

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

Draft Minutes of the Steering Group held on Monday, 7 July, 2008 at LG House, London

Present:

Cllr Julian Swainson, Suffolk County Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Aled Morris Jones, Ynys Mon County Council
Cllr Geoff Lilley, Hartlepool Borough Council
Cllr Bernard Whittle, Lancashire County Council
Fred Barker, Executive Director, NuLeAF
Sue Brett, Cumbria County Council
Trevor Brown, Oxfordshire County Council
Richard Conway, Purbeck District Council
David Davies, Copeland Borough Council
Catherine Draper, NuLeAF
Adrian Hurst, Hartlepool Borough Council
David Illsley, Shepway District Council
Peter Mayes, Lancashire County Council
John Pitchford, Suffolk County Council
Lesley Stenhouse, Essex County Council
Susan Tipping, Kent County Council
Dylan Williams, Ynys Mon County Council
Mark Woodger, Essex County Council

Dr Adam Meehan – Energy *Solutions* (afternoon presentation only)

| | | ACTION |
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| 1 | WELCOME | |
| 1.1 | Councillor Swainson welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially first time attendees. | |
| 1.2 | Apologies were received from: Fiona Edwards, David Hosker and Karan Warburton - Chester City Council, Cllr Allan Holliday - Copeland Borough Council, Stewart Kemp and Cllr Tony Markley - Cumbria County Council, Tim Button – Dacorum Borough Council, Andy Macbeth and Cllr Nancy Matthews – Flintshire County Council, Cllr Venk Shenoï – Forest of Dean District Council, Cllr Jonathan Glen - Hampshire County Council, Sharon Thompson – Kent County Council, Cllr John Cavanagh – Lancashire County Council, Andy Appleby – London Borough of Harrow, Cllr William Risby – Manchester City Council, Steve Mackenzie – Purbeck District Council, Keith Cane – Shepway District Council, Gerald Hudd and Barry James – Somerset County Council, Dinah Woolley - South Gloucestershire Council, Bob Chamberlain and Cllr Trevor Hawkins - Suffolk Coastal District Council, Steve Giblin and Cllr Roy Oldham – Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Tim Williams – Vale of White | |

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| | Horse District Council | |
| 2 | MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS | |
| 2.1 | Subject to the amendment of Liz Shier's name to the correct spelling, the minutes from meeting held on 30 April 2008 were approved as a true record of the meeting. | CD |
| 3 | MATTERS ARISING | |
| 3.1 | 6.2 The proposed meeting with HPA did not take place because of the work load of those who were initially interested. 6.4 JP reported that BESSLAG (southern sites new build group) had held one meeting. A further meeting may be held when the strategic sites assessment process is published. The group will liaise with authorities with northern sites and consider whether it would be appropriate to form a Special Interest Group. BW reported that the HSE was still open to discussions about generic design assessment, including waste minimisation. | |
| 4 | LAUNCH OF THE REPOSITORY SITING PROCESS | |
| 4.1 | FB presented the report which covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - headline comments on White Paper - NuLeAF and LGA initiatives - NDA development - Regulatory Interface Management Meeting (RIMM), 13 June - Response from local authorities - Liaison meeting with Government, 2 July - Meeting with CoRWM, 17 July | |
| 4.2 | During discussion the following points were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government was currently considering its own governance arrangements for the GDF siting programme. Currently any local authority engaging in the process was likely to encounter tri-partite representation during exploratory discussions (Defra/BERR/NDA) • In two tier areas, Government appears to see District Councils as the primary decision maker at the 'policy' level (eg in making an Expression of Interest or exercising a right of withdrawal), but emphasises the importance of establishing good partnership arrangements, particularly with the county level waste planning authority. • At the liaison meeting with Government on 2 July, NuLeAF representatives highlighted that potential participants | |

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| 4.3 | <p>would expect a number of key issues to be clarified prior to making a formal decision to participate (eg the GDF funding model). Government representatives also reported that they would give consideration to producing a discussion paper on the pros and cons of applying the planning reforms to GDF siting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial geological screening would take place after an Expression of Interest had been made, but prior to a formal local Decision to Participate in the siting process. The purpose was to rule out unsuitable areas, not identify potentially suitable sites at this stage. <p>It was agreed that the Steering Group would encourage member authorities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> keep the secretariat informed of any developments in their area in response to the invitation to express an interest in the possibility of participation in the GDF siting process; and identify issues that should be discussed with CoRWM on 17 July and advise the secretariat. | All |
| 5 | LOW LEVEL WASTE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT | |
| 5.1 | <p>FB presented the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> news on LLW management at specific sites the meeting of the NDA LLW Strategy Group on 19/20 June a meeting with NDA on 9 May about community benefits <p>and included 2 Annexes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comments on the NDA's draft topical strategies for LLW management (submitted in accordance with discussion at the last SG meeting) an update note for the meeting of NuLeAF's LLW Officer Group on 24 June | |
| 5.2 | <p>Additional site reports were given at the meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LLWR –discussions to establish an appropriate delivery vehicle for the Community Fund are close to completion. Sizewell – a formal assessment of options for managing VLLW is being undertaken with involvement from Suffolk CC officers. Springfields – the plan for a VLLW disposal facility on site is now part of the Integrated Waste Strategy (it was previously a contingency plan). BW felt that community | |

