

Meeting:	NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 15 Oct 2009
Agenda Item:	3
Subject:	Annual Report
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To provide an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2008

Introduction

This report provides an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2008.

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:

- the establishment of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership to advise on whether a decision should be taken to participate in the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility for higher activity wastes;
- consultation on a UK Strategy for the management of low level radioactive waste from the nuclear industry;
- discussions about ways of optimising the treatment and storage of Intermediate Level Wastes; and
- agreement to set up a Community Fund in association with development of a LLW disposal facility at Dounreay in Scotland.

Further information about key developments is reported in the accompanying review of strategic objectives (see AGM item 4).

NuLeAF is 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:

Steering Group

Three meetings of the SG have been held: Maryport (28 April), Oxford (15 July) and London (15 October). The meeting scheduled for 3 February in Ipswich was cancelled because of inclement weather. Guest speakers have included NDA (on the 'Value Framework', 15 October) and Energy Solutions (on 'Taking Magnox Forward', 15 July). A liaison meeting with CoRWM was held at the April meeting.

NuLeAF has lost the contribution and support of three long serving councillors. Vice-Chair Cllr Julian Swainson (Suffolk CC) was not re-elected at the June elections which also saw the retirement of Cllr Bernard Whittle from his authority (Lancashire CC). In February we sadly reported the death of Cllr Bill Risby (Manchester CC). All had made considerable contributions to the work of NuLeAF and their input will be missed.

Member Authorities

NuLeAF now has 101 member authorities comprising 21 contributing authorities, 76 corresponding members and 4 NFLA co-optees. The list of member authorities is attached. Since the last AGM, two authorities (Chelmsford DC and South Lakeland BC) ceased to be contributing members and reverted to corresponding membership. Four authorities (Derby City Council, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service,

Northamptonshire County Council and Worcestershire County Council) became corresponding members as a result of participating in the May seminars.

Those corresponding authorities which have become unitaries have maintained their membership status and will be approached to become contributing members in January 2010.

Working Groups

The LLW Officer Working Group and the Strategy Review Group continue to meet on a regular basis. With NuLeAF participation in the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership, the MRWS Officer Working Group no longer meets.

The LLW group has discussed the development of the UK LLW Strategy and associated issues, including coverage of spatial planning in the proposed Strategy, coverage of LLW management in Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks, and the basis for Community Funds in association with LLW developments.

Issues discussed by the Strategy Review Group include: outputs from the NuLeAF seminar in December; Strategic Choices in LLW Management and approaches to Community Funds. Senior staff from the NDA met with the group twice. In March, a presentation was given on the NDA Strategy Management System with particular reference to asset optimisation, site end states and reactor decommissioning wastes. At the September meeting the issue of potential synergies between legacy radioactive waste management and new build was discussed.

Liaison with Scottish Council for the Control of Radioactive Substances (SCCORS)

SCCORS was re-launched on 1 May, 2009, and a Steering Group established. A request has been made to keep NuLeAF informed of meetings and their programme of work, so that effective liaison can be developed.

Services to Member Authorities

The level of service to member authorities continues to be improved. In particular, the website features a series of case studies to promote understanding, learning and good practice. The case studies published during the course of the year are:

- Springfields – on site disposal of Very Low Level Waste
- Low Level Waste Repository – Copeland Community Fund
- Low Level Waste Repository – Planning Permission for Vault 9
- Suffolk Planning Policy
- Berkeley Intermediate Level Waste Store
- Cumbria Minerals & Waste Development Framework Inspector Examination
- Dounreay Community Benefits
- Chapelcross – Socio-Economic Funding

In addition a compendium of links to externally produced case studies has been added.

Hits on the website peaked in August 2009 at 31700.

Four issues of the E-bulletin have been published since October 08 and three Briefing Papers. These have all been targeted at issues relevant to our local authority membership.

BP16 – Use of Planning Obligations

BP17 – Elected Members Briefing Paper

BP18 – Pointers for Good Practice in Making an Application to the NDA Socio-Economic Fund.

Two Policy Statements have been published since the last AGM. These are:

PS5 – Strategic Objectives for 2009

PS6 – Taking Account of Public and Stakeholder Views

A newsletter rounding up items of interest is sent out to contributing member authorities in those months when an e-bulletin is not issued.

