

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 11 December 2006
Agenda Item:	4
Subject:	Implementation: NuLeAF's Forward Programme
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To propose NuLeAF initiatives on the next steps in the MRWS programme

Introduction

This report proposes the following initiatives:

1. Update to June Policy Statement
2. Input to Government and programme of Briefing Papers
3. Programme of meetings
4. LGA Conference
5. Response to CoRWM Implementation Report
6. Information to member authorities

Recommendations

That the Steering Group:

- 1 Consider a revised draft policy statement at its meeting on 25 January 07.
- 2 Endorse the proposed approach to liaison with Government, including preparation of a series of four briefing papers.
- 3 Agree that meetings be sought with the NDA, EA and CoRWM in the period Feb-April 07.
- 4 Endorse the proposed LGA conference and delegate authority to the Executive Director to agree an appropriate format with the LGA.
- 5 Agree that a draft set of comments on CoRWM's Implementation Report be prepared for consideration at its meeting on 25 January 07.
- 6 Agree that further issues of the e-bulletin be circulated to member authorities as appropriate.

1 Update to June Policy Statement

NuLeAF's preliminary position on implementation issues was set out in the statement agreed at the June Steering Group meeting ('Implementing Policy on the Long-Term Management of Radioactive Wastes', Policy Statement 1, June 2006).

As a result of discussion under item 3, there will be a need to update and develop this statement.

It is proposed that a draft revised statement be prepared for endorsement at the Steering Group meeting on 25 January 07.

2 Input to Government and Programme of Briefing Papers

The following input to Government was proposed in the Executive Director's letter to DEFRA of 17 November:

We very much welcome the offer of continued liaison meetings that will enable NuLeAF to contribute to the development of the implementation framework and address issues of concern.

We would like to suggest that liaison meetings take place on a monthly basis in the period Dec-April, with a two part agenda. The first part could enable a review of progress, for example, on developing the draft implementation framework and outline repository plan, on absorption of Nirex into the NDA, and on arrangements for wider stakeholder engagement. The second part of the agenda could enable us to present and discuss NuLeAF inputs on a topic-by-topic basis.

In terms of topics for the second part of the agendas, our preliminary suggestions are:

- January: proposals for siting partnerships
- February: proposals for initial steps in the siting process (screening and invites)
- March: proposals for participation and benefits packages
- April: rights of withdrawal and integration with the planning process.

Our intention would be to make a presentation on each issue, thereby providing a basis for discussion. Each presentation would be accompanied by a discussion paper that would (a) seek to cover the range of issues that you have indicated require further discussion and (b) incorporate views canvassed from NuLeAF member authorities.

We think there would be value in inviting the NDA to participate in these liaison meetings.

We hope that this proposal provides the basis for continued liaison and look forward to agreeing appropriate arrangements.

The purpose of each briefing paper would be to set out NuLeAF's expectations of what will be included in the implementation framework and to address questions that DEFRA may request be considered.

Each briefing paper will take into account:

- existing NuLeAF work (including the Enviro research report)

- discussion at the Steering Group
- material available from CoRWM, Nirex and others
- discussion with specialists and
- comments on drafts from members of the Steering Group and from member authority contacts that attended the regional seminars.

In the main, it is expected that the briefings will be prepared 'in house'. Where additional assistance may be required, it is proposed that the Steering Group delegate authority to the Executive Director to commission contributions as appropriate.

It is proposed that the Steering Group endorse this approach.

3 Programme of Meetings

In addition to liaison meetings with Government, it is proposed that meetings with the following organisations be arranged:

- The NDA: to discuss NDA thinking on: (a) how functions relating to the long-term management of wastes will be ring-fenced; (b) how it will develop the capacity to work in partnership with local communities; (c) the appropriateness of its current contractor model for repository development; and (d) the draft outline repository development plan (including R&D to reduce long-term safety uncertainties).
- The Environment Agency: to discuss EA thinking on: (a) when and how it should become involved in the siting process; (b) the R&D needed to reduce uncertainties in the long-term safety of geological disposal: and (c) how to develop stakeholder confidence in emerging repository safety cases as site investigations and repository construction proceeds.
- CoRWM: to discuss CoRWM thinking on: (a) the definition of local communities; (b) the ratification of partnership recommendations by local authorities; (c) its input to Government on the draft implementation framework; and (d) the draft outline repository development plan.

It is proposed that dates be sought in the period February-April, and that Steering Group members be invited to attend.

4 LGA Conference

The suggestion was made at the regional seminar in London that a high profile event be organised for senior politicians and management from local government.

This proposal has been discussed with the LGA who are willing to organise a conference in early September, which should fall within the consultation period for the draft implementation framework and outline repository plan. The LGA will handle the logistics of the event, with NuLeAF inputting with programme suggestions.

It is suggested that the conference programme include:

- 1 Overview of the Government's Approach – Key Note presentation (invite the Secretary of State)
- 2 The Draft Implementation Framework – DEFRA
- 3 The Outline Repository Development Plan – NDA
- 4 The Role of the Regulator in Repository Siting – EA
- 5 The Role of the Independent Advisory Committee – CoRWM2
- 6 The Local Government Response – NuLeAF

It is proposed that the broad shape of the programme be endorsed by the Steering Group and that authority to be delegated to the Executive Director to agree an appropriate format with the LGA.

5 Response to CoRWM Implementation Report

The Government has invited comments on the CoRWM Implementation Report by 31 January.

Discussion of key issues under item 3 will have indicated areas of agreement and, potentially, a small number of areas of disagreement, with CoRWM's proposed approach.

It is proposed that a draft set of comments be prepared for consideration at the Steering Group meeting on 25 January.

6 Information to Member Authorities

It will be important to keep member authorities informed of developments as they unfold over the coming months.

It is proposed that this be done by circulating further issues of the e-bulletin following Steering Group meetings and, if required, following the preparation of briefing papers and other meetings (NDA, EA and CoRWM).