

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Meeting:</b>     | NuLeAF Steering Group, 21 January 2014  |
| <b>Agenda Item:</b> | 9   |
| <b>Subject:</b>     | Service Plan 2013-15 Update   |
| <b>Author:</b>      | Philip Matthews and Catherine Draper  |
| <b>Purpose:</b>     | To update members on progress with the actions set out in the NuLeAF Service Plan 2013-15 not covered elsewhere |

### **Introduction:**

This paper covers progress in all the main areas set out in the Service Plan, excluding those for which a separate paper has been provided.

- The LLWR environmental safety case
- Update on NuLeAF's research on Duty to Co-operate
- An update on the Submarine Dismantling Project
- NORM strategy development
- ONR changes to Detailed Emergency Planning Zone principles
- NuLeAF website
- Seminar proposal

### **Recommendation:**

The report is for noting.

### **Contribution to 2013/15 Service Plan:**

This report provides a note of progress against areas of the Service Plan, enabling members to assess the extent to which NuLeAF is delivering against the objectives set.

## **1. The Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) Environmental Safety Case**

1.1 On the 11<sup>th</sup> December, Co-Executive Director Philip Matthews attended a joint Environment Agency/LLWR workshop on the environmental safety case for the national LLW repository. The aim of the workshop was to bring together stakeholders to discuss and comment on LLWR's plans for future radioactive waste disposal. The workshop was well attended and involved detailed discussion of the key challenges and issues identified and addressed in the ESC. These include the potential threat to the site from sea level rise and coastal erosion.

1.2 The Environment Agency regulates LLW disposals under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Under these regulations the operators of the LLWR, LLW Repository Limited, are required to produce and maintain an Environmental Safety Case (ESC) to demonstrate that the disposal of LLW at the site is environmentally safe.

1.3 The environmental safety case submitted by LLWR in 2002 did not fully meet the Environment Agency's requirements. When they issued the LLWR with an Authorisation (now called a Permit) in 2006, it only allowed disposal of LLW in Vault 8. The subsequently constructed Vault 9, although designed and built to meet Environment Agency disposal criteria, was authorised for storage, not disposal. A revised or new permit was therefore required for disposal of waste in Vault 9 and future vaults.

1.4 The revised ESC was submitted to the Agency on 1 May 2011 and has now been deemed 'adequate'. Full public consultation on the ESC is due later this year.

## **2. Update on NuLeAF's research on Duty to Co-operate**

2.1 NuLeAF's report on the Duty to Co-operate and the implications for future management of Low Level Waste (LLW), has now been circulated for comment to all members of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG). The closing date for comments is the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. It is intended that a final version will be published soon after that.

## **3. An update on the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP)**

3.1 The SDP process is moving into the next stage, with the provisional shortlist of sites for Interim Storage due for imminent publication. It is hoped that the list will have been announced by the time of the Steering Group meeting, and if so an Executive Director will update the group.

3.2 Pre-engagement workshops on the Interim Storage Site list are planned for London on the 7<sup>th</sup> February and Penrith on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. Local workshops at shortlisted sites will also be held, involving local authorities (district and county) along with other stakeholders in the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG). This 'pre-engagement' phase will prepare the ground for full public consultation in late 2014.

3.3 There have also been changes in personnel within the SDP team. Simon Tinling is moving to another role in the MOD and will be replaced by Linda Eadie, who starts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Sue Jordan, who has managed the SAEA process accompanying the development of the SDP, is also moving on and is being replaced by Mark Sanderson.

#### **4. NORM strategy development**

4.1 A UK-wide strategy for the management of NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials) is in development, led by the Scottish Government but involving all four administrations. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that there are safe, sustainable and resilient NORM waste management arrangements in the UK and to identify any barriers to the effective delivery of the strategy.

4.2 A consultation on the strategy is set to begin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 and will run for 12 weeks. The consultation will be published on the Scottish Government website with links to it posted on the other government websites as well as those of the UK environmental regulators.

4.3 In addition a stakeholder engagement workshop will be held in Manchester on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and a NuLeAF Co-Executive Director will attend this and report back.

#### **5. Changes to Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) principles**

5.1 The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has announced a revision of the principles which it uses to determine a nuclear site's DEPZ – the area within which local authorities must prepare emergency plans in the case of an off-site emergency. Further information about the changes can be found on the ONR website at <http://news.hse.gov.uk/onr/2014/01/revised-detailed-emergency-planning-zones-principles/>

#### **6. NuLeAF website**

6.1 The current hosts of the NuLeAF website have indicated that they wish to close the website as the management system is now outdated and no longer financially viable to continue.

6.2 A brief for a new website was produced and circulated to 3 companies, and the proposal made by Suffolk Community Action was accepted. Work has already begun on redesigning the website and the Business Support Co-ordinator will work closely with the designers in order to ensure that the new website is clear and comprehensible. It is hoped that the new website will be up and running by April 2014.

## **7. NuLeAF Seminar 2014**

A draft seminar programme has been produced (see below) and has been circulated for comment amongst members of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group. Comments from the Steering Group would be welcomed. Consideration is being given to including a session on the management of radioactive waste from fracking. At present, Monday 16 June has been identified as a possible date.

### **Outline NuLeAF Seminar Programme**

#### **Radioactive Waste Management Outlook: The Regulators Role**

- 10.30 Registration & Refreshments
- 11.00 Introduction (Richard Smith, NuLeAF Chair)
- 11.10 The Regulatory & Local Authority Interface (Juliet Long, EA?)
- 11.30 Discussion
- 11.45 Key Issues: Higher Activity Wastes
  - 1) Staged Permissioning for GDF development (Roger Yearsley, EA)
  - 2) Regulating Radioactive Waste and Materials Transportation (??, ONR)
  - 3) On Site Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel (??, ONR)
- 12.45 Discussion
- 13.00 Lunch
- 13.40 Key Issues: Lower Activity Wastes
  - 1) LLWR Environmental Safety Case (??, EA)
  - 2) Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (??, EA)
- 14.20 Discussion
- 14.35 Regulation and Stakeholder Engagement (Phil Matthews, NuLeAF)
- 14.55 Discussion
- 15.10 Closing Remarks (Brendan Sweeney, NuLeAF Vice Chair)
- 15.20 Close