) during their recent visit to Cumbria. The organisers have confirmed that arrangements for UK input into EUROCLI will be flexible enough to accommodate associate membership on the part of NuLeAF and appropriate inputs from UK SSGs and the NDA.

A preliminary meeting of potential participants in EUROCLI is being held on 4 October in Dunkirk, immediately prior to the conference on 'Sustainable Development of Territories and Risk Governance'. A 'statement of commitment' will be discussed at the meeting, which is being attended by the ED. An early draft of the statement has been seen by the Chair, who has authorised the ED to sign the statement on NuLeAF's behalf.

The ED is also making a presentation to one of the workshops at the Conference on the theme of 'Building Strategies for Change at the National and European Level: a Necessity for Local and Regional Actors'.

A verbal report from the meeting and conference will be provided at the Steering Group meeting. A copy of the 'statement of commitment' will be circulated at the meeting.