

Meeting:	NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 29 Oct 2008
Agenda Item:	3
Subject:	Annual Report
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To provide an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2007

Introduction

This report provides an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2007.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the AGM agree that the report presents a true picture of NuLeAF developments and activities.

Context

The last year has seen significant developments in nuclear legacy management and in NuLeAF's associated work programme. The developments in nuclear legacy management include:

- launch of the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for higher activity wastes;
- steps to develop strategies for managing low level radioactive wastes from nuclear and non-nuclear industries;
- initiation of a review of NDA Strategy;
- agreement to establish a Community Fund in association with the Low Level Waste (LLW) Repository near Drigg in Cumbria; and
- pressures on the budget of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), leading to significant delays in programmes of waste management, decommissioning and clean-up at some nuclear sites.

NuLeAF is closely involved in developments to ensure that local authority views and interests are recognised and addressed.

Overview of Organisational Developments and Activities

Organisational developments and activities have included:

Staffing

The contract for the Executive Director was renewed for a further two years.

At the end of her two year contract, Christine del Corral decided not to seek the option to renew, but to move on to other things.

Catherine Draper was appointed as the new Administrator and PA to the Executive Director and commenced work on 28 April, 2008.

Steering Group

Four meetings of the SG have been held, in Ipswich (29 Jan), Kendal (30 Apr), London (7 July) and Manchester (29 Oct). Guest speakers have included British Energy (29 Jan) and Energy Solutions (7 July). Liaison meetings with CoRWM were held on both the April and October dates.

Member Authorities

NuLeAF now has 102 member authorities comprising 22 contributing authorities, 76 corresponding members and 4 NFLA co-optees. The list of member authorities is attached. Following a recruitment campaign in June 08, the number of contributing members increased by 2 (Stroud DC and Chelmsford BC) and the number of corresponding members by 3 (Liverpool CC, Birmingham CC and London Borough of Bromley). Prior to the recruitment campaign Somerset CC changed from

corresponding membership to contributing membership and Arun DC and NE Derbyshire DC became corresponding members. The number of NFLA co-optees reduced from 5 to 4 after Bury Metropolitan Council terminated their NFLA membership.

Nine corresponding members will transfer to unitary authorities next year. The new authorities will be contacted and encouraged to take up membership.

Working Groups

The MRWS and LLW officer working groups continue to meet on a regular basis.

The MRWS group contributed to the development of NuLeAF's response to the launch of the GDF siting process (White Paper, June 2008). This included:

- email alert to all member authorities
- LGA CEO alert
- mailing to all MPs with a member authority in their constituency
- new dedicated section on NuLeAF website

Since launch of the siting process, the group has been discussing issues that will arise in the siting process and identifying points for discussion in liaison meetings with Government and NDA. Any local authority that expresses an interest in the GDF siting process will be approached to participate in the MRWS group.

The LLW group has discussed the development of LLW strategies and associated issues, including coverage in Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks, and the case for Community Funds in association with LLW developments.

At the June meeting of the LLW OWG, a presentation was given on Non-Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Strategy by Katherine Mondon and local authority colleagues of the NNI Programme Board.

A new Strategy Review group has been set up to consider the implications of the NDA Strategy Review and met for the first time in September 2008.

Liaison re the Setting up of a Scottish Group

After a period of inactivity, SCCORS is due to be re-launched in early 2009. Steps will be taken to ensure effective liaison with the re-launched group.

Services to Member Authorities

The level of service to member authorities has been improved significantly.

There has been considerable development on the website:

- a new section on GDF siting has been added;
- the section on research has been developed;
- preparations are in hand for a new section on case studies; and

- the members' area now has an internet press cuttings section which is updated daily and a report on issues of interest at Site Stakeholder Groups.

The NuLeAF website has been chosen by the British Library to be part of the Energy Collection in its web archiving programme. The archive can be found at www.webarchive.org.uk.

Four issues of the E-bulletin have been published since October 07 and five Briefing Papers. These have all been targeted at issues relevant to our local authority membership.

- BP11 Site End States
- BP12 NDA – Local Engagement Arrangements
- BP13 Briefing Paper for Local Authority Planners
- BP14 Community Funds and Radwaste Facilities
- BP15 Measures to Enhance Retrievability

Beginning August 2008 an e-newsletter to contributing members providing an overview of on-going consultations, items of note in the press, issues at Site Stakeholder Groups and latest reports is being sent out each month.

Presentations have been made to:

- A GDF seminar organised by Cumbria County Council
- Senior Councillors and Officers from Flintshire County Council on the MRWS process.

Two regional seminars were held in November and December 2007.

