

# **BACKGROUND BRIEFING NOTE ON NUCLEAR LEGACY MANAGEMENT AND PROPOSALS FOR NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS**

## **NuLeAF Steering Group Discussion, 3 February 2009**

It is not within NuLeAF's remit to form a view on whether new nuclear power stations should be built, but it does have responsibility to comment on any implications for nuclear legacy management.

New nuclear build could impact on nuclear legacy management in a number of ways, particularly on implementing strategies for the interim and long-term management of radioactive waste, and for decommissioning.

The potential implications include:

- the requirements for the number and location of interim storage facilities, particularly for Intermediate Level Waste and spent fuel;
- requirements for the number, location and capacity of Low Level Waste disposal facilities, either at existing nuclear sites, or new regional or national disposal facilities;
- impact on site end states or the time period within which the end state might be reached; and
- the impact on the inventory of wastes for emplacement in a geological repository, and implications for repository size and cost.

During the course of 2009, the Government will:

- publish Strategic Siting Assessment criteria for new nuclear power stations
- invite third parties to nominate sites
- assess sites against the criteria
- consult on a draft National Policy Statement (including a draft list of sites)

NuLeAF Briefing Paper 9 ([BP9, July 07](#)) argues that there needs to be greater clarity about the way interactions between any new nuclear build and legacy management should be handled. It proposes that the following requirements should be adopted as Government policy:

- in developing proposals for new build at specific sites, the developer should ensure that it identifies the requirements for on and off-site facilities for radioactive waste management and decommissioning, and the implications for existing, planned or anticipated facilities for managing the nuclear legacy on or adjacent to the site concerned and for any regional or national facilities;
- the developer should ensure that it briefs the local planning authority and Site Stakeholder Group on those requirements and implications at the pre-application stage, and through subsequent application steps;
- the developer should brief the NDA on those requirements and implications at the earliest opportunity;
- the developer should publish the above information;
- in liaison with the NDA, and taking into account the views of local authorities and the communities they represent, the developer must ensure that its proposals for radioactive

waste management and decommissioning do not prejudice effective management of the nuclear legacy; and

- steps will be taken to ensure that the recruitment of staff into any new build programme does not leave nuclear legacy management short of staff and skills.

NuLeAF's AGM in October 2009 considered that key aspects of these requirements should be expressed as strategic objectives:

Strategic objectives linked to the nuclear legacy management implications of a potential programme of new nuclear power stations are:

- if Government continues to encourage the building of new nuclear power stations, to seek to ensure that its National Policy Statement is open and transparent about the interactions between new nuclear build and nuclear legacy management.
- to seek to ensure that proposals for radioactive waste management and decommissioning of new nuclear power stations do not prejudice effective management of the nuclear legacy

During 2008, NuLeAF also responded to Government consultations on:

- proposals for a Funded Decommissioning Programme for new nuclear power stations (see [Funded Decommissioning response](#))
- proposals for Strategic Siting Assessment (see [SSA response](#)).

The following points about the links between legacy management and new build were made at the NuLeAF seminar in December 2008:

There is a need to look at the potential synergies in land use at multi-station locations, particularly in the context of potential new build. How can local authorities encourage Government to think about this? NDA recognises that there are synergies and, if within its powers, would wish to exploit them to the benefit of nuclear legacy management. The Office for Nuclear Development is aware of the potential synergies.

Following a presentation by the NDA, the afternoon session of the Steering Group will discuss the NDA's thinking about these synergies and how they might be exploited.