

NULEAF LOW LEVEL WASTE OFFICER WORKING GROUP

Note of the meeting held on 18 September, 2008 at Connaught House, London School of Economics

Present:

Doug Bamsey	Sedgmoor DC
Fred Barker	NuLeAF
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Richard Evans	Cumbria CC
David Palk	Suffolk CC
Susan Tipping	Kent CC
Mark Woodger	Essex CC

1 Note of the meeting on 24 June, 2008

The note of the Meeting held on 24 June, 2008 was agreed as an accurate record and would be placed on the NuLeAF website.

Action: CD

Action points arising: all actions points had been completed or were in hand.

RE asked if there had been any further contact with the NNI Programme Board since it's presentation to the LLW OWG in June. FB has been in contact and will ask them to provide the group with a written update.

Action: FB

2 Update on developments at specific sites

Dounreay – FB reported that a case for a community benefits package associated with the development of a near-site LLW disposal facility is being prepared. It is hoped to report the outcome at the next meeting of the working group.

Action: FB

Hinkley Point – DB reported that the application for an on-site LLW disposal facility is still on hold. NDA's position hasn't changed regarding the clarification of the business case and LLW Strategy. The emphasis is now on new build, with the first meeting of the Somerset Energy Board on 19 September.

LLWR near Drigg – RE reported that they are close to sorting out the co-operation agreement for the Community Fund. This will involve a Programme Board with local authority and independent members. The first payment of £5M into the Fund should be made early October with a turf cutting ceremony timetabled for mid October.

Sizewell – DP participated in a Magnox optioneering exercise to consider options for disposal of VLLW (5000³m asbestos lagging and other materials) from the A site. Magnox are reviewing the outcome. It is anticipated that a landfill option will be pursued. Re the proposed spent fuel store, BE are adamant that Electricity Act is the

correct approach for project approval because the store is considered to be an integral part of generating capability.

Bradwell – MW reported that there were no developments on LLW disposal, but that meetings with other stakeholders were taking place to discuss environmental assessment for new build.

Springfields Case Study – A draft had been circulated to the working group. It was agreed that the case was pitched at the right level. Once two or three case studies had been produced these would be posted on a dedicated section on the website. Further case studies would include the LLWR. CD would liaise with RE over drafts.

Action: CD

3 Update on MWDFs

a) Cumbria CC – A pre-hearing is taking place on 25 September and the hearing begins on 11 November, with a session in Whitehaven on 18 & 19 November on radioactive waste and coal. Many of the representations on radwaste management challenge the principle of geological disposal, which CCC consider to be outside the scope of the hearing. Documentation about the hearings is available from the Cumbria CC website.

b) Suffolk CC – a Waste Issues and Options paper is currently out for consultation which ends on 10 October, 2008. Further consultation on preferred options is scheduled for June/July 2009. Policy adoption will be 2010. The group welcomed SCC's approach to dealing with radwaste issues in the paper and suggested that it form the basis for a case study. A summary of the consultation responses will be produced and shared with this meeting.

Action: CD/DP

c) Other sites:

Essex – MW to ascertain status of MWDF preparation

Somerset – DB to ascertain status of MWDF preparation

Kent – Options consultation timetabled for early 2009.

Oxford – Re-scoping exercise underway.

4 Outcome of NDA LLW Strategy Group Meeting, 14/15 August, 2008

FB reported on the outcome of the meeting, highlighting the NDA's schedule for producing draft waste plan and strategy documents, and the role of the new sub-group on stakeholder relations and risk communication. It is hoped that the NDA Strategic Review Document will be available for review at the next of the working group.

5 Outcome of meeting with Government on Community Funds

FB and DB reported on a recent meeting with Government officials to explore the possibility of establishing community funds for non-GDF radioactive waste management developments. The meeting discussed the legal powers that might be available and potential criteria for when funds might be established. The

Government's preference was for the S106 mechanism to be used when specific projects were under consideration. FB reported that further consideration needs to be given to the potential role of local government's 'well-being' powers in utilising any funds that might be made available, and whether it would be possible to specify criteria which could be used to identify which types of development could be subject to such Funds. The NuLeAF secretariat is currently researching the use of S106 and well-being powers to inform this further consideration. It is also monitoring the position at Dounreay (see item 2 above). It was agreed that FB should prepare a note on a proposed way forward for comment by the working group. A further meeting with Government could then be sought.

Action: FB

6 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting is on 27 November, 2008 at LG House. It was agreed that the meeting after that would be on 5 March, 2008 to discuss the NDA draft LLW management plan.

7 AOB

RE commented that there is no EA consultation on applications for RSA authorisations from NNI sources. RE to forward draft letter to FB.

Action RE

RE also asked whether the group should engage with the wider waste industry to raise awareness on nuclear waste disposal issues. DP will discuss with SCC group and take soundings.

Action DP