Presentations have been made to:

- an SD:SPUR conference - on ‘Challenges in LLW Management: A Local Government Perspective’
- the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership - on ‘Public and Stakeholder Engagement’
- the Minerals and Waste Committee of the Planning Officer’s Society - on ‘An Update on the Management of Radioactive Wastes’
- Waste Portfolio holders from the Environment Board of the Local Government Association – on issues in the proposed UK LLW Strategy
- Participants at the Recycling and Waste Management Exhibition - on ‘Local Authority Policies for Radioactive Waste Management’

NuLeAF has organised two sets of seminars. In December 08 a single event was held in London to brief member authorities and others on the future of nuclear legacy management and the implications for local government (focusing on key issues in the NDA Strategy Review). In May 09 a series of three seminars in Manchester, London and Taunton were held to discuss the forthcoming consultations from NDA and Government on Strategies for LLW Management and the implications for local government. Delegates came from member and non-member authorities, the nuclear and waste industries, regulators and government.

Responses to Consultation

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

- Response on UK Low Level Waste Strategy (NDA)
- Draft report on National Research & Development (CoRWM)
- Proposals for a Future Exemption Regime (Dept. of Energy & Climate Change)
- Environmental Permitting Programme Guidance (Dept of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)

- Draft report on Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) (CoRWM)
- Justification for building new nuclear power stations (Dept. of Energy & Climate Change)
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Draft Business Plan
- Response to GDF Research and Development (NDA)
- Response to GDF Sustainability Appraisal Framework (NDA)
- GDF Public & Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Framework (NDA)
- Strategic Siting Assessment Criteria (Dept for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform)

Events and Representation at Meetings

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

- regular MRWS liaison meetings with Government and NDA;
- the MRWS Regulatory Interface Management Group;
- MRWS meetings with CoRWM;
- participation in the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership;
- the NDA's Low Level Waste Strategy Group;
- the MoD's Submarine Dismantling Project (formerly ISOLUS) Steering Group;
- meetings with NDA and Government regarding Community Benefits packages
- a Scottish Government workshop regarding the development of policy on the management of Higher Activity Wastes
- a DECC workshop on the development of LLW Strategy for the Non-Nuclear Industry
- a workshop on a Very Low Level Waste Best Practical Environmental Option assessment, organised by the operators of the Low Level Waste Repository
- workshops organised by NDA and Magnox on ILW storage
- A DECC workshop on Proposals for a future Exemptions Regime under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010
- planning meetings for CARL workshop in October 2009

Media

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

European Initiatives

COWAM in Practice

The Executive Director continued to chair the UK COWAM In Practice Stakeholder Group. The aims of the CIP programme include:

- to analyse five innovative national processes on radioactive waste management with a view to supporting stakeholders, particularly local communities, directly in their engagement and to capture the learning from that experience; and

- to develop best practices and guidance for the application (implementation and improvement) of new inclusive governance of radioactive waste management approaches in the EU.

The final meeting of the UK stakeholder group was held on 24 September to review the research outputs and potential EU guidelines.

Argona

The Administrator/PA represented the Executive Director at the Argona End Users Conference in Sweden in March 09, taking part in the ‘stretching panel’, ‘interrogating’ the presenters and chairing a working group looking at the next steps in relation to the various projects output. The project investigates how approaches of transparency and deliberation relate to each other and to the political system in which decisions, for example on the final disposal of nuclear waste, are ultimately taken. The project also studies how good risk communication can be undertaken and the conduct of public consultations. Details of the project deliverables can be found on their [website](#).

Forum on Stakeholder Confidence

In April 09, Cllr Mike Davidson and Charles Homes of Allerdale BC, representing NuLeAF, attended a workshop in France regarding the approach to disposal of higher activity wastes and visited the proposed disposal site at Bure. A copy of the workshop report is available on the NuLeAF website.

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Allerdale Borough Council - contributing

Arun District Council - corresponding

Ashford District Council - corresponding

Barrow Borough Council - contributing

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

Carlisle City Council – corresponding

Cornwall Council - corresponding

Chelmsford Borough Council - corresponding

Chesterfield Borough Council – corresponding

Cheshire West and Chester Council - corresponding

Copeland Borough Council – contributing

Cumbria County Council - contributing

Dacorum District Council - corresponding

Denbighshire County Council – corresponding

Derby City Council - corresponding

Dorset County Council – contributing

Dorset Fire and Rescue – 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

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
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service - corresponding
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council - corresponding
Newport City Council – NFLA Co-optee
Norfolk County Council – corresponding
Northamptonshire County Council - corresponding
North East Derbyshire District Council - corresponding
North Norfolk District Council - corresponding
Norwich City Council - corresponding
Nottinghamshire County Council – corresponding
Northumberland County Council - corresponding
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council – corresponding
Oxfordshire County Council - contributing
Pembrokeshire County 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
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 - corresponding
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

Worcestershire County Council - corresponding
Ynys Mon County Council - contributing

NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITIES

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