

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 18 October 2007
Agenda Item:	7
Subject:	NDA-Related Developments
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To provide an update on NDA-related developments

Introduction

This report provides an update about the following NDA-related developments:

- review of ILW storage
- review of site end states
- review of local engagement arrangements
- consultation on the draft Business Plan and Strategy
- attendance at the National Stakeholder Group.

Recommendations

That the Steering Group agrees:

- 1 to canvass the views of member authorities on the draft Business Plan and to authorise the Executive Director to prepare a response in the light of those views;
- 2 to nominate the Chair and Executive Director as NuLeAF's representatives to the National Stakeholder Group (and to ask the secretariat to ensure that nominees of the Chair and Executive Director attend if either of them are unable).

1 Review of ILW Storage

The Government's MRWS consultation document states that the NDA is reviewing the adequacy of its planned storage programme to ensure that it can provide sufficient safe and secure interim storage throughout the geological repository development programme. The results of the review will be incorporated in the next NDA strategy, which is to be subject to consultation next year.

The Executive Director (ED) met with the NDA's ILW Strategy Manager on 18 August to receive an update on progress. The main points are:

- A questionnaire approach is being used to undertake the review (with questions about the current status of storage facilities, the volume of stores, lifetimes of stores, scope for refurbishment etc). This should be completed by March 08.
- The potential for storage 'optimisation' is now focussing on the need to integrate treatment and storage strategies, with emphasis on volume reduction. The scope for 'optimisation' is affected by delays in the store development programme. It is likely that stores will be completed at Berkeley, Hinkley, Hunterston and Trawsfynydd, but there is uncertainty about other sites.
- In theory, there could be a range of ILW transfers between sites for interim storage, but studies are on-going in light of the emphasis on volume reductions. The ED stressed the importance of early discussions with potentially affected authorities.

A further meeting with the ILW Strategy Manager is being held on 16 November.

2 Review of Site End States (SES)

The ED attended two of the NDA's 'reconciliation' workshops:

18 June: Covering Capenhurst, Springfields, Harwell and Winfrith
26 June: Covering Magnox stations in England and Wales

These workshops sought to identify and reconcile any differences between the existing NDA assumed SES and the Site Stakeholder Group recommended SES. No major differences were identified for the above sites, subject to the need for clarification about a number of points including, in some cases, whether SSG recommendations were intended to preclude the on-site disposal of LLW. The NDA intends to include revised end states for each site in its draft strategy that will be consulted upon next year.

Once information has been received from the NDA about how it intends to proceed in the light of SSG and site feedback, a Briefing Paper for member authorities will be finalised and circulated. This will highlight the main outcomes of the SES review, lessons learnt and issues to take into account in future discussions about legacy management at NDA sites.

3 NDA Review of Stakeholder Engagement Arrangements

At its meeting in June, the SG received a presentation about the review of local engagement arrangements being undertaken by the NDA stakeholder engagement Convenor. Following the meeting the Convenor's questionnaire about local arrangements was circulated to member authorities with NDA sites for comment. The closing date for responses was 28 September.

It is understood that the responses are currently being analysed with a view to reporting preliminary findings and proposals at the next meeting of the National Stakeholder Group (22-23 Nov). Preliminary proposals about improvements to local engagement arrangements will also be presented and discussed at the NuLeAF regional seminars on 26 and 29 November and 4 December.

4 Consultation on the NDA's Draft Business Plan and Strategy

Instead of producing Annual Plans, the NDA is switching to a three-year business planning cycle. This will start with consultation on a draft Business Plan in November 07.

It is recommended that the views of member authorities on the draft plan be canvassed, and that the ED be authorised to prepare a response in the light of those views.

The NDA is also preparing to review its national strategy. This is likely to involve a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the Spring of next year, leading to consultation on a draft strategy in the autumn.

5 Attendance at the National Stakeholder Group

One of the ways in which NDA engages with stakeholders is through its National Stakeholder Group (NSG), which meets twice a year for two days. The NSG provides opportunity to hear updates and discuss key NDA activities.

The next meeting of the NSG is on 22 and 23 November in Newcastle. The agenda is likely to include items on plans for the national strategy review and key issues from the updated Engagement Plan.

NuLeAF has two places at the NSG that have previously been allocated to the Chair and Executive Director. It is suggested that the Steering Group confirm this allocation, and ask the secretariat to ensure that nominees of the Chair and Executive Director register if either of them are unable to attend future NSG meetings.

The output from the National Stakeholder Group meeting in late November can be considered in the report on NDA activities at the January meeting of the Steering Group.