

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 15 July 2009
Agenda Item:	10
Subject:	Progress Report
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To report on developments in GDF siting, plutonium management, NuLeAF case studies, regional planning, COWAM in Practice, and the outcome of audit

Introduction

This progress report provides updates on developments in:

- Siting a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)
- The long-term management of plutonium
- NuLeAF case studies
- Radioactive waste management in regional planning
- COWAM in Practice
- The audit of NuLeAF finances

Contribution to Achieving Strategic Objectives

The work outlined in this report is intended to contribute to the achievement of the following NuLeAF objectives:

GDF

- To liaise effectively with any local authority that may wish to consider, or makes, an expression of interest in the GDF siting process and to provide assistance as appropriate
- To work with Government, the NDA, CoRWM, regulators and member authorities to help ensure that the approach based on voluntarism and partnership works successfully in practice
- To ensure member authorities are briefed and up-to-date on developments in the GDF siting process

LLW Strategy (see Case Studies below)

- To encourage waste planning authorities to develop policy in Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks on the management of LLW (and VLLW) in their area ...

Community Funds (see Case Studies below)

- To seek to ensure that a consistent, proportionate and transparent approach can be taken to the establishment of Community Funds associated with key radioactive waste management facilities.

1 Siting the GDF

The following developments have taken place since late April:

- West Cumbria MRWS Partnership: meetings took place on 14 May and 14 July. The meeting on 14 May held a preliminary discussion on the criteria that might be used to inform a decision about participation, and agreed the principles, phases and objectives for the public and stakeholder engagement leading up to such a decision. A verbal update on the outcome of the meeting on 14 July will be provided at the SG meeting. The next partnership meeting is on 4 September and will be attended by the ED.
- Decision-Making Structures: parallel discussions have been taking place between Allerdale BC, Copeland BC and Cumbria CC to seek to identify decision-making structures and processes acceptable to all three authorities.
- A liaison meeting between NuLeAF, Government and NDA took place on 27 May. Topics included the Government's communication plan, progress with the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership, and decision-making in two tier areas. The Government's communication plan includes writing to local authorities with an update following the elections in June, and organising a stall at the LGA conference in late June. The question of a cut-off time for Expressions of Interest was discussed and NDA agreed to provide a note on how a process with 'late entrants' has been managed internationally. On decision-making structures and processes in two tier areas, it is understood that Government will want to see agreements in place prior to agreeing full funding for partnership activities in the current Financial Year. The next liaison meeting is on 2 September.
- A meeting of the Regulatory Interface Management Group took place on 5 June. Topics included the NDA's preparations for implementation and a draft permissions schedule. On the former, the NDA anticipates being ready for the desk-based studies stage of the siting process by September 2010. Readiness will be based on: establishing its Radioactive Waste Management Division as a 'prospective SLC' by Dec 09; preparation of a peer reviewed generic Disposal System Safety Case (DSSC) by September 10; an intensified R&D programme to address uncertainties in the DSSC; and work on sustainability appraisal. On the draft permissioning schedule, the NDA took comments on the need for greater clarity in the process to get from broad participating areas to potential site areas for desk-based studies, and on the need to ensure that the role of Siting Partnerships is clearly explained. The next meeting of the group is on 2 October.

2 Policy on Plutonium Management

NuLeAF was represented by Stewart Kemp (Cumbria CC) at a DECC workshop on 21 May about the long-term management of plutonium. The objectives of the workshop were to understand the views of stakeholders on the options and to use those views to inform a consultation process on initial plans for long-term management.

The report of the workshop notes that:

“participants have highlighted the degree to which information needs to be further worked up and the importance of process. With regard to the latter the department will take away the point about the need to consult on the form of consultation.”

