

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

**LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR
DECOMMISSIONING**

**Minutes of the Steering Group held on 11 July 2013,
The Copeland Centre, Whitehaven**

Present:

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council (Chair)
 Cllr Mark Hackett, Manchester City Council
 Cllr Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Council
 Cllr David Southward, Cumbria County Council
 Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council
 Cllr Elaine Woodburn, Copeland Borough Council
 Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
 Richard Griffin, Cumbria County Council
 John Groves, Copeland Borough Council
 Adrian Hurst, Hartlepool Borough Council
 Louise Nurser, Lancashire County Council
 Sean Morris, Manchester City Council
 David Palk, Suffolk County Council
 Clive Pink, Suffolk Coastal District Council
 Steve Smith, Copeland Borough Council
 Tudor Smith, Colchester Borough Council
 Stewart Kemp, NuLeAF
 Philip Matthews, NuLeAF
 Catherine Draper, NuLeAF

		ACTION
1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	
1.1	Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and participants introduced themselves. Cllr Elaine Woodburn welcomed the meeting to Copeland Borough Council offices.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Charles Holmes – Allerdale Borough Council, Cllr Allan Holliday – Copeland Borough Council, Cllr Robbie Payne – Hartlepool Borough Council, Cllr Marcus Johnstone – Lancashire County Council, Nick Johnson - Norfolk County Council, Phil Watson – Northamptonshire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Cllr Alex McLean – SCCORS, Guy Robinson – Somerset County Council.	
1.3	Cllr Smith thanked CD for organising the trip to Sellafield and passed on best wishes from former Chairman Cllr Tim Knowles.	
2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2013	
2.1	Subject to slight amendments to the phraseology at 11.2 and 12.18 the Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting and would be posted on the website.	CD

3	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	All matters have progressed, are in progress, or covered elsewhere in the papers except item 4.2 from 24 October 2012 which had not been progressed because of work/time constraints. It was hoped that progress could be made on this area shortly.	PM
4	AN UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LOW LEVEL WASTE (LLW) MANAGEMENT	
4.1	<p>PM introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra's response to NuLeAF's letter regarding the forthcoming National Waste Management Plan for England; • an update on NDA's proposed review of their strategic position on Low Level Waste (LLW); • LLW Regulators meeting; • NuLeAF's new guidance on planning and radioactive waste management; • NuLeAF research on the Duty to Cooperate • Community benefits; • Keekle Head inquiry. <p>Key points arising from discussion were:</p>	
4.2	It was agreed that further correspondence should be had with both Defra and DECC regarding radioactive waste management guidance in the forthcoming Waste Management Plan for England.	PM
4.3	It was agreed that developments in radioactive waste from the fracking industry should be monitored for its impacts on legacy waste management.	SK/PM
4.4	It was suggested that rather than establish a task group to engage with NDA on Community Benefits, it would be more appropriate to take the protocol agreed with government by NNLAG and to which NuLeAF had contributed and base ideas around that. NuLeAF should also review the work on this issue undertaken by the previous Executive Director. A paper will be circulated amongst the Steering Group before finalisation.	PM
4.5	Consideration should also be given as to whether it was appropriate to continue to approach NDA on the subject of Community Benefits, or if DECC and/or SLCs were more appropriate bodies. Given the recent announcements from the wind and the oil & gas industries it was felt that it would be timely to give this matter greater priority.	PM
5	AN UPDATE ON NDA STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS	
5.1	<p>SK introduced the report which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publication of NDA Report and Accounts 2012-13; • comments to NDA on consolidation of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage in England and Wales; • comments to NDA on consolidation of Fuel Element Debris (FED); 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disposal of NDA non-commercial assets; • Magnox and RSRL PBO competition; • NDA Theme Overview Groups (TOGs); • NDA stakeholder engagement. <p>Key points made during discussion were:</p>	
5.2	Members of the meeting stressed their deep concern about the perceived lack of commitment to meaningful stakeholder engagement by NDA on the ILW/FED issues.	
5.3	Although NDA had expressed its concern that information available at the February workshop (credible options stage) was too complex to be meaningful to the public, the danger was that if consultation was left until the preferred options stage it was too late to challenge assumptions. The opportunity should be taken at the July workshop to advise NDA to consult appropriately.	SK
5.4	EW advised those members of the meeting who were currently involved in the PBO competition that they should seek to obtain a socio-economic contract with the bidders. This would provide written evidence of commitments made and provide a document against which performance could be monitored. She offered to share the contract signed with LLWR which could be used as a basis for other local authorities to draw up their own agreement.	EW/JG/CD
5.5	Given that the proposed seminar on PBO contracts did not go ahead it was important that this issue was not dropped and pressure maintained on NDA to ensure meaningful socio-economic commitments were made PBO bidders which could be reviewed and monitored.	
5.6	Concerns were raised about the lack of detail in NDA Strategy documentation about how its stakeholder engagement would be put into practice, and the lack of feedback from NDA on comments made in its engagement surveys.	
5.7	As discussions at officer level had to date proved ineffective in producing an improvement in NDA stakeholder engagement, perhaps more progress could be made if an approach was made by the Chairman of NuLeAF to the Chief Executive of NDA. The Co-Directors would work with the Chair to take this forward.	SK/PM/RS
5.8	A more constructive approach would be to set out specific details of what NuLeAF members expected NDA to do in its engagement, including timelines and actions.	
5.9	The Steering Group agreed that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NuLeAF would write again to Sean Balmer, Commercial Director of NDA regarding how contract performance would be monitored and reviewed; and 2. Officers would seek a meeting between RS and John Clarke to discuss stakeholder engagement. 	SK SK/RS

