

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 19 April 2007
Agenda Item:	7
Subject:	NDA Programme Developments
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To report on developments

Introduction

This report outlines developments in key areas of NDA activity, covering:

- Review of site 'End States'
- Magnox Decommissioning
- Interim storage of ILW
- Stakeholder Engagement Review
- Socio-Economic Policy
- NDA Budget

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1 A report outlining the main themes in local authority responses to the site end states review be tabled at the next meeting of the Steering Group.
- 2 The NDA be invited to make a presentation on its review of stakeholder engagement arrangements at the next meeting of the Steering Group.
- 3 A meeting of member authorities concerned about the effectiveness of Site Stakeholder Groups be convened in liaison with the NDA and its stakeholder engagement contractors.

Site End States

As discussed at previous SG meetings, the NDA is reviewing site End States with stakeholders. The review aims to identify the physical condition that a nuclear site should be left in when the NDA has finished its business. The End State (or states) will influence the end uses that are possible on a site. The review involves consultation around each NDA site, coordinated by the Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs).

Member authorities have been encouraged to participate in the review, via production of a NuLeAF Briefing Paper, discussion at the regional seminars, coverage in the e-bulletin, e-mail contact and a ring round. Following e-mail and telephone requests for information, an overview of local authority involvement in local consultations has been put together (see Annex 1). This confirms the picture emerging from the regional seminars that there is a very wide variation in the level of involvement from site to site.

A lack of involvement in some areas appears to have arisen for a number of reasons (which vary from site to site). The reasons can include:

- SSGs contacting the relevant local authority very late in the process
- Local authority representatives on SSGs not reporting back to their authorities
- Concern on the part of some local authorities that the SSG is not the appropriate body to oversee a consultation process of this nature
- A lack of a genuine culture of engagement between a local authority and the site and/or SSG
- A lack of capacity within a local authority to respond in the light of other priorities.

Next steps include:

- inputting learning points about the review *process* to the NDA stakeholder engagement review (see below);
- identifying the main themes in member authority comments on the *content* of the review (eg preferred end uses/states) for use in further discussion with the NDA.

On process learning, preliminary discussion has already taken place with the NDA about the need in the future for more joint working in the planning stage of similar consultation processes to develop an approach that can secure wide local authority involvement. On the content review, it is proposed to table a report at the next meeting of the SG.

The NDA's site end states project leader, Sara Johnston, will be making a presentation to the afternoon session of the SG. This will provide an overview of progress to date and future steps and an opportunity for discussion. For further information about the review see:

Magnox Decommissioning

The NDA's current strategy for decommissioning the Magnox stations after defuelling involves:

- 20-25 years to reach 'care and maintenance'
- 80-100 years in 'care and maintenance'
- dismantling and final site clearance after 80-100 years.

The NDA believes that there may be benefits from accelerating decommissioning, including: better use of existing workforces, not leaving final site clearance to future generations, earlier availability of sites for other uses, and fewer ILW interim stores needed (NDA Strategy, p28). However, it adds that there are a number of issues to address, such as availability of waste management routes and the implications of processing wastes of higher activities.

The NDA has therefore embarked on an evaluation of the case for accelerated decommissioning, with a view to developing a business case that will inform development of its next Strategy (08/09).

As part of this evaluation, BNG recently convened a workshop (15 March) to contribute towards a Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) of decommissioning options. NuLeAF was represented at the workshop by the Project Officer. The BNG report of the workshop is awaited.

On a positive note, the invitation to NuLeAF to participate in the workshop is welcome and BNG has recognised the importance of addressing the bounding range of criteria weightings generated by different stakeholder groups. However, it was not clear:

- how the workshop fitted into an overall process of appraisal and decision-making
- when local authorities around Magnox sites would be involved, or
- how the results of the MCA and stakeholder views would be used to inform NDA decision-making.

These concerns have been fed into the NDA's review of stakeholder engagement, as they demonstrate the need for the NDA to take a more sustained and strategic approach to engagement. In particular, participants need to see how the decision process will work, and the part that they are playing in it.

Finally, assistance has been offered to BNG/NDA in terms of how the Magnox Decommissioning options assessment is taken forward, including coverage in the e-bulletin, preparation of a Briefing Paper for authorities with Magnox sites, and assistance in convening a meeting for those authorities to discuss the options assessment.

Interim Storage of ILW

As reported to previous meetings of the SG, the NDA has a long-standing commitment to engage stakeholders in its review of options for rationalising the interim storage of intermediate level wastes (ILW). This review could impact on the location of the site or sites for storing operational ILW from Berkeley, Bradwell, Culham, Dungeness, Harwell, Oldbury, Sizewell, Winfrith and Wylfa, which amounts to about 5% of the NDA's ILW inventory.

Although the Executive Director has previously offered assistance to the NDA to facilitate local authority involvement in the review, little progress appears to have been made. There is now a risk that the NDA will revert to a more traditional style of consultation on a developed set of proposals, without prior involvement of potentially affected local authorities in options assessment. This runs counter to recent trends towards early, participative forms of engagement.

