

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 7 July 2008
Agenda Item:	8
Subject:	NDA Developments
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To provide an update on developments

Introduction

This report provides an update on NDA developments (additional to GDF, LLW and strategy development covered under items 4, 5 and 7). These relate to:

- NDA funding arrangements
- Developing a 'value framework'
- Interim storage review
- Results of the local engagement review

Recommendations

That the Steering Group draws the results of the NDA's local engagement review to the attention of member authorities.

1 NDA Funding Arrangements

At its last meeting, the SG was informed that Government has initiated a review of the NDA's funding model. The preliminary findings of the review are likely to be outlined in the Government's response to the BERR House of Commons Committee report from April 08. The Committee is likely to publish the Government's response before the summer recess (22 July).

2 Developing a Value Framework (VF)

As reported to the last meeting, the 'Value Framework' is being developed by the NDA to inform and explain decision-making about spending priorities.

The NDA had invited the ED to participate in a VF Reference Group to act as a 'sounding board' as it develops the VF further. However, meetings of the Reference Group have been cancelled "because the project has been refocused around the immediate need of informing the planning for Year 2 of the Business Plan and the issuing of draft Site Funding Levels guidance to the SLCs which needs to be completed by 15 October 08". The NDA points out that this work is critical to delivering its work programme for next year. It adds that it will provide a means of testing its initial thinking on the value framework and to learn from its application prior to carrying out any further technical development work.

The current position with the value framework is that the key attributes (Hazard, Environment, Safety, Cost, Return, and societal) have been identified and metrics put in place based on the work of the prioritisation working group, but no systems for trading between attributes has been developed at this time. To apply the framework to the site funding limit process the impact on the base attributes will be assessed individually and then expert judgement will be used to make the decision on what is the best distribution of funding. This means that any technical development of the Value Framework over the next 6 months will be very limited.

3 Update on Review of Interim Storage

The last meeting was informed about the NDA's review of interim storage arrangements for ILW and HLW. At that time it was anticipated that a public domain version of the findings would be published in June, and that these would be discussed at a stakeholder workshop in the summer. It is understood that the findings will now be published in the summer and that the workshop will be held in September.

4 Results of the Local Engagement Review

The NDA has published the draft results of its review of local engagement arrangements ([Draft results of local engagement review](#)). The paper proposes revised NDA Guidance to Site Stakeholder Groups on their aims and operation. The NDA sought comments on the draft by 30 June.

The NDA's draft guidance takes on board most of the proposals made by the SG in NuLeAF Briefing Paper 12, January 08 ([BP12](#)). A small number of additional comments were submitted to the NDA's engagement convenor about openness and transparency (eg the need to publish reports of SSG working group meetings).

One of the recommendations made in BP12 is that:

Local authorities with NDA sites are encouraged to: (a) respond positively to invitations to attend SSG meetings, SSG working groups and workshops; and (b) establish processes to ensure that the reports and minutes from SSG meetings, working groups or workshops, are considered in a timely way by relevant councillors and officers.

In response, the draft NDA guidance to SSGs states that:

Being an SSG member means that: you represent your organisation .. actively on the SSG, including consulting them beforehand on major agenda items; you formally update your organisation .. after SSG meetings, either verbally or in writing (para 4.4)

It is recommended that this be drawn to the attention of member authorities through the e-bulletin.