6	AN UPDATE ON THE MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY (MRWS) PROGRAMME	
6.1	SK introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRWS review by government; • the autumn MRWS consultation process • future MRWS engagement • CoRWM • international work <p>Key points raised during discussion were:</p>	
6.2	Concerns were raised over the proposals to work with DECC/NDA on an autumn seminar ahead of the MRWS consultation launch.	
6.3	The Steering Group agreed that this line of work should not be pursued and a paper should be presented to the October meeting on developments in this area.	SK
6.4	The Steering Group agreed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to accept sponsorship from NDA for NuLeAF to attend the InSOTEC seminar in Berlin on 12/13 November 2013 (SK attending); and 2. to accept further sponsorship from NDA for 4 people to attend the Euradwaste 2013 conference in Vilnius on 14-16 October with Cllr Hackett attending in addition to the NuLeAF Chair and Co-Directors. 	SK/CD SK/CD
7	AN UPDATE ON OTHER KEY TASKS IN THE SERVICE PLAN 2012-14	
7.1	PM introduced the report which covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP); • NuLeAF finances; • liaison with the Local Government Association (LGA); • government response re justification for plutonium recycling; and • draft report card for review of Service Plan 2013-13. 	
7.2	EW raised concerns about the speed with which government was addressing the management of the UK civil plutonium stockpile and asked if NuLeAF could encourage it to expedite matters.	
7.3	The Steering Group agreed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LGA should be approached to accept an article from the Chair for 'First' magazine. This would be circulated prior to submission; 2. NuLeAF would write to DECC asking for an update on the timetable for a final decision on plutonium and what if any are the issues holding back a resolution of this matter; 3. The draft report card was fit for purpose subject to the addition of a free text space and should be circulated prior to the AGM; and 4. An updated 2013/15 Service Plan should be prepared for presentation to the AGM in October. 	SK SK CD SK/PM/CD

8	NEXT MEETING	
8.1	The next meeting will be held on 23 October at the offices of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 8 All Saints Street, London N1.	
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9.1	None	

ACTION LIST

Steering Group, 11 July 2013			
	ACTION	FOR	STATUS
2.1	Post amended Minutes on website	CD	Done 15.7.2013
4.2	Write to Defra & DECC re addressing radwaste in planning guidance	PM	
4.3	Monitor waste management developments in the fracking industry	SK/PM	Ongoing
4.4	Redraft NuLeAF Community Benefits protocol with reference to that developed by NNLAG and circulate for comment.	PM	
5.3	Remind NDA of need to consult on FED/ILW options when at July workshop.	SK	
5.4	Share the contract signed with LLWR & circulate amongst relevant member authorities.	EW/JG/CD	Circulated 19 July
5.9	Write to Sean Balmer, Commercial Director of NDA regarding how contract performance would be monitored and reviewed.	SK	
5.9	Seek a meeting between RS and John Clarke to discuss stakeholder engagement.	SK	
6.3	Cease work on autumn MRWS seminar and submit a paper to the October meeting on developments in this area.	SK	DECC/NDA advised of withdrawal of the seminar proposal
6.4	Accept sponsorship from NDA for NuLeAF to attend the InSOTEC seminar in Berlin on 12/13 November 2013 (SK attending).	SK/CD	Done
6.4	Accept further sponsorship from NDA for 4 people to attend the Euradwaste 2013 conference in Vilnius on 14-16 October (RS/MH/PM/SK attending).	SK/CD	Done
7.3	Approach LGA to accept an article from the Chair for 'First' magazine. Circulate prior to submission.	SK	Done
7.3	Write to DECC asking for an update on the timetable for a final decision on plutonium and what if any are the issues holding back a resolution of this matter.	SK	
7.3	Amend draft report card to include free	CD	

	text space and circulate prior to the AGM.		
7.3	Prepare an updated 2013/15 Service Plan for presentation to the AGM in October.	SK/PM/CD	
Steering Group, 27 February 2013			
6.8	Offer of assistance of member authorities in development of procurement skills should be made	SK	Draft proposal with JP before submission
11.5	Continue to work with EA on planning and permitting	PM	Ongoing
Steering Group, 24 October 2012			
4.2	Obtain or produce overview of groups working on low level radioactive waste management	PM/CD	In progress
4.2	Ask Environment Agency/SEPA to document the criteria used to determine environmental permitting applications	PM	Requested
4.2	Seek clarification from the Environment Agency why transport is not considered when permitting mobile waste streams	PM	To be done
4.2	Obtain update on organisation mapping exercise from Environment Agency	PM	Requested