Concerns about the lack of involvement of local authority stakeholders in the review of ILW storage options have been fed into the NDA review of stakeholder engagement.

NDA Review of Stakeholder Engagement

As reported at the last meeting of the SG, following appointment of a new Convenor for NDA stakeholder engagement (3KQ and Dialogue by Design), the NDA has initiated a review of current structures and mechanisms of engagement.

Based on questionnaire responses and feedback at the regional seminars, the views of member authorities have been fed into the NDA review.

The NDA will present proposals arising from the review to its National Stakeholder Group on 5-6 July. Before that, preliminary findings will be discussed at a new 'reference group', being set up to provide stakeholder feedback on process issues. The first meeting of the group is being held on 10 May. The Executive Director has accepted an invitation to be a member of the group.

In view of the concerns about the NDA's stakeholder engagement arrangements, it is also proposed that:

- The NDA be invited to make a presentation on its review of stakeholder engagement arrangements at the meeting of the Steering Group on 27 June.
- A meeting of member authorities concerned about the effectiveness of Site Stakeholder Groups be convened in liaison with the NDA and its stakeholder engagement contractors in late May or early June.

Socio-Economic Policy

The deadline for comments on the NDA's draft socio-economic policy was 19 January. The draft policy sets out how the NDA intends to work with partners to help mitigate the impacts of decommissioning programmes. It seeks to provide the

framework within which organisations near NDA sites will be able to bid for funds for projects that will bring long lasting benefits to communities. The response attached as Annex 2 was submitted on behalf of the SG.

It is understood that the NDA's policy is likely to be published towards the end of April.

NDA Budget

Following reports in the press that the NDA was facing budget cuts, a statement was placed on the NDA website on 22 February. This stated that the DTI has agreed to fund a programme of £2472 million for 07/08, which represents a small increase on programme spending in 06/07. It added that the "settlement will allow the NDA and its contractors to meet its current priorities of safety, regulatory compliance, tackling highest hazards and providing more funding for decommissioning by maximising commercial income".

The statement also refers to work being underway to examine the "whole funding and financing regime for nuclear decommissioning with the goal of providing stability over the long-term".

Nonetheless, it is understood that the settlement of £2472m provides less than sufficient money to do all the work that was included in the Lifetime plan for 07/08. As a result, the NDA has asked sites to reduce their scope of work i.e. to do less work than originally planned within the current year.

Overview of Key Dates




June-Sept 07 Reconciliation process – site end states




Aug-Nov 07 Consultation on NDA Annual Plan 08/09

Oct 07 Award of Low Level Waste Repository Contract (LLWR)

Mar 08 LLW strategic review starts

Autumn 08 Consultation on NDA Strategy and Annual Plan

CATEGORY	SITE	LOCAL AUTHORITIES	MEMBER	LA SITE END STATE RESPONSE TO SSG OR NDA [info from NuLeAF contacts']	LATEST SSG WEBSITE COVERAGE OF SITE END STATES REVIEW [Web address]
BNFL	Capenhurst	Chester City Council	Yes	Contacts not responding to NuLeAF requests for info	http://www.nuclearsites.co.uk/page.php?pageID=729 nothing available on site end states review, but BNG have sent draft Nov 06 SSG minutes with discussion of the Capenhurst process.
		Cheshire County Council	No	Not aware of anything having come through into Planning but checking and will get back.	
	LLWR	Copeland BC	Yes	Interim report to NDA in March 2007	http://www.wcssg.co.uk/currentconsult.htm Paper sets out approach of WCSSG to the end states review.
		Cumbria CC	Yes	Attended WCSSG workshop on 4/1. Written to NDA   report 060817 on paper - site end state report 060815 on paper - site end state	
	Sellafield	Copeland BC	Yes	See above	See above
		Allerdale BC	Yes	Yes – broad draft statement below  Site End Uses.doc (Participating in SSG debate. Also have their own Nuclear Issues task force, met Feb 07 for first time)	
		Cumbria CC	Yes	See above	
	Springfields	Preston City Council	Yes	Contact not responding to NuLeAF requests for info	http://www.nuclearsites.co.uk/resources/upload/SES%20Consultation%20Report.pdf Report of consultation, including recommendations and analysis of consultation responses by Lancs CC. A Development Report also refers to informal input from Lancs CC planners.
		Fylde Borough Council	Yes	Contact not responding to NuLeAF requests for info	
		Lancashire CC	Yes	(Cllr Whittle is Chair of SSG End State Sub-Committee) Results report available after SSG meeting on 15 March (Stephen Whithead to FB e-mail 6 March) Peter Moorcroft will forward draft copy of final report	

