

DRAFT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

**Minutes of the Steering Group held on Wednesday 30 April 2008
County Offices, Kendal**

Present:

Cllr Allan Holliday	Copeland Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr Julian Swainson	Suffolk County Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council
Cllr Tim Knowles	Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council
Cllr Tony Markley	Cumbria County Council
Cllr Geoff Lilley	Hartlepool Borough Council
Fred Barker	NuLeAF
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Christine del Corral	NuLeAF
David Davies	Copeland Borough Council
Fergus McMorro	Copeland Borough Council
Sue Brett	Cumbria County Council
Stewart Kemp	Cumbria County Council
Adrian Hurst	Hartlepool Borough Council
Peter Mayes	Lancashire County Council
Phil Greenup	South Lakeland District Council
Mark Woodger	Essex County Council

For the pm session:

Shaun Gorman	Cumbria County Council
Dr Mark Dutton	CoRWM
Prof Fergus Gibb	CoRWM
Les Netherton	CoRWM
Phil Richardson	Galson Sciences Ltd and COWAM in Practice project

		ACTION
1	WELCOME	
1.1	Councillor Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed Catherine Draper to NuLeAF, and expressed his thanks to the outgoing PA, Christine del Corral. Fred Barker added his thanks to Christine for her substantive contribution to NuLeAF.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Charles Holmes, Allerdale Borough Council; Cllr Jonathan Glen, Hampshire County Council; Cllr John Cavanagh, Lancashire County Council; Cllr Bernard Whittle, Lancashire County Council; Keith Cane, Shepway District Council; Gerald Hudd, Somerset County	

	Council; Barry James, Somerset County Council; Clive Pink, Suffolk Coastal District Council; Cllr Eddy Alcock, Suffolk County Council; David Palk, Suffolk County Council; John Pitchford, Suffolk County Council; Cllr Roy Oldham, Tameside, Metropolitan Borough Council; Steve Giblin, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council; Cllr Adam Paynter, Cornwall County Council; Tim Button, Dacorum Borough Council; Richard Greaves, Essex County Council; Andy Appleby, Harrow London Borough Council; Sharon Thompson, Kent County Council; Liz Spier, Kent County Council.	
2	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS	
2.1	The minutes from meeting held on 29 January 2008 were approved as a true record of the meeting.	CD
3	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	All actions are either fulfilled or in hand.	
4	LAUNCH OF THE REPOSITORY SITING PROCESS	
4.1	<p>FB presented the report which provided an overview of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - progress on key issues in the implementation framework - launch of the White Paper and siting process - associated documentation and processes - NuLeAF's future programme - NDA briefing session - R&D workshop - CoRWM work programme and - retrievability 	
4.2	<p>The following points were made during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The publication of the White Paper was likely between mid-May and mid-June. The Executive Director will let members know when a firm date is available. • MD highlighted the importance of seeing further information about the NDA's proposed R&D programme and 'provisional implementation plan'. It was agreed that MD should attend the NDA Briefing on 13 June. • GL asked what would happen if the volunteer approach did not work. It was thought better to renegotiate any sticking points to make it work, rather than revert to 'Decide-Announce-Defend'. • JS pointed out that there was interest in the retrievability of spent fuel amongst potential operators of new build. 	<p>FB/CD</p> <p>FB/MD</p>

4.3	<p>Following discussion it was agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 endorse the proposed arrangements for responding to the launch of the White Paper and siting process; 2 endorse the key elements of a post-White Paper work programme as proposed in the report; and 3 re-affirm its view that the extent to which measures should be put in place to enhance retrievability from a GDF should be discussed with, and agreed by, potential host communities during the siting process. 	<p>FB/CD</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, including award of the contract for managing the site - The first meeting of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group and preliminary steps in the development of a new LLW management strategy - A proposed national framework for community funds - Publication of a Briefing Paper for local authority planning officers 	
5.2	<p>During discussion, the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd (UKNWM) is now to be known as LLWR Ltd • The drive to reduce costs and implement the waste hierarchy could result in significant changes to the inventory of wastes for disposal at the LLWR and the GDF. This will need effective explanation and monitoring to ensure stakeholder confidence. • Discussions about the LLWR community fund were focussing on identifying a tax efficient delivery mechanism. The outcome may provide a model that could be used in other parts of the UK. 	
5.3	<p>Following discussion it was agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the preliminary comments on the development of LLW strategy; and 2. endorse proposals for a national framework for community funds. 	

