

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

**Minutes of the Steering Group held on 25 April, 2012,
Town Hall, Manchester**

Present:

Cllr Tim Knowles, Cumbria County Council (Chairman)
Cllr Neil Swannick, Manchester City Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Allan Holliday, Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Michael Green, Lancashire County Council
Richard Griffin, Allerdale Borough Council
Denice Gallen, Copeland Borough Council
Stewart Kemp, Cumbria County Council
Adrian Hurst, Hartlepool Borough Council
Sean Morris, Manchester City Council
Bogus Zaba, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
Richard Conway, Purbeck District Council
Barry James, Somerset County Council
Robin Graham, South Ribble Borough Council
John Pitchford, Suffolk County Council
Fred Barker, NuLeAF
Philip Matthews, NuLeAF
Catherine Draper, NuLeAF

		ACTION
1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	
1.1	Cllr Knowles welcomed everyone to the meeting and participants introduced themselves.	
1.2	TK briefly updated the meeting on the process for recruiting a new Executive Director and thanked NS, FB, JP and CD for their contribution. He introduced Stewart Kemp and Philip Matthews who would be taking over the role on a job-share basis. SK and PM gave a brief resumé of their recent work history.	
1.3	Apologies were received from: Steve Smith – Copeland Borough Council, Cllr Anthony Markley & Sue Brett – Cumbria County Council, Mike Garrity – Dorset County Council, Lesley Stenhouse – Essex County Council, Cllr Geoff Lilley – Hartlepool Borough Council, Katherine Dove – Kent County Council, Andrew Smith & Louise Nurser – Lancashire County Council, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Robin Carton & Nicola Horne – Plymouth City Council, Kerry Rickards & Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Cllr Matthew	

	Riddle & Gillian Ellis-King – South Gloucestershire Council, Cllr Penny Wride – Stroud District Council, Cllr Andrew Nunn, Clive Pink, Bob Chamberlain – Suffolk Coastal District Council, Cllr Clyde Loakes – London Borough of Waltham Forest, Cllr Colin Law – Waveney District Council.	
2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 25 JANUARY, 2012	
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	7. A letter had been received from the NFLA raising concerns about the NuLeAF/NNLAG protocol. FB circulated a draft response, which was discussed and agreed, subject to the inclusion of a reference to ensuring the working relationship is transparent. SM said he would recommend the response to the next meeting of the NFLA Steering Group.	FB SM
3.2	3.3 (5.2) There has been no advance in Cumbria CC's consideration of the standards of LLW management in France since the last meeting. It was agreed that the item would be dropped from Matters Arising, but a watching brief kept on this subject.	PM/SK
3.3	9.3 Confirmation of ONR's attendance at the July Steering Group is awaited.	
3.4	11.4 The MoD is in the process of appraising the responses to the SDP consultation. A meeting of the Advisory Group is expected towards the end of June and a fuller report will be submitted to the July SG meeting.	PM/SK
3.5	All other matters are covered within the meeting papers.	
4	NuLeAF STAFFING	
4.1	This was covered under 'Welcome'.	
5	LOW LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT	
5.1	FB introduced the report which covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Group representations on NDA/LLWR Ltd's approach to securing VLLW and low activity LLW disposal routes; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the outcome of LLW Programme Delivery Group (PDG) meeting on 8 February; • the outcome of the NuLeAF seminar on 9 March; • participation in a new NDA/LLWR Ltd working group to scope out an action plan for an improved approach to VLLW and low activity LLW disposal routes; • Augean’s application to the National Infrastructure Directorate concerning the landfill site near King’s Cliffe, Northamptonshire; • discussion with the Environment Agency on environmental permitting and LLW disposal; and • publication of the UK Strategy for the Management of Solid LLW from the Non-Nuclear Industry. 	
5.2	<p>Points considered in discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat would liaise closely with local authorities affected by the new approach being developed by NDA/LLWR Ltd on disposal of VLLW and low activity LLW. • Should the outcomes of the new approach come to fruition, it is possible that there will be little need for new applications for disposal to landfill outside the nuclear estate for a considerable period of time. However, this is subject to the granting of planning applications in Cumbria and Northamptonshire. • The application for continued disposal of LLW at King’s Cliffe by Augean is likely to be determined by the Secretary of State on the advice of the National Infrastructure Directorate as it forms part of a larger application for life and site extension, which cannot practicably be determined separately. • The new capacity figures produced by LLWR Ltd have raised a question over the application for disposal of LLW to the Keekle Head site on the grounds of need. The application would be heard by Committee on 6 May. • It was confirmed that NDA/LLWR Ltd are addressing the extent to which DEFRA guidance (at rsl-guidance-110914.pdf) on ‘out of scope’ and ‘exempt’ wastes will impact on the capacity projections produced by LLWR Ltd. • Cumbria CC was considering what further work could be undertaken to provide evidence of wider socio-economic impacts of LLW disposal developments, based on blight or stigma. This issue would be considered further by the RWPG. 	<p>PM/SK</p> <p>FB</p>
5.3	<p>The SG welcomed the NDA’s commitment to develop an improved approach to securing VLLW and low activity LLW disposal routes and endorsed participation</p>	

