

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Draft Minutes of the Steering Group held on 14 July, 2010, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester

Present:

Cllr Allan Holliday (Chair) – Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Neil Swannick (Vice Chair) – Manchester City Council (pm only)
Cllr Tim Knowles – Cumbria County Council (am only)
Cllr Ken Williams – Barrow Borough Council
Fred Barker – NuLeAF
Catherine Draper – NuLeAF
Lucy Atkinson – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
James Cutting – Suffolk County Council
Gillian Ellis-King – South Gloucestershire Council
Richard Evans – Cumbria County Council
Adrian Hurst – Hartlepool Borough Council
Fergus McMorrow – Copeland Borough Council

In the afternoon a presentation and discussion was held with Peter Orr, Environment Agency in respect of their decommissioning and clean up programme, and delivering nuclear site restoration.

		ACTION
1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	
1.1	Cllr Holliday welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially first time attendees.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Cllr Mike Davidson and Charles Holmes – Allerdale Borough Council, Cllr Tony Markley and Stewart Kemp - Cumbria County Council, John Bennett – Dorset County Council, Lesley Stenhouse – Essex County Council, Andy Macbeth – Flintshire District Council, Cllr John Glen, Hampshire County Council, Cllr Paul Rigby – Lancashire County Council, Andy Appleby – London Borough of Harrow, Sean Morris – Manchester City Council, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Cllr Andrew Nunn – Suffolk Coastal District Council, Cllr Richard Smith and John Pitchford – Suffolk County Council, Claire Hames – Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Tim Williams – Vale of White Horse District Council.	

2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 20 APRIL, 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	All actions, with the exception of 10.2, are covered within the agenda.	
3.1	10.2 – an email was circulated on 5 May to appropriate officers with details for NDA meetings with SSGs regarding Strategy II.	
4	COALITION GOVERNMENT POLICIES	
4.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Policies on nuclear legacy management, • Government policies on wider issues relevant to nuclear legacy management, • the funding of nuclear legacy management, • the NDA's organisational effectiveness review, and • potential implications for NuLeAF. 	
4.2	<p>Points raised in discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the lack of focus on stakeholder engagement by NDA and a perception of a lack of effective challenge on clean-up priorities by some Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs). • A lack of decommissioning activities across the wider NDA estate had the potential to negatively impact upon other nuclear programmes. • NDA appears to be backing off from giving support to site-based engagement with local authorities. There is a need to consider whether individual local authorities can charge for the work they do with SLCs/NDA, which might then permit them to give greater financial support to NuLeAF. 	
4.3	<p>The Steering Group agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write to the NDA to ask for an update on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) discussions with Government about funding for 2011 onwards, and b) what consideration is being given to the role of Parent Body Organisations in risk sharing and funding nuclear legacy management facilities, • convene a meeting of the Strategy Review Group in September to discuss local engagement arrangements, and organisational and funding issues, and 	<p>FB</p> <p>FB/CD</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider a report at the AGM on 20 October on the implications of cuts in public expenditure for NuLeAF. 	FB
5	GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY – WEST CUMBRIA UPDATE	
5.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developments in the work of West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely (MRWS) Partnership, and the Executive Director's (ED) input to the Partnership's work programme. 	
5.2	<p>TK who currently holds the Chair of the Partnership added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ED's contribution to the work of the partnership is invaluable a seven figure funding bid has been put in to DECC for the FY 2010-11 the process is a unique piece of engagement and democratic decision making in the UK the leadership within the Office for Nuclear Development was being very helpful. 	
5.3	The Steering Group welcomed the approach being taken by the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership.	
6	THE AARHUS CONVENTION AND NUCLEAR LEGACY MANAGEMENT	
6.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an introduction to the Aarhus Convention, applicability to nuclear legacy management in the UK, and potential relevance to implementation of NDA Strategy 2. 	
6.2	The Steering Group agreed to write to the NDA asking that it take account of the implications of the Aarhus Convention and associated EC or UK legislative requirements in the way it develops its thinking on implementation of key aspects of strategy for managing radioactive wastes.	FB
7	PROGRESS REPORT	
7.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Level Waste (LLW) strategy and developments, radioactive waste management and new nuclear power stations, the Submarine Dismantling Project, the audit of NuLeAF finances, and 	

7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair at the AGM, 20 October. <p>RE gave the SG an update on the progress of applications for LLW disposal at Lillyhall (awaiting Article 37 approval) and Keekle Head (awaiting applicant's response to official request for information, therefore unlikely to go to committee in August).</p>	
7.3	<p>The ED gave a verbal update on the 'fringe' meeting at the LGA conference on 7 July – a 'new nuclear' local authority group has now been established, led by Somerset CC. Terms of reference and common areas of interest have been agreed and a work programme will be produced shortly. NuLeAF will work closely with the group in areas relating to radioactive waste management and decommissioning.</p>	
7.4	<p>The Steering Group noted the report.</p>	
8	NEXT MEETING	
8.1	<p>The next meeting of the Steering Group (and AGM) will be held on 20 October, 2010 at Local Government House, Smith Square London.</p>	
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9.1	<p>RE highlighted the importance of keeping track of developments relating to the process of environmental permitting as applied to radioactive waste management.</p>	
10	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING SITE RESTORATION PROGRAMMES	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environment Agency has a new Corporate Strategy for the years 2010-15 and is introducing a series of programmes, including one on decommissioning and nuclear clean-up. PO outlined current thinking on the programme and highlighted a number of issues, including the need for a national integrated strategy and the potential need for 'local partnering groups' to provide a sharper focus on site restoration delivery. It was agreed that the issues raised should be considered further by the meeting of NuLeAF's Strategy Review Group in September. <p>The EA presentation is available on the NuLeAF website.</p>	