6	CONSULTATION ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES FOR LAND-BASED DISPOSAL	
6.1	FB introduced the report, which outlined the HPA's proposals for revised advice on radiological protection objectives for the disposal of solid radioactive wastes.	
6.2	During discussion the comment was made that there should not be any weakening in the objectives, and that it may be helpful to hold a meeting with HPA to discuss the proposals. FB agreed to explore the possibility of arranging a meeting for those that had indicated an interest.	FB
6.3	<p>It was also agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 note the HPA proposals and comments made at the recent stakeholder workshop; and 2 draw member authority attention to the offer from the HPA to meet to discuss the proposals. 	FB
7	NDA DEVELOPMENTS	
7.1	<p>FB outlined the report which provided an overview of NDA developments (additional to GDF and LLW strategy development covered under items 4 and 5). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDA funding arrangements and Business Plan - Developing a 'value framework' - Preparations for the review of NDA Strategy - Update re radioactive waste strategy - Update re interim storage review - Results of the local engagement review - National Stakeholder Group 	
7.2	<p>The following points were made during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TK noted that despite funds being redirected to Sellafield, there are still concerns about safety and site operation. • SK noted that the approved version of the Business Plan was very similar to the draft, raising concerns that little notice had been taken of comments on the draft. • The NDA is about to publish its 'final draft' of the results of the Local Engagement Review, with opportunity to comment by 30 June. FB will ensure that there is a link to this document in the forthcoming e-bulletin. 	FB

7.3	<p>The Steering Group agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 monitor developments relating to alternative funding models for the NDA and the 'value framework'; 2 consider a report on opportunities for engaging in the NDA strategy review at its next meeting; 3 brief member authorities on the current position with the reviews of (a) interim storage and (b) local engagement arrangements in the next issue of the e-bulletin; and 4 authorise the ED to respond to the 'final draft' of the results of the local engagement review. 	<p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p>
8	FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER	
8.1	<p>The Chair clarified that this report was concerned with the radioactive waste and decommissioning implications of new build.</p>	
8.2	<p>The report considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the current consultation on 'Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance' for new nuclear power stations; • the scope of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) for a proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) on planning for new nuclear power stations; • potential NuLeAF comments on a draft NPS; and • the formation of a 'British Energy Southern Sites Local Authorities Group'. 	
8.3	<p>The following points were made about the draft guidance on Funded Decommissioning Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Government should give a steer that a specific operator should establish shared funds across its sites to reduce risk; • the extent to which the draft guidance adequately addresses the provision of funds in a situation of early station closure should be checked. 	
8.4	<p>It was agreed that the Executive Director should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Subject to the points above, respond to consultation on 'Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance' as outlined in the report; and 2 Liaise with the Southern Sites LA Group concerning the implications for radioactive waste management and decommissioning. 	<p>FB</p> <p>FB</p>

9	PROGRESS REPORT	
9.1	<p>FB introduced the report, which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - liaison with the LGA - staffing - finances - international projects - forthcoming conferences 	
9.2	JS reported on the meeting with LGA representatives that had agreed ways of improving liaison.	
9.3	FB highlighted that the audit of NuLeAF finances had been successfully completed.	
10	FUTURE MEETINGS	
	<p>7 July 08 SG meeting (LG House, London)</p> <p>29 Oct 08 SG meeting and AGM, Town Hall, Manchester</p>	
11	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting of the Steering Group at 12.50 hrs.	
12	DISCUSSION WITH CoRWM MEMBERS	
	<p>Following lunch 3 members of CoRWM (Dr Mark Dutton, Prof Fergus Gibb and Les Netherton) gave an overview of the role of the Committee, and its 7 working groups. CoRWM would prepare a draft note of the discussion for comment by the ED. It was agreed that a further meeting should be organised in July to review issues arising from the publication of the White Paper and associated materials.</p>	FB/CD