

## **NuLeAF LOW LEVEL WASTE OFFICER WORKING GROUP**

### **Note of the meeting held on 18 December 07, LG House**

#### **Present:**

Fred Barker	NuLeAF
Richard Conway	Purbeck DC
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC
Stewart Kemp	Cumbria CC
David Palk	Suffolk CC
Mark Woodger	Essex CC

#### **Apologies:**

David Davies	Copeland BC
Richard Greaves	Essex CC
Gerald Hudd	Somerset CC
Barry James	Somerset CC
Clive Pink	Suffolk Coastal DC
Kerry Rickards	Sedgemoor DC
Andy Price	Dorset CC
Tim Williams	Vale of White Horse DC

### **1 Note of the Meeting on 3 October**

The note of the meeting on 3 October was agreed as an accurate record and would be placed on the NuLeAF website.

FB reviewed the actions. He reported that:

- The meeting between authorities from Cumbria and Somerset to discuss LLW developments and community benefits had taken place on 13 November. It had been agreed to hold a further meeting in the New Year to review progress and consider the possibility of developing a national approach.
- The NuLeAF Steering Group had agreed that it was appropriate to consider developments in the management of non-nuclear LLW in so far as they may impact on nuclear legacy management.
- Actions on MWDFs and planning guidance would be considered under item 5.
- NuLeAF's application for funding to the JRCT for a project on addressing public concerns about LLW management had not been successful. FB would be reviewing whether a scaled down version of the project could still be undertaken.

### **2 Update on Developments at Specific Sites**

SK reported on developments associated with the LLWR near Drigg in Cumbria. The planning application for development of vault 9 (to be operated as an interim store

pending resolution of long-term safety case issues) would be determined on 22 January.

An in principle agreement for a community benefits fund is now in place. Although the precise arrangements and payments are to be agreed, it is likely that an initial payment of £10 million will be made, followed by £1.5 million per year of waste emplacement in the new vault.

The proposed local planning policy to only accept wastes to the LLWR from sites outside West Cumbria for a further 5 years is not likely to be adopted, although the CC will continue to press for LLW to be managed at the sites at which it arises.

**Action:** SK to circulate further details when the planning decision has been taken.

SK also referred to the preferred bidder for the contract to operate the LLWR and develop the NDA's LLW strategy. It was likely that the preferred bidder will seek to introduce new waste management practices to extend the life of the LLWR facility, including increasing emphasis on development and use of additional LLW management facilities across the UK.

FB reported that the position on the proposed LLW facility at Hinkley Point was similar to that reported to the last meeting, with the possibility of an application in early 08.

MW reported that his authority had recently approved a variation to permission for waste processing plant on the Bradwell site. The original permission had been accompanied by an agreement under the Highways Act for local road improvements.

### **3 NDA LLW Strategy Development**

FB reported on discussions with the NDA about the setting up of a national nuclear industry LLW Strategy Group (LSG) to promote innovation, value for money, application of the waste hierarchy and planning for effective approaches to disposal. NDA have agreed that NuLeAF and Cumbria County Council should be members of the LSG (NuLeAF from a national policy perspective and Cumbria CC as planning authority for the LLWR near Drigg). The Group was likely to hold its first meeting in January and then once every two months thereafter.

FB proposed that LLW Officer Group meetings be scheduled so that the work of the new Strategy Group could be discussed in a timely manner and the views of the officer group fed back. FB would fulfill this role as NuLeAF representative on the LSG. Members of the group agreed that this was an appropriate way forward.

**Action:** Report backs from the LSG to be a regular item on the agenda of the LLW Officer Working Group. FB to provide feedback on the views of the working group to the LSG.

#### **4 Management of Non-Nuclear Industry (NNI) LLW**

FB reported on the work of the Programme Board that had been established by DEFRA to develop and recommend a NNI waste strategy for the UK. Strategy development would be informed by data collection about waste arisings and assessment of management options. The aim of the Board was to make recommendations by the end of 2008. It was anticipated that a period of formal consultation on the proposed strategy would then take place.

Representation on the Programme Board includes Rob Murfin (Y&HA RTAB) and Derek Greedy (Warwickshire CC). Their role is to advise on existing and planned facilities for municipal, commercial and industrial wastes that might also be used for NNI wastes; and to advise on the format of the strategy for NNI waste disposals, such that LAs can be expected to take account of its contents in their planning frameworks.

FB reported that DEFRA had indicated that there might be scope for holding a joint meeting to discuss how the NNI strategy might include material that amounts to planning guidance. It is recognised that a consistent approach is needed to planning for nuclear industry LLW.

The group agreed that a joint meeting would be useful later on in the Programme Board's work, when emerging strategy would be clearer.

**Action:** FB to contact DEFRA to indicate interest in a joint meeting at an opportune time.

#### **5 Addressing LLW Management in Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks (MWDFs)**

FB reported that participants at the recent NuLeAF seminars had suggested that NuLeAF should produce a Briefing Paper to help local authority planners address radwaste developments in MWDFs. He circulated an outline scope for discussion (see annex).

The group agreed that:

- it was well worth producing such a briefing;
- the proposed scope was appropriate;
- a draft should be prepared as soon as is practicable;
- comments on the draft could be provided electronically; and
- it would be desirable to establish whether the briefing could be disseminated via the RTABs and be made available on the POS website.

**Action:** FB to seek clarifications from DEFRA as indicated in the outline scope and to provide a draft for comment as soon as is practicable. FB to contact Deborah Sachs about dissemination. DP to find out about posting the briefing on the POS website.

FB asked whether a central record was kept of the progress of MWDF preparation across the country. DP reported that an overview might be available from PINS. Alternatively, RTABs could provide a regional picture.

**Action:** FB to check PINS on progress of MWDF preparation across the country.

SK circulated copies of Cumbria CC's proposed changes to its MWDF core strategy, which addressed radwaste management. Consultation on the proposed changes had recently ended and comments were being reviewed.

DP explained that Suffolk CC was at the start of its work on the waste aspects of its MWDF. He anticipated that a meeting would be held with the NDA to identify relevant issues.

## **6 Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held in the w/b 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Action:** FB to arrange the next meeting of the group.

## **ANNEX: OUTLINE SCOPE OF PROPOSED NULEAF BRIEFING PAPER FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PLANNERS**

It is suggested that the paper provide a high-level summary of the following:

- The main categories of radioactive wastes (HLW, ILW and LLW – Nuclear Industry (NI) and Non-Nuclear Industry (NNI)), with reference to where further details are available
- The main categories of management routes available for the different waste categories, in both the short and long-term
- Government policy applicable to the different wastes, including recent policy statements on LLW management and the long-term management of higher activity wastes. DEFRA to be asked to clarify what policy applies to the interim management of higher activity wastes.
- Relevance of PPS10 on Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (including objectives and principles). DEFRA to be asked to clarify the applicability of PPS10 to radwaste.
- Emerging strategy for managing radioactive wastes, including the NDA's existing strategy (06), current thinking in the development of revised NDA strategy, and development of a strategy for managing NNI LLW. To include the possibility of the non-routine transfer of radioactive wastes between sites. NDA to be asked to comment on the draft of this section.
- Regulatory guidance on (a) the management of higher activity wastes at licensed nuclear sites and (b) authorisations for the disposal of solid radioactive wastes.
- The scope for local authority involvement in industry optioneering studies for developing local approaches to radioactive waste management (with reference to recent examples).
- Approaches to securing community benefits (with reference to the recent example of the LLWR near Drigg).