

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

Minutes of the Steering Group held on Tuesday 29 January 2008 Endeavour House, Ipswich

Present:

Cllr Allan Holliday, Copeland Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr Julian Swainson, Suffolk County Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Eddy Alcock, Suffolk County Council
Cllr Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr Mike Davidson, Allerdale Borough Council
Fred Barker, Executive Director, NuLeAF
Christine del Corral, PA, NuLeAF
Adrian Hurst, Hartlepool Borough Council
Stewart Kemp, Cumbria County Council
Peter Moorcroft, Lancashire County Council
Kerry Rickards, Sedgemoor District Council
Bob Chamberlain, Suffolk Coastal District Council
Clive Pink, Suffolk Coastal District Council
David Palk, Suffolk County Council
John Pitchford, Suffolk County Council
Mark Woodger, Essex County Council
Liz Shier, Kent County Council
Keith Cane, Shepway District Council
Deborah Sacks, East of England Regional Assembly
David Botwright, Suffolk County Council (for afternoon presentation only)

		ACTION
1	WELCOME	
1.1	Councillor Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Sue Brett, Cumbria County Council; David Davies, Copeland Borough Council; Cllr Geoff Lilley, Hartlepool Borough Council; Peter Day, Oxfordshire County Council; Robin Carton, Plymouth City Council; Mel Fleming, Suffolk County Council; Steve Giblin, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council; Charles Holmes, Allerdale Borough Council; Cllr Tony Markley, Cumbria County Council; Cllr Roy Oldham, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council; Cllr Bill Risby, Manchester City Council; Cllr Bernard Whittle, Lancashire County Council; Sharon Thompson, Kent County Council; Cllr Glyn Jarvis, Newport City Council; Barry James, Somerset County Council; Bruce Braithwaite, Staffordshire County Council; Mike Topliss, Waveney District Council	
2	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS	
2.1	The minutes from meeting held on 18 October 2007 were approved as a true record of the meeting.	

3	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	<p>FB provided an update on the actions arising from item 7, 'NDA-related Developments':</p> <p>(2) A meeting with Ministers had not been sought in the light of Ian Roxburgh's comments to the National Stakeholder Group (NSG) and the opportunity to comment on the draft Business Plan.</p> <p>(3) British Energy stores are included in the NDA storage review.</p> <p>(4) The request was made to the NDA for increasing representation from local authorities at the NSG. NDA responded that they would consider this following the review of local stakeholder engagement arrangements. This is also dealt with under item 8 below.</p>	
4	MRWS – UPDATE AND FUTURE WORK	
4.1	<p>FB presented the report which provided an overview of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - publication of the responses to consultation on the implementation framework - launch of the siting process and information provision - the steps leading to a decision about whether to participate in the siting process - local engagement to inform a decision about participation - formation of siting partnerships - public and stakeholder engagement during the siting process - the process for assessing potential sites - R&D and safety case development - development of regulatory guidance - benefits packages and - rights of withdrawal 	
4.2	<p>During discussion, MD sought clarification about NuLeAF policy on the retrievability of wastes. FB explained that this was that decisions on repository design (and the extent to which it allows retrievability) should be taken during the siting process in discussion with host communities.</p>	
4.3	<p>Following discussion it was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Executive Director should enter into discussion with the LGA with a view to issue of a joint press statement and publication of an article in Local Government First to coincide with the launch of the White Paper; 2. The availability of the note 'Designing a Local Engagement Plan' should be drawn to the attention of Member Authorities through the next issue of the e-bulletin; 3. nominations be sought for attendance at the 4 March regulator 	<p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>CdC</p>

	<p>workshop on review of the scientific and technical programme on repository development;</p> <p>4. the ED be authorised to respond to the forthcoming consultation on regulatory guidance on the disposal of radioactive wastes and report to the next SG meeting; and</p> <p>5. the next meeting of the SG consider a report on repository designs and retrievability.</p>	<p>FB</p> <p>FB</p>
5	MANAGEMENT OF LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE	
5.1	<p>FB introduced the report, which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An update about the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) near Drigg - Arrangements for overseeing the development of NDA LLW strategy - Discussion about LLW management and community benefits - A proposal to produce a Briefing Paper for local authority planning officers - Development of strategy for managing non-nuclear industry LLW 	
5.2	<p>The following points were made during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The successful outcome of negotiations to establish a LLWR community benefits fund demonstrated the importance of joint working between tiers of local authorities. - The implications for other proposed LLW disposal facilities need to be carefully assessed. Soundings should be taken from the NDA. - Care needed to be taken that the scope and justification for S106 agreements were robust. 	
5.3	<p>Following discussion it was agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to consider a full report on LLW management and community benefits at the next SG meeting, taking into account discussion at the LLW Officer Working Group and soundings from the NDA; 2. that the ED should represent NuLeAF on the NDA LLW Strategy Group and report back to meetings of the Officer Working Group and to the Steering Group; 3. that a Briefing Paper on policy and strategy for managing radioactive wastes should be produced for local authority planners to inform preparation of Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks. 	<p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p>
6	NDA-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS	

