

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 23 rd October 2013
Agenda Item:	8
Subject:	Service Plan 2012-14 Update
Author:	All
Purpose:	To update members on progress with the actions set out in the NuLeAF Service Plan 2012-14 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.

- Submarine Dismantling Project (PM)
- Community benefits update
- Magnox ILW and FED co-location workshop

Recommendations:

This report is for noting.

Contribution to 2012/14 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. Report on progress with the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP)

NuLeAF's Executive Co-Director attended the meeting of the SDP Advisory Group Sub-Group in Bristol on 7 August. The Sub-Group is the key stakeholder group for the project as it enters the next phase.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) announced in March 2013 several important decisions on the programme. Subject to the process being demonstrated on the first submarine at Rosyth in several years time, initial dismantling of the submarines will take place at both Devonport and Rosyth dockyards. The Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) from each submarine will be removed intact and disposed of in the planned Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). Until the GDF becomes available, the RPVs, which contain Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW), will be held in an interim store, at a site that has yet to be determined.

The process for selecting a site for the interim store has now begun. Towards the end of this year, the MOD expects to announce and publish a provisional shortlist of sites on the SDP web pages at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-submarine-dismantling-project>.

The next stage of **Public and Stakeholder Engagement** (PSE) will be conducted once the provisional shortlist has been agreed. The SDP team will first undertake a period of pre-engagement with statutory bodies and potentially-affected local authorities to give them an early opportunity to understand and shape plans for the analysis of sites on the provisional shortlist and the forthcoming public consultation. The shortlist of sites will then be finalised and a full public consultation will be carried out at both local and national levels.

Views received during public consultation (which is expected to be held in 2014) will be factored in to MOD's analysis of which site should be selected for the interim ILW store.

Findings from the public consultation and MOD's final decision on which site has been selected for the interim ILW store will be published in a report. The MOD will then contract with the site licensee to undertake detailed design and seek planning approval at the selected site.

In parallel to the next stages of PSE, a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be conducted of shortlisted sites. The draft SEA will also be subject to consultation.

Further information on the SDP is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/submarine-dismantling-public-consultation-level-2-supporting-documentation> .

2. An update on community benefit issues

NuLeAF has been pressing the NDA for a number of years on the need to establish clear rules for the provision of community benefits around nuclear sites.

Of interest in this context is the announcement on 27 June of a **Shale Community Engagement Charter** by the UK Oil and Gas Onshore Industry Group (UKOOG)¹. This sets binding standards for engagement with local communities alongside a community benefits scheme.

Such examples serve to strengthen the case for similar action in relation to nuclear de-commissioning and waste management – however the NDA has to date been reluctant to consider the draft NuLeAF 'community benefits protocol'.

NuLeAF is currently revising the Community Benefits Protocol drafted by the previous Executive Director to bring it up to date and respond to developments in the nuclear industry and elsewhere. This will be circulated for comment in the near future.

The NuLeAF Chair and Executive Directors will continue to press NDA and DECC on this issue. The NuLeAF Acting Chair met NDA's CEO to discuss this, and other matters, at the NDA's National Engagement Meeting in Colchester, held on the 21st and 22nd October and will provide a verbal report to the Steering Group.

3. Magnox Ltd Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage facilities and Fuel Element Debris (FED) Treatment Facilities preferred colocation options workshop

The above workshop in Bristol between 18 and 19 July 2013 was attended by a NuLeAF officer and several members of NuLeAF's Radioactive Waste Planning Officers Group (representing their local authorities). The purpose was to help Magnox Ltd identify preferred options for the co-location of interim ILW stores and FED treatment facilities in England. Preferred options for ILW storage in Scotland have already been identified and waste management at Welsh sites (Trawsfynydd and Wylfa) will be considered separately at a later date.

A full workshop report is available from the NuLeAF Secretariat and a summary report prepared for the September RWPG meeting can also be provided on request.

¹ <http://www.ukoog.org.uk/elements/pdfs/communityengagementcharterversion6.pdf>

NDA's aim remains publication of preferred co-location options in November/December 2013 for a further round of public comment, but before then Magnox Ltd will seek meetings with each of the local authorities concerned.

Concern from local authority representatives about the availability of community benefits to waste receiving areas featured strongly at the workshop and this is captured in the workshop report which concludes:

"...the issue of potential community benefits raised a number of comments. Perhaps there should be a generic principle established for benefits packages rather than adopting a 'case-by-case' approach (although NDA noted that legal advice had suggested the latter is the norm). Community benefits should be awarded in such a way that the community benefits in a transparent fashion, rather than monies being allocated to councils on behalf of the community. Again, community benefits might be considered for those sites which lose their planned facilities to compensate for loss of employment etc, as well as to those communities asked to host additional waste."