Magnox South	Berkeley	Stroud DC	No	Not yet. Response awaited	http://www.nda.gov.uk/Stakeholder--Site_Stakeholder_Groups--Berkeley_Site_Stakeholder_Group--Berkeley_SSG_Site_End_State_Sub_Group_(1602).aspx?pg=1602 Report sets out full results of local consultation
		Forest of Dean DC	Yes	Contact not responding to NuLeAF requests for info	
		Gloucestershire CC	No	Yes to SSG – see Oldbury website for report)	
	Bradwell	Maldon DC	Yes	Not yet. Response awaited.	http://www.nuclearsites.co.uk/page.php?pageID=1053 but doesn't specifically relate to Site End States. Nothing available on web.
		Essex CC	Yes	Response in preparation. Will supply when available.	
	Dungeness	Shepway DC	Yes	Contact not responding to NuLeAF requests for info	http://www.british-energy.com/pagetemplate.php?pid=318 Includes SSG presentation on consultation results, indicating that these will be considered by planning authorities. FB e-mails drawing attention of Shepway and Kent to this (6 Mar).
		Kent CC	Yes	Not making specific response. View set out in draft Strategy response of November 2005 and in ltr to H&SE of March 2006 on environmental impact (pp 7-8)  060308 final response on decommi	
	Hinkley Point	Sedgemoor DC	Considering membership	Wish to negotiate end state that would result in cost savings that can be used for community benefits. Wrote to NDA 2 Mar. No response as yet.	http://www.nuclearsites.co.uk/page.php?pageID=1059 nothing about review. Two reports in preparation (a) results of SSG consultation and (b) BNG views on feasibility of recs. Results of SSG consultation forwarded to FB, 26 March.
		West Somerset DC	No	Thought to share view of Sedgemoor DC	
		Somerset CC	Yes	Not responding to SSG	
	Sizewell	Suffolk Coastal DC	Yes	Not yet – will do direct to NDA	http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=398 nothing about review, but full report of consultation responses circulated by e-mail by Suffolk CC
		Suffolk CC	Yes	Yes – responded to SSG  2006-11-14 SSG end state consultation res  2006-11-14 Sizewell A end state questionr	

Magnox North	Calder Hall	As Sellafield		See above	http://www.wcssg.co.uk/currentconsult.htm
	Oldbury	Stroud DC	No	Not yet	http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/oldbury_end_state_consultation_2006.pdf
		South Gloucestershire DC	Yes	Yes – to SSG questionnaire (see website for report) but response reflected the views of an individual and did not purport to be a view/formal resolution on behalf of the Council	Full report of consultation available, including views of participants from S Gloucs and Gloucs CC.
		Gloucestershire CC	No	Yes – to SSG questionnaire (see website for report)	
	Trawsfynydd	Snowdonia National Park	Yes	Not responding Have been consulted by the SSG, so fully aware of what is going on, but do not consider it appropriate for Authority to respond	http://www.nda.gov.uk/Stakeholder--Site_Stakeholder_Groups--Trawsfynydd_Site_Stakeholder_Group_(1801).aspx?pg=1801#Site_End_State_Sub-Group Contains basic info on intended process, including introductory briefing.
		Gwynedd CC	Yes	Will let us know if responding to SSG	
	Wylfa	Isle of Anglesey	Yes	Consultation has gone to members of the Site Stakeholder Group. Contact says as observers only IofA CC will not be commenting formally.	
UKAEA	Culham	South Oxfordshire DC	No	Not known	http://www.ukaea.org.uk/sites/culham_local_liaison_committee.htm but nothing on Site End State Review
		Oxfordshire CC	Yes	See below (Harwell)	

	Harwell	Vale of White Horse DC	Yes	<p>Yes – to LSG – consultation document states that the representative was involved in the End State consultation and had the opportunity to vote at an LSG meeting in response to a motion on the LSG recommended End State Option. (Evidence of response letter not yet scanned in to document)</p> <p>Recommendation from LSG is “The Harwell LSG recommends that the End State for Harwell [the NDA designated part of the campus] should be a 100% de-licensed [ie no area with a Nuclear Site Licence] site by 2010”.</p> <p>VWHDC response: Planning Strategy – LSG recommendation unlikely to conflict with the views of the Council Environmental Health: “The Government’s decision in principle to develop this site as a Science & Innovation Campus means that the end state will need to be determined in accordance with this proposal. The wish of the LSG that the site should be 100% de-licensed under the terms of the Nuclear Installations Act by 2020 is in accordance with the proposed future use of the site.”</p>	http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/site_end_state_consultation_report_from_harwell_local_stakeholder_group_dec_2006.pdf Full report of consultation results, with LA responses to be included in annex.
		Oxfordshire CC	Yes	<p>Yes – to LSG – consultation document states that the representative was involved in the End State consultation and had the opportunity to vote at an LSG meeting in response to a motion on the LSG recommended End State Option.</p> <p>(Evidence of response letter not yet scanned in to document)</p>	
	Winfrith	Purbeck District Council	Yes	<p>Not responding – contact not aware of having received any Site End State consultation from either SSG or from NDA</p>	http://www.nda.gov.uk/Stakeholder--Site_Stakeholder_Groups--Winfrith_Site_Stakeholder_Group_(1679).aspx?pg=1679#Minutes but nothing re Site End States Review
		Dorset CC	Yes	<p>No written response but views known to SSG</p>	