6.1	<p>FB introduced the report, covering topics in the NDA Engagement Plan and discussion at the NSG in November 07. The latter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business plan - Strategy Review - 'Value framework' - Integrated waste strategy - Asset strategy - Skills strategy 	
6.2	<p>Following discussion, the Steering Group agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to welcome publication of the NDA Engagement Plan, topic-based briefing papers to the NSG and the report of the November NSG meeting; 2 to request that the NDA continue to develop the Engagement Programme and associated plans, ensuring that they are kept up-to-date and that stakeholders are alerted to any significant changes; 3 to authorise the ED to participate in the early stages of the Strategic Environment Assessment that will inform the NDA Strategy review; 4 to consider a report at its next meeting on key developments, including preparations for the Strategy review, development of the value framework, publication of papers for comment on aspects of waste strategy, the outcome of the study on high level waste and spent fuel disposal, publication of the draft repository Lifetime Plan, and the outcome of the waste stores review; and 5 brief member authorities on developments in the next issue of the e-bulletin. 	<p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p>
7	NDA: COMMENTS ON DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN	
7.1	<p>FB outlined the proposed comments on the draft Business Plan. The proposed comments covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDA funding arrangements - Process for prioritisation of funding - Strategic challenges and the Strategy review - MRWS implementation - Demonstration decommissioning of a Magnox station - Magnox reprocessing - Socio-economic support and development 	
7.2	<p>Points made in discussion included that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The loss of stakeholder confidence from a stop-start approach to liability management should be highlighted as a matter of concern. - The case for demonstration decommissioning of a Magnox station is not clear cut. Wording in the comments should 	

	reflect this.	
7.3	Subject to the comments above, the SG approved the proposed comments for submission to the NDA.	FB
8	NDA: LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	
8.1	<p>FB presented the report on the review being conducted by the NDA of its local arrangements for engagement. The report covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the review; • Preliminary findings and next steps; • The aims and objectives of engagement with local stakeholders; • A proposal that local engagement programmes be developed for each NDA site; • The importance of engaging with local authorities; • Ways of improving engagement with local authorities; and • The implications for national engagement arrangements. 	
8.2	The SG discussed the pros and cons of having separate Site Stakeholder Groups for multi-station sites. It was thought necessary to take a 'horses for courses' approach, ensuring that adequate time was allocated to discussion of issues arising about each station.	
8.3	<p>Following discussion, and subject to the point above, it was agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To submit these proposals to the NDA for consideration in its review; and 2. To publish the proposals as a Briefing Paper for member authorities. 	FB FB
9	FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER	
9.1	FB introduced the report which summarised the statements in the recent 'Future of Nuclear Power' White Paper of relevance to NuLeAF's remit on radioactive waste management and decommissioning.	
9.2	During discussion the point was made that there was a need for a forum for authorities that might host a new nuclear power station, so that issues of mutual interest and concern could be discussed. It was recognised that NuLeAF is not the appropriate vehicle for such discussions. It was noted that it may be possible for an individual member authority to take the lead in convening such a group.	
9.3	<p>Following discussion, it was agreed that the Steering Group should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to monitor developments relating to new build, with a view to seeking to ensure that associated plans for radioactive waste management and decommissioning do not prejudice effective management of the nuclear legacy; and 	FB

	2. Consider a report at its next meeting on the consultation on waste and decommissioning funding provisions guidance	FB
10	PROGRESS REPORT	
10.1	<p>FB outlined progress, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisational developments - International projects; and - ISOLUS 	
10.2	It was noted that the level of contingency against the possibility of having to meet a redundancy payment to the ED was £10,000. This would be considered in the context of a full financial report to the next meeting of the SG.	CdC
11	FUTURE MEETINGS	
	<p>30 April 08 SG meeting (Kendal)</p> <p>7 July 08 SG meeting (LG House, London)</p>	CdC
12.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting of the Steering Group at 13.05 hrs.	
13	PRESENTATION BY BRITISH ENERGY	
13.1	Following lunch presentations were given by Tony Free, Environment and Nuclear Liabilities Manager (British Energy) on Radioactive Waste Management, Decommissioning and Clean-up at British Energy sites, and David Norfolk from BE's Strategy Branch on New Build and Radioactive Waste. Following discussion, the Chair thanked Tony and David for their presentations and to all for attending, and closed the meeting at 15.22 hrs.	