

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group held on 20 April, 2010, Local Government House, Smith Square, London

Present:

CLlr Allan Holliday (Chair) – Copeland Borough Council
CLlr Neil Swannick (Vice Chair) – Manchester City Council
CLlr Mike Davidson – Allerdale Borough Council
CLlr Geoff Lilley – Hartlepool Borough Council
CLlr Andrew Nunn – Suffolk Coastal District Council
Fred Barker – NuLeAF
John Cain – Copeland Borough Council
Catherine Draper – NuLeAF
Nicola Horne – Plymouth City Council
Adrian Hurst – Hartlepool Borough Council
Stewart Kemp – Cumbria County Council
Adrian Lee – Hampshire County Council
Clive Pink – Suffolk Coastal District Council
John Pitchford – Suffolk County Council
Kerry Rickards – Sedgemoor District Council
Ian Watson – Forest Heath District Council

In the afternoon a presentation and discussion was held with Richard Arnott, Clive Nixon and Bill Hamilton of the NDA on key elements of the revised NDA strategy ahead of public consultation.

		ACTION
1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	
1.1	CLlr Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially first time attendees.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Charles Holmes – Allerdale Borough Council, Sandy Taylor – Birmingham City Council, Carol Reeder – Cornwall County Council, Cllrs Tim Knowles and Tony Markley, Cumbria County Council, John Bennett – Dorset County Council, CLlr John Glen, Hampshire County Council, Sean Morris – Manchester City Council, Bogamil Zaba, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Tim Williams – Vale of White Horse District Council.	

1.3	SK informed the meeting that Shaun Gorman would be leaving Cumbria CC at the end of June. The meeting agreed to write to thank Shaun for his contribution to NuLeAF's work since its inception in 2003.	
2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 27 JANUARY, 2010	
2.1	The Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and would be posted on the website.	CD
3	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	Item 8A - Comments have been submitted to Scottish Government on their proposed Higher Activity Waste policy. A response from SCCORS was received after submission.	
4	RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NEW NUCLEAR BUILD	
4.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • submission of comments on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS); • CoRWM's comments on the draft Nuclear NPS; • the views of the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee; • guidance from the Infrastructure Planning Commission on local impact reports; • NDA high level feasibility studies on options for managing new build spent fuel; • government consultation on the 'Financing of Decommissioning and Waste Handling Regulations' and a 'fixed unit price methodology and updated cost estimates'; • staffing levels and recruitment to new build projects; and • the outcome of preliminary discussions with officers of Somerset County Council about potential further work on the radioactive waste management implications of new nuclear build. 	
4.2	<p>Points raised in discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD explained that from his authority's perspective sentencing spent fuel as a waste is a difficult issue. SK indicated that the wording in the 2008 White Paper allowed for policy to be amended at a future date. However, because of the life expectancy of the current reprocessing plants the option may not be available unless there is significant investment. 	

- JP supported an early start to work on Local Impact Reports and highlighted the need for timely advice. KR referred to the importance of making reference to the case for community benefits and to cross-referencing this in LDFs.
- FB referred to discussion with officers from Somerset CC about the opportunity for NuLeAF input to a package of work on decommissioning and radioactive waste management associated with new build at Hinkley Point. KR supported the idea of joint working. NS agreed that it was important to work with directly affected authorities, and with wider authorities.
- The pre-application consultation by EdF at Hinkley Point is scheduled for the end of June with submission of the planning application anticipated late 2010 or early 2011. JP indicated that the timetable for the Sizewell application is approximately 12 months later. Suffolk CC will be addressing very similar issues and anticipate using NuLeAF expertise where possible.
- KR referred to the workshop that his authority is organising on 20 September that is looking at new build from a local authority perspective.
- NS pointed out that CoRWM should address accounting and staffing issues when looking at integration in planning for existing, committed and new build wastes.

