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| Meeting: | NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 23 October, 2013 |
| Agenda Item: | 3 |
| Subject: | Annual Report |
| Author: | Catherine Draper |
| Purpose: | To provide an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2012 |

Introduction

This report provides an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2012.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the AGM agrees that the report presents a true picture of organisational developments and activities.

1. Context

The last year has seen significant developments in nuclear legacy and radioactive waste management and in NuLeAF's associated work programme.

Significant events include:

- the halting of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) process in West Cumbria, the subsequent review of the process carried out by government and MRWS consultation launched in September 2013;
- consultation by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on its Business Plan 2013-16 and revised Strategy, and discussion with member authorities about key aspects of strategy implementation;
- consultation by NDA on the proposals to co-locate storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and Fuel Element Debris (FED);
- publication by NuLeAF of updated guidance to local authorities on addressing radioactive waste management issues in planning; and
- undertaking by NuLeAF of commissioned work for the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) Ltd on the Duty to Cooperate and wider issues around consultation on VLLW/LALLW.

2. Overview of Organisational Developments and Activities

Organisational developments and activities have included:

Steering Group

Three meetings of the Steering Group (SG) have been held in: London (27 February and 23 October) and in Whitehaven (11 July) following a visit the previous day to Sellafield. Guest speakers came from:

- NDA - Duncan Thompson, NDA Strategy Manager gave a presentation on NDA Strategy; and
- Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates on the review of the siting process for a geological disposal facility.

Member Authorities

NuLeAF now has 110 member authorities comprising: 18 contributing authorities, 83 corresponding members, 3 National Park Authorities and 6 NFLA co-optees. The list of member authorities is attached.

The Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)

The RWPG has met three times since the last AGM. It continues to provide a mechanism for officer review and discussion of key issues prior to preparation of reports for the Steering Group. During the course of the year issues it has considered include:

- the Duty to Co-operate and its implications for management of radioactive waste;
- changes to planning policy and guidance, providing direct input to central government;

- the timing of stakeholder engagement;
- dealing with Low-Activity Low Level Waste in Waste Local Plans; and
- fracking and radioactive waste management.

The meetings continue to be well attended, with current attendance at around 15 officers, plus NuLeAF. Core membership includes: Cumbria County Council, Dorset County Council, Essex County Council, Hampshire County Council, Kent County Council, Lancashire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Somerset County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and Suffolk County Council. In addition, representatives from Suffolk Coastal District Council and West Berkshire Council have also attended.

Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely process

NuLeAF was a member of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership which submitted its final report to the decision making bodies (Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council) in October 2012. The three councils met separately on 30 January 2013 to decide whether or not to proceed to the next stage of the process. While Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils both decided they wished to remain engaged in the process, Cumbria County Council voted to withdraw, which essentially brought the MRWS process in Cumbria to a halt.

Government subsequently issued a call for evidence in May 2013 to which NuLeAF responded and both NuLeAF Executive Co-Directors met with civil servants from DECC and NDA to discuss what had happened in Cumbria and the way NuLeAF could remain involved in the process in the future. Government launched a consultation in September 2013 on a review of the siting process, to which NuLeAF will respond

Services to Member Authorities

Services to member authorities continue to be maintained.

E-bulletins have been published following each Steering Group meeting summarising the discussions and decisions and alerting the readership to other topics of interest.

Two new [Briefing Papers](#) giving interim advice on radioactive waste management in Local Plans and on the Siting Review for the Geological Disposal Facility have been published.

A newsletter rounding up items of interest, dates for the diary and current consultations is sent out to contributing member authorities in those months when an e-bulletin is not issued.

An online survey was undertaken in September 2013 to gather feedback from NuLeAF members on the work undertaken by NuLeAF staff. Unfortunately there was a poor response (less than 4%).

Seminar

NuLeAF ran a further seminar in the series on 'Radioactive Waste Management and Spatial Planning' on March 12th at Local Government House in London. In total 53

people participated in the seminar, including representatives from 19 local authorities. This was the highest attendance for any NuLeAF seminar.

Participants also came from DECC, DCLG, the Environment Agency, Kingston University, LLWR Ltd, Magnox Ltd, Ministry of Defence, NDA, North London Waste Plan, North Wales Minerals & Waste Planning Service, Planning Officers Society, Sellafield Sites Ltd, Snowdonia National Park Authority and Welsh Government. A full report on the seminar is published on the NuLeAF [website](#).