	in discussions to help develop this approach.	
6	NDA STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT	
6.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategy development on Integrated Waste Management (IWM), including highlighting the shift in NDA thinking from regional consolidation of ILW to local e.g. between A and B stations. • strategy development on Site Restoration • an update on the proposal for a Community Benefits protocol • future engagement meetings with NDA 	
6.2	NS raised the issue of the potential impacts of the thermal treatment of waste. It was agreed that the SG should monitor developments as further information becomes available from IWM Topic Overview Group.	PM/SK
6.3	FB advised the meeting that GEK had asked that any response to the Site Restoration consultation include a reference to the need to ensure there is synergy between A, B and where appropriate, C sites.	FB
6.4	JP asked what the timetable was for NDA engagement with local authorities on the implementation of new aspects of strategy on site restoration FB advised that this issue could be discussed with NDA at the next engagement meeting proposed for September.	PM/SK
6.5	TK advised the SG that he considered it unlikely that any agreement would be reached with NDA in the near future regarding community benefits in Cumbria, linked to waste transfers to the Sellafield site. In light of this, and lack of clarity about the implications of strategy development on LLW disposal and ILW storage consolidation, FB suggested that the SG review potential approaches to securing Community Funds at a subsequent meeting. This would also allow progress in establishing a new nuclear build protocol, as proposed by NNLG, to be reviewed and taken into account.	PM/SK
6.6	<p>The Steering Group agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write to the NDA to welcome the proposed strategy development programme on site restoration, highlighting the importance of engagement with local authorities at appropriate points as the programme develops, reiterating the offer of assistance to help facilitate that engagement, and asking for the possibilities of synergies between 	FB

	<p>adjacent stations to be taken into account.</p> <p>2. Review potential approaches to securing Community Funds when agreement has been reached in West Cumbria relating to the Sellafield site, and when further information is available about the implications of current discussions about LLW disposal routes, ILW treatment and storage consolidation, and the proposed new nuclear protocol.</p> <p>3. Organise further engagement meetings between NDA, Site Licensee Companies and local authorities as appropriate.</p>	<p>PM/SK</p> <p>FB/CD/PM/SK</p>
7	RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS	
7.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion about new build at the NuLeAF seminar on 9 March; • input to Somerset County Council regarding issues associated with the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel at the proposed Hinkley Point C station; • the procedure and timetable for the National Infrastructure Directorate's (NID) consideration of the application; and • issues raised about spent fuel and radioactive waste management in representations to the IPC. 	
7.2	<p>BJ gave a brief update on the status of the Hinkley Point C application. The District Councils had raised concerns about the conduct of the initial hearing. Somerset County Council had selected a number of issues which it wished to address at the hearings: transport, accommodation, tourism, community benefits package and radioactive waste storage.</p>	
7.3	<p>The Steering group agreed to keep developments under review and to provide advice and assistance to Somerset CC, Sedgemoor DC and West Somerset DC as appropriate.</p>	FB/PM/SK
8	PROGRESS REPORT	
8.1	<p>FB introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government's new national strategic framework on nuclear emergency planning; • the Government announcement about changes to the nuclear liability regime; • discussion between ONR and local authorities with licensed nuclear sites about planning advice for developments in the vicinity of those sites; 	

8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the process for siting a geological disposal facility (GDF); • discussion about radioactive waste management and spatial planning at the NuLeAF seminar; • Magnox socio-economic policy; and • the NuLeAF budget. <p>FB advised the SG that DECC intended to publish a status report on the development of the national nuclear emergency planning strategic framework in June.</p> <p>SM commented that he is attending a meeting between DECC and NGOs the following week, and may be able to provide further information to the ED subsequently.</p>	SM/FB
8.3	NS raised concerns that the level of liability set by the Government was, although increased, still insufficient in light of the costs forecast in respect of the Fukushima accident.	
8.4	It was agreed that consideration should be given to the way in which this issue could be re-raised and brought to the next meeting for discussion.	FB/SK/PM
9	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
9.1	The next meeting will be held on 20 July, Local Government House, Smith Square, London. TK asked CD to investigate whether or not there were any implications of hotel price rises caused by the Olympics, and NS offered to host the next meeting if this was an issue.	CD
10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10.1	TK thanked FB warmly for his contribution to NuLeAF and made a small presentation as a token of the Steering Group's appreciation.	