Responses to Consultation

During the course of the year consultation responses have been submitted on:

- NDA Plutonium Options Paper
- DEFRA Discharges Strategy 2006-2030
- EA Guidance on requirements for authorisation of disposal facilities
- BERR funded decommissioning programme guidance
- CoRWM's draft work programme
- NDA draft Business Plan
- MRWS implementation framework

Events and Representation at Meetings

Officers have arranged or been invited to a large number of meetings on MRWS and other nuclear legacy management issues. These include:

- regular MRWS liaison meetings with Government and NDA;
- participation in the MRWS Regulatory Interface Management Group;

- participation in the NDA's Low Level Waste Strategy Group (and chairing a sub-group on stakeholder relations and risk communication);
- participation in the NDA engagement convenor's reference group;
- MRWS meetings with CoRWM;
- the MoD's ISOLUS Steering Group;
- SD:SPUR meetings; and
- meetings with NDA and Government regarding Community Benefits packages

NuLeAF has participated in a series of workshops, including a NDA workshop on developing a 'value framework' to inform decision-making about priorities (Jan 08); technical issues in geological disposal (Jan 08); R&D on geological disposal (Mar 08); and regulator workshops on guidance for regulatory authorisations (July 08).

NuLeAF officers have also made presentations at outside events, including the:

- Waste and Minerals Group of the Planning Officers Society
- Sizewell Stakeholder Group
- Workshop on BPEO assessments
- Workshop of the OECD/NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence

Media

Articles have been prepared and published in specialist media, including Local Government First and Waste Planning. Copies are available to view on the NuLeAF website www.nuleaf.org.uk.

European Initiatives

The Executive Director continues to chair the UK CIP Stakeholder Group. The programme is now half way through. The third meeting of the group on 4 September discussed progress to date with the project's research on definitions of community, benefits packages and retrievability.

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Allerdale Borough Council - contributing

Arun District Council - corresponding
Ashford District Council - corresponding
Barrow Borough Council - corresponding
Birmingham City Council - corresponding
Blackpool Borough Council - corresponding
Braintree Borough Council - corresponding
Breckland District Council - corresponding
Broadland District Council - corresponding
Bromsgrove District Council - corresponding
Caerphilly County Borough Council - corresponding
Caradon District Council - corresponding
Carlisle City Council – corresponding

Chelmsford Borough Council - contributing

Chester City Council - corresponding
Chesterfield Borough Council – corresponding

Copeland Borough Council – contributing

Cumbria County Council - contributing

Dacorum District Council - corresponding
Denbighshire County Council – corresponding

Dorset County Council - contributing

Durham City Council - corresponding
Durham County Council - corresponding
Eden District Council - corresponding
Essex County Council- corresponding
Flintshire County Council – NFLA Co-optee
Forest of Dean District Council - corresponding
Forest Heath District Council - corresponding
Fylde Borough Council - corresponding
Gosport Borough Council - corresponding
Great Yarmouth Borough Council - corresponding
Greater London Authority - corresponding
Gwynedd County Council - corresponding
Halton Borough Council – corresponding

Hampshire County Council - contributing

Harlow District Council - corresponding
Harrogate Borough Council – corresponding

Hartlepool Borough Council - contributing

Hyndburn Borough Council - corresponding
Kent County Council - corresponding
Kerrier District Council - corresponding
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council - corresponding

Lancashire County Council - contributing

Lancaster City Council - corresponding
Leeds City Council - corresponding
Lewes District Council - corresponding
Liverpool City Council - corresponding
London Borough of Bromley - corresponding
London Borough of Hackney - corresponding
London Borough of Harrow - corresponding
London Borough of Newham - corresponding
London Borough of Tower Hamlets - corresponding
Maldon District Council – corresponding

Manchester City Council - contributing

Melton Borough Council - corresponding

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council - corresponding
Newport City Council – NFLA Co-optee
Norfolk County Council - corresponding
Northumberland County Council - corresponding
North East Derbyshire District Council - corresponding
North Norfolk District Council - corresponding
Norwich City Council - corresponding
Nottinghamshire County Council - corresponding
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council – corresponding
Oxfordshire County Council - contributing
Pembrokeshire County Council - corresponding
Penwith District Council – corresponding
Plymouth City Council - contributing
Preston City Council – NFLA Co-optee
Purbeck District Council - corresponding
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – NFLA Co-optee
Rutland County Council - corresponding
Scarborough District Council - corresponding
Sedgefield Borough Council – corresponding
Sedgemoor District Council – contributing
Shepway District Council - contributing
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding
Somerset County Council – contributing
South Gloucester Council – contributing
South Lakeland District Council - contributing
Southampton City Council - corresponding
South Norfolk District Council – corresponding
Stroud District Council - contributing
Spelthorne Borough Council - corresponding
Staffordshire County Council – corresponding
Suffolk Coastal District Council – contributing
Suffolk County Council – contributing
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council - contributing
Taunton Deane Borough Council - corresponding
Tendring District Council - corresponding
Tunbridge Wells District Council - corresponding
Vale of the White Horse District Council - corresponding
Wansbeck District Council - corresponding
Waveney District Council - corresponding
West Berkshire District Council - corresponding
West Lancashire District Council - corresponding
West Lindsey District Council - corresponding
West Somerset District Council – contributing
Ynys Mon County Council - contributing

NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITIES

Lake District National Park Authority
North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority
Snowdonia National Park Authority