4.3 The Steering Group agreed that:

- CoRWM would be asked for clarification about how and when it intends to take forward work on ways of achieving greater integration in planning for the long-term management of existing, committed and new build Higher Activity Wastes;
- that the ED should have further dialogue with officers at Somerset CC regarding the scope for joint working. Approval to any work package would be either given by the Chair and Vice Chair, or at the July SG meeting;
- discussion should take place, initially with NDA, about briefing potentially affected local authorities on the outcome of the feasibility studies on spent fuel management options, and about the potential role of local authorities in decision making on preferred options; and that

FB

FB

FB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authority be delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair for the submission of comments on the Government's consultation on the financing of decommissioning and waste management. 	FB
5	LOW LEVEL WASTES (LLW) STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENTS	
5.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues discussed at the March meeting of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group; • an update on local developments; and • an update on discussions about potential regional approaches. 	
5.2	<p>The following points were made in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDA LLW Strategy is awaiting approval and publication by government post election. • The anticipated date for the seminar has had to be moved from 20 September and is now likely to be mid November. • JC advised the SG that SEPA are holding a consultation on the decommissioning wastes from Chapelcross, and flagged up the possibility that the LLW may ultimately be disposed of in West Cumbria. The closing date is 14 May. • AL highlighted the importance of the discussions under way with NDA about the provision of 'regional evidence bases' 	
5.3	<p>The Steering Group agreed that a NuLeAF Briefing Paper should be published to highlight key points from the final version of the LLW strategy and to provide a commentary on the implications for planning.</p>	FB
6	INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS	
6.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a European Roundtable on 'Application of the Aarhus Convention on the Field of Radioactive Waste Management' in Luxembourg, April 2010, which was attended by a delegation of NuLeAF representatives; and • updates on various European projects. 	
6.2	<p>Researchers from the CARL project have submitted a new bid for European funding for a follow-on project. NuLeAF has agreed to participate in workshops subject to the reimbursement of travel costs.</p>	

6.3	The Forum for Stakeholder Confidence are organising a conference in December on reversibility and retrievability. NuLeAF has expressed support for the conference, and Cllr Tim Knowles of Cumbria CC will be speaking at the event.	
6.4	KR gave a brief review of the European Roundtable held in Luxembourg, 8-9 April and recommended the COWAM in Practice publication that was made available at the conference (NuLeAF to secure a small supply of copies and make available from the secretariat). He felt that greater prominence will be given in the future to the Aarhus convention in respect to nuclear legacy management, including rights to information and participation. The presentation slide shows from the Roundtable can be viewed on the NuLeAF website . NS asked if the EU was represented at the Roundtable in order that the discussions were fed back. KR confirmed that they were.	
6.5	The Steering Group agreed to consider a report on the application of the Aarhus Convention at its next meeting.	FB
7	PROGRESS REPORT	
7.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Government's Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme; • an NDA update; • the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP); • consultation on plutonium management options; • the establishment of the Office for Nuclear Regulation; • developments relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy and Planning Obligations; • a summary of NuLeAF's financial position at the end of the financial year 2009/10. 	
7.2	NDA Business Plan - SK expressed concern that NDA had halved its budget for skills development and that the R&D budget had been cut to £6M, in both instances the implication being that operators will increase their spend in these areas proportionately. NDA need to explain how they see progress in R&D being made under these circumstances and what evidence they have that operators will pick up the bill.	
7.3	Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) - In response to a query from SK, FB stated that MoD were currently going through a site short-listing process, the result of which would probably be announced in the autumn. NuLeAF	

7.4	<p>was pressing for MoD to engage in pre-engagement activities with affected local authorities.</p> <p>The Steering Group noted the developments outlined in this report</p>	
8	NEXT MEETING	
8.1	The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held on 14 July, 2010.	
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9.1	The EC has launched a consultation on approaches for possible EU legislation on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. It was agreed to delegate authority to submit a response to the Chair and Vice Chair.	FB
10	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: PRE-CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT ON KEY ELEMENTS IN REVISED NDA STRATEGY	
10.1	<p>NDA gave an overview of the background to the production of Strategy II. Detailed discussion took place on the topics of Site Restoration including interim status, Integrated Waste Management and Spent Fuel Management. Key points made during discussion included that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a need to consider the role of community benefits in moving forward with proposals eg for the consolidation of activities at a smaller number of sites • there is support for the idea of clearly specifying interim states, as long as future steps and timescales are made clear and sight is not lost of the 'end state' • interim states should take account of new build requirements • not all member authorities are wholly comfortable with application of the Waste Hierarchy to radioactive wastes because of the potential for dispersal of radioactivity. 	
10.2	In response to a comment that engagement with Site Stakeholder Groups alone would not guarantee sufficient engagement at a local level, it was agreed that NDA would provide NuLeAF with dates of their Strategy II meetings in order that local authorities could be contacted.	NDA/FB/CD