

Note of the Engagement Meeting with NDA and Magnox

24 October, 2012

The Priory Rooms, Birmingham

1. Attendance

Representatives of local authorities associated with Magnox and RSRL sites in England and Wales were invited to the meeting.

Attendance was as follows:

Nia Swann Bowden, Gwynedd County Council
Trevor Brown, Oxfordshire County Council
Doug Bamsey, Sedgemoor District Council
Aled Sturkey, Snowdonia National Park Authority
Guy Robinson, Somerset County Council
Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council
John Pitchford, Suffolk County Council
Steve Smith, Copeland Borough Council (observer)
Richard Evans, Cumbria County Council (observer)
Cllr Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council (observer)
Louise Nurser, Lancashire County Council (observer)
Robin Carton, Plymouth City Council (observer)
Bill Hamilton, NDA
James McKinney, NDA
Catherine Draper, NuLeAF
Stewart Kemp, NuLeAF
Philip Matthews, NuLeAF

Apologies were received from: Mike Garrity – Dorset County Council, Lillian Harrison – Kent County Council, Cllr Matthew Riddle – South Gloucestershire Council, Bob Chamberlain & Clive Pink – Suffolk Coastal District Council, David Palk – Suffolk County Council

2. Note and Actions from the September meeting

The note of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and was agreed as being a true record. The note would be posted on the NuLeAF website. All actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

3. Presentation: An Update on NDA Integrated Waste Management Strategy Programme

3.1 James McKinney of NDA gave a presentation on developments in the Integrated Waste Management Strategy Programme.

3.2 Key points covered in the presentation were:

- an overview of waste categories and past practices
- the baseline strategy for dealing with Higher Activity Waste (HAW) and the work done to push waste down the Waste Hierarchy and so reduce the amount which will be disposed of in the Geological Disposal Facility
- a review of the storage of ILW at Magnox sites, including stakeholder engagement on proposals to consider consolidated storage at a reduced number of sites
- issues surrounding ILW/LLW cross boundary wastes, i.e. those wastes either side of the radiation classification boundary who could practicably be managed under either classification. A position paper will be produced on the recommendations to SLCs for dealing with this waste stream (early 2013).

In response to a question about dealing with graphite from reactors, JM advised the group that following Care and Maintenance (C&M), the graphite would be removed from the reactor, placed in a 4mx2mx2m box and encapsulated and sent to the GDF for disposal. This will comprise 25-30% of the whole GDF inventory. Problems arise in the treating of the material as concentrated carbon¹⁴ is produced as a by-product. Consideration is being given to whether to reduce the time the reactor is kept in C&M. NDA aim to produce a strategy position by the end of 2012. NDA will incorporate lessons learnt as part of the Hunterston project as Scottish policy on dealing with HAW develops.

4. Presentation on Developments in Planning.

4.1 Guy Robinson of Somerset County Council gave a brief presentation on development in planning looking at how local authorities and other organisations could work more effectively to deliver a sound approach.

4.2 Key points covered in the presentation were:

- the background to Somerset's Waste Core Strategy document including:
 - documents produced and the associated timeline
 - draft radioactive waste policy
 - timeline for submission documentation and the Hearing in Public
- criteria for determining the soundness of policies and how these can be addressed
- compliance with NDA strategy
- the experience elsewhere
- the revised radioactive waste policy following the Inspector's comments
- ideas on how the procedure could be clarified and improved.

4.3 Points raised during discussion covered:

4.3.1 The proposed new Waste Management Plan does not include radioactive waste. The group felt that this was a serious oversight. NuLeAF would pursue enquiries with the appropriate government organisations.

Action: PM

4.3.2 NDA undertook to disseminate information regarding developments in their thinking through NuLeAF

5. Nuclear waste site management and community engagement

5.1 Richard Evans of Cumbria County Council gave a brief presentation on the duty to consult local communities

5.2 Key points covered in the presentation were:

- VLLW and LALLW waste management routes nuclear licensed sites
- the UK Policy requirements for stakeholder engagement in the development of LLW management plans
- the community engagement 'experience'
- ideas for how the community engagement could be strengthened and improved.

BH responded by saying that NDA considered that it had fulfilled its responsibilities by carrying out community engagement at the time it developed its strategy. Subsequent community engagement was the responsibility of the site operator. This interpretation was disputed by RE. It was agreed that further work was needed on how to engage with operators and waste consignors in order to resolve this issue and NuLeAF undertook to produce a paper.

Action: SK/PM

6. Date of next meeting

NuLeAF will liaise with NDA regarding the date of the next meeting and topics for discussion.

Annex A

ACTIONS FROM 25 SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH NDA AND MAGNOX

TOPIC	ACTION	FOR	STATUS
1 MODP	To provide information on volumes of waste streams over lifetime plan.	Peter Roach	Done. Data circulated.
2 MODP	To provide smart inventory of waste for each site including timings of arisings.	Peter Roach	Smart sheet data is currently marked restricted.
3 Community engagement	To resolve issues surrounding perception of lack of community engagement by NDA. Item to be discussed at meeting on 24 October.	RE/BH/ NuLeAF	Presentation given by RE at meeting on 24 October
4 NDA Strategy/ Stakeholder engagement	Consideration to be given to holding seminar in Spring 2013 ahead of consultation on draft NDA Strategy 3.	BH/CD	Probably Spring 2014.

ACTIONS FROM 11 NOVEMBER MEETING WITH NDA, MAGNOX, RSRL AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

TOPIC	ACTION	FOR	STATUS (25 September)
5 Planning policies	1 Further discussion to consider whether more specific NuLeAF advice was needed to take account of the differences between treatment, storage and disposal.	FB/JM	On-going
6 Development control	2 Further discussions to consider the implications for waste transfers of planning permissions at recipient sites.	BH/JM/FB	On-going
7 Planning policies and community benefits	5 BH to keep FB informed of developments of discussions between Sellafield and Cumbrian local authorities.	BH	Discussion ongoing.

ACTIONS FROM JUNE MEETINGS WITH NDA, SLCs AND REGULATORS

TOPIC	ACTION	FOR	STATUS 11 November
8 Integrated waste management	6 Consider implications for waste transfers of planning permissions at recipient sites and advise SLCs.	NDA	To be clarified through further discussion.
9 Engagement with LAs	11 Provide documentation re strategy development and implementation as appropriate for LA comment	NDA/SLCs	None provided to date. NuLeAF happy to circulate materials as appropriate.