3 NuLeAF Case Studies

Work has been undertaken on three case studies since the last SG:

- Case Study 6, 'The Outcome of the Inspector's Examination of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework' was published in May.
- Case Study 7, 'The LLW Disposal Facility – Caithness and North Sutherland Community Fund', is in draft form and with key stakeholders for comment.
- Case Study 8, 'Chapelcross Industrial Park and Incubation Centre – A Successful Bid to the NDA Socio-Economic Fund', is in draft form and with key stakeholders for comment.

Suggestions for further case studies would be welcome.

4 The Coverage of Radioactive Waste Management in Regional Planning

The secretariat has prepared a compendium of the current position across the regions, as a basis for discussing how to move forward. Very few Regional Spatial Strategies currently address radioactive waste management, but several are giving consideration to how best to do so. Following the proposed meeting with NDA to discuss how LLW strategy can meet the information needs of planners (see item 4), it is intended to meet with regional planners to discuss how best to address radioactive waste management in their plans.

5 COWAM in Practice (CIP)

The CIP project is a collaborative research project on radioactive waste governance, involving the UK and 4 other European countries.

The ED attended a meeting of the CIP Steering Group in Paris on 28-29 May. This considered: the current position within the project; progress with research topics; the key themes and messages; and points to highlight in proposed European guidance.

The final meeting of the UK CIP Stakeholder Group is taking place on 24 September (the draft agenda is attached). A detailed report on the outcome of the CIP project will be considered at a future meeting of the SG.

6 Audit of NuLeAF Finances

It was agreed at the AGM in October 07 that NuLeAF's accounts be audited by Suffolk County Council on an annual basis. The second annual audit has recently been completed and found that:

- Administration arrangements surrounding income and expenditure have improved since the last audit, with the majority of transactions holding a complete audit trail without further enquiry. Those which required further clarity were then able to be cleared with appropriate explanation and documentation.
- The Income and Expenditure Account includes all income and expenditure relating to NuLeAF transactions for the Financial Year 2008/2009. Audit Services were provided with prime documentation which was checked against information documented within the S.C.C Oracle financial management system. Supporting documentation for all expenditure has been verified by Audit Services.
- NuLeAF income in 2008/09 was £126,529.30 and expenditure was £103,980.16. The surplus has been added to reserves carried forward.

**United Kingdom COWAM in Practice (CIP)
UK National Stakeholder Group**

Draft agenda

09.15

- Chairman's introduction (Fred Barker)
 - Delegates introductions (all)
 - Housekeeping (Rick Wylie)

09.25

- The agenda (Rick Wylie)
- The CIP project
 - Update on the CIP project progress and activities since 3rd NSG meeting (Rick Wylie)
 - The CIP project in the UK - inputs, outputs and *modus operandi* (Rick Wylie)

09.40

- MTF Brief. Defining an affected community (Rick Wylie)
 - Presentation of final version of research brief document findings
 - Facilitated and recorded discussion based on circulated draft MTF research brief (all)

10.30 COFFEE

10.45

- MTF Brief. Community engagement and benefit packages (Phil Richardson)
 - Presentation of final draft of research brief document findings
 - Facilitated and recorded discussion based on circulated draft MTF research brief (all)

11.30

- National Case Study
 - Presentation of overarching process messages from the UK for the EU Guidelines

12.15 LUNCH

13.15

- Theme one research
 - Affected communities, Community benefits and sustainable territorial development
 - Presentation of transversal thematic messages from the three theme one research briefs for the EU Guidelines

14.00

- Findings of original research – Low level waste disposal at Buldoo/Dounreay
 - Original research conducted to test the veracity and validity of the theme one transversal messages

14.30 TEA

14.45

- Draft EU Guidelines
 - Presentation of the draft EU Guidelines document encompassing transversal process (national case study) and thematic (research brief) messages

15.30

- Dissemination beyond 2009

16.00

- Wrapping up
 - Evaluation forms (Stephen Haraldsen)
 - Any other business (Rick Wylie)
 - Communities in a Risk Society Conference - November 2009

16.10

- Close