Responses to Consultation

During the course of the year [consultation responses](#) and comments have been submitted on:

- the proposal for updating national waste planning policy (PPS10)
- the proposal for a Waste Management Plan for England;
- credible options for the optimising the number and location for Fuel Element Debris (FED) treatment facilities;
- credible options for optimising the number and location of interim Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage facilities on Magnox Ltd and EDF Energy sites in England and Wales;
- the call for evidence from DECC on the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) process;
- Cumbria County Council Waste Local Plan;
- the proposal by EDF to build a new nuclear power station at Sizewell; and
- the NDA Draft Business Plan 2013-16.

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:

- the NDA's Integrated Waste Management and Site Restoration Topic Overview Groups;
- the LLWR's Integrated LLW Programme Delivery Overview Group, Regulatory Group, and Alternative Disposal Routes for VLLW Group
- the Advisory Group and Sub-Groups of the MoD's Submarine Dismantling Project;
- MRWS liaison meetings with Government and NDA;
- the MRWS Regulatory Interface Management Group;
- NDA MRWS Stage 4 Environmental Assessment Workshop and regular meetings of the MRWS Sustainability Assessment Group;
- InSOTEC¹ conference in Paris
- IPPA² conference in Prague
- EURADWASTE³ conference in Vilnius
- MoDeRN⁴ conference in Luxembourg

¹ This EU funded programme is about sharing experience of stakeholder engagement with technical issues across GDF and address key problem areas.

² The IPPA project is designed to make significant progress towards implementing geological disposal by meeting social and political challenges in a proactive way.

³ This is an annual review of progress across EU member state programmes with the delivery of GDFs and the work of the EU to support them.

⁴ This EU funded programme is about innovations in monitoring technologies and data gathering to build public confidence that GDFs during operation and post closure will safely contain wastes.

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Contributing members:

1. Allerdale Borough Council
2. Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council
3. Copeland Borough Council
4. Cumbria County Council
5. Dorset County Council
6. Hampshire County Council
7. Hartlepool Borough Council
8. Manchester City Council
9. Oxfordshire County Council
10. Plymouth City Council
11. Sedgemoor District Council
12. Shepway District Council
13. Somerset County Council
14. South Gloucester Council
15. Suffolk Coastal District Council
16. Suffolk County Council
17. West Somerset District Council
18. Ynys Mon County Council

Corresponding members

19. Arun District Council
20. Ashford District Council
21. Birmingham City Council
22. Blackpool Borough Council
23. Braintree Borough Council
24. Breckland District Council
25. Broadland District Council
26. Bromsgrove District Council
27. Caerphilly County Borough Council
28. Carlisle City Council
29. Cornwall Council
30. Chelmsford Borough Council
31. Chesterfield Borough Council
32. Cheshire West and Chester Council
33. Colchester Borough Council
34. Dacorum District Council
35. Denbighshire County Council
36. Derby City Council
37. Derbyshire Dales District Council
38. Dorset Fire and Rescue
39. Durham County Council
40. Eden District Council
41. Essex County Council
42. Forest of Dean District Council
43. Forest Heath District Council
44. Fylde Borough Council
45. Gosport Borough Council
46. Great Yarmouth Borough Council
47. Greater London Authority
48. Gwynedd County Council
49. Halton Borough Council
50. Harlow District Council
51. Hyndburn Borough Council
52. Kent County Council
53. Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council
54. Lancashire County Council
55. Lancaster City Council

56. Leeds City Council
57. Leicestershire County Council
58. Lewes District Council
59. Liverpool City Council
60. London Borough of Bromley
61. London Borough of Hackney
62. London Borough of Harrow
63. London Borough of Hillingdon
64. London Borough of Newham
65. London Borough of Tower Hamlets
66. Maldon District Council
67. Melton Borough Council
68. Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
69. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
70. Norfolk County Council
71. Northamptonshire County Council
72. North East Derbyshire District Council
73. North London Waste Planning
74. North Norfolk District Council
75. Norwich City Council
76. Nottinghamshire County Council
77. Northumberland County Council
78. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
79. Pembrokeshire County Council
80. Purbeck District Council
81. Rutland County Council
82. Scarborough District Council
83. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
84. South Lakeland District Council
85. South Ribble Borough Council
86. Southampton City Council
87. South Norfolk District Council
88. Stroud District Council
89. Spelthorne Borough Council
90. Staffordshire County Council
91. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
92. Taunton Deane Borough Council
93. Tendring District Council
94. Tunbridge Wells District Council
95. Vale of the White Horse District Council
96. Wansbeck District Council
97. Waveney District Council
98. West Berkshire District Council
99. West Lancashire District Council
100. West Lindsey District Council
101. Worcestershire County Council

NFLA authorities

102. Caerphilly County Council
103. Cardiff City Council
104. Hull City Council
105. Leeds City Council
106. Oxford City Council
107. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

National Parks Authorities

108. Lake District National Park Authority
109. North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority
110. Snowdonia National Park Authority