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| | <p>benefits would arise from reduced transport of wastes and use of a purpose designed facility on site (compared to continued use of landfill).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winfrith and Harwell – RC reported that these sites have now been paired. He referred to NDA spending cuts and a concern from HSE that these cuts will not allow the 'approved' decommissioning programme to be achieved. | |
| 5.3 | FB reported that further discussions are to be held between NuLeAF and NDA to explore the scope for identifying common ground on community funds. | |
| 5.4 | FB also reported on a presentation given to the NuLeAF LLW Officer Group on 24 June by Defra led Board reviewing LLW arisings from Non-Nuclear Industry (NNI). The Board is collecting data with a view to developing a LLW waste strategy for consultation in February 09. Discussion at the group included the need to ensure consistency in treatment of the planning system in NDA and NNI LLW strategies and the need to ensure good practices in risk communication. On the latter, the Board has commissioned some work from the Health Protection Agency to enable the risks of LLW to be communicated clearly. | |
| 5.5 | <p>It was agreed that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. case studies should be prepared on developments where they can be a learning resource for other member authorities eg Springfields on site VLLW disposal facility | FB/CD |
| 6 | CONSULTATION ON GUIDANCE FOR REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION OF DISPOSAL FACILITIES | |
| 6.1 | FB presented this report which outlines a preliminary set of comments to the Environment Agency consultations. | |
| 6.2 | SB attended the EA workshop on the draft guidance on Near Surface Disposal and would forward the report to the secretariat when available. FB was attending a similar EA workshop on draft guidance for Geological Disposal on 10 July. | SB |
| 6.3 | The SG agreed that a set of comments based on those outlined in the report should be submitted to Environment Agency, taking into account the outcome of the workshops. | FB |
| 7 | NDA STRATEGY REVIEW | |
| 7.1 | <p>FB presented the report which covered:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the NDA Strategy Management System | |

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| 7.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions at the National Stakeholder Group in May - Environmental and sustainability assessment of NDA strategy - Proposals for participation in reviews of topic strategies <p>During discussion the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP commented that a 'horses for courses' approach to engagement in the review would be appropriate, dependent on the most relevant issues in a given area. • BW referred to tutorials which had proved useful at the Springfields SSG. There may be a need to build on this approach to ensure effective engagement. | |
| 7.3 | <p>It was agreed that the SG authorises the ED to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. participate in the reviews of key topics reporting back to SG as appropriate 2. keep member authorities informed of the opportunities for participation in reviews of key topics 3. prepare briefing papers as appropriate to inform participation 4. organise regional or national workshops for member authorities as appropriate to facility engagement in reviews of the topics of most importance to those authorities 5. explore the scope for establishing a new working group to facilitate NuLeAF's contribution to NDA Strategy Review | <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB</p> <p>FB/CD</p> <p>FB</p> |
| 8 | NDA DEVELOPMENTS | |
| 8.1 | <p>This report provided an update on NDA developments not covered elsewhere in the agenda. These relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDA funding arrangements - Developing a 'value framework' - Interim storage review - Results of local engagement review | |
| 8.2 | <p>On the local engagement review, FB noted that the NDA's draft guidance to SSGs takes on board most of NuLeAFs proposals. He highlighted the need for many SSGs to have improved websites so that key information can be published in a timely way. BW commented on the importance of briefing new SSG members so they are better able to fulfil their role.</p> | |
| 8.3 | <p>The SG agreed to draw the results of the NDA's local engagement review to the attention of member authorities.</p> | FB |

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| 9 | PROGRESS REPORT | |
| 9.1 | <p>FB presented this report which provided updates on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NuLeAF organisational development - ISOLUS - COWAM in Practice (CIP) - CARL project - SD:SPUR | |
| 9.2 | <p>SB referred to the forthcoming SD:SPUR/Safegrounds Conference on 23/24 October.</p> | |
| 10 | FUTURE MEETINGS | |
| | <p>29 Oct 08 - SG meeting and AGM, Town Hall, Manchester 3 Feb 09 - SG meeting at Suffolk County Council offices, Ipswich</p> | |
| 11 | ANY OTHER BUSINESS | |
| | <p>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting of the Steering Group at 12.55 hrs.</p> | |
| 13 | <p>PRESENTATION BY ENERGY SOLUTIONS 'Options for radioactive waste management and decommissioning at Magnox sites (Dr Adam Meehan)</p> <p>Dr Meehan's presentation covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 'safe, secure, sites' contingency planning process • the key enablers for accelerated decommissioning • the potential for on site disposal of LLW, short-lived ILW and graphite wastes • the possibility of grouping sites together to identify 'nearest neighbour' approaches to developing waste management facilities | |