

NuLeAF LOW LEVEL WASTE OFFICER WORKING GROUP

Note of the meeting held on 8 June, 2010 at London School of Economics.

1. Attendance:

Fred Barker	NuLeAF
John Bennett	Dorset County Council
Emily Butcher	Hampshire County Council
Peter Day	Oxfordshire County Council
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Fergus McMorrow	Copeland Borough Council
David Palk	Suffolk County Council
Phil Watson	Northamptonshire County Council

Apologies:

Bob Chamberlain	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Kerry Rickards	Sedgemoor District Council
Lesley Stenhouse	Essex County Council
Tim Williams	Vale of White Horse District Council
Mark Woodger	Maldon District Council

2. Note of the meeting of 10 March, 2010.

The Note was agreed and will be posted on the NuLeAF website

Action: CD

3. Matters Arising

A table of actions had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Actions outstanding:

10/9/09 item 9 – seminar – anticipated date now November 10th.

Action: FB/CD

10/3/10 item 5 – coverage of LLW/VLLW disposal to landfill is included in draft outline Briefing Paper and will be discussed under item 9 of this meeting.

10/3/10 item 6 – draft outline Briefing Paper to be discussed under item 9.

4. Update on national developments

a) Coalition Government policies

- Policies of relevance to radioactive waste management include:
 - abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies
 - abolition of the IPC and subsuming it's work into a Major Infrastructure Unit within DCLG
- Staff at regional planning level have been given notice.
- Discussions are taking place in some areas regarding the possibility of joint working but it is too early to have any definite indication of how planning will be handled at a regional level in the future.

b) NDA LLW Strategy and implementation

- The LLW Strategy had been submitted to government for approval prior to the general election in May. However, approval had not been received prior to parliament being dissolved. Subsequently, the Strategy awaits approval by the new government.
- NuLeAF would be meeting with DECC in the following week and would seek a progress update.
- LLWR had received bids from 5 suppliers for the treatment of combustible waste. Draft authorisation should be submitted to the Environment Agency by the end of June. The draft authorisation would name the suppliers.

5. Update on local developments

An updated copy of the 'overview of developments' spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting.

Lancashire

Planning permission was granted for the extension to the operating life of Clifton Marsh landfill. The application was to 2020, but permission was granted to 2015 only. Conditions were imposed on the sources and quantity of waste, but these conformed with the applicant's anticipated arisings.

Cumbria

Keekle Head – anticipated Committee date August. CCC will request further information from the applicant on a number of issues.

Lillyhall – Environment Agency (EA) awaiting Article 37 approval.

A planning permission for a further landfill site had carried a condition barring disposal of radioactive waste. This had passed the appeal process. RE to circulate to meeting members.

Action: RE

LLWR Vault 9 – building work completed. Discussions continue regarding the Environmental Safety Case for the site.

MWDF – Site Allocation Policies submitted 30 April. Pre-hearing meeting 29 July and Hearing in Public 24 September (anticipated 4 weeks).

Suffolk

Waste Core Strategy – Hearing in Public 5 July (2 weeks). No representations have been made regarding the radioactive waste policies.

Sizewell B Spent Fuel Dry Store – application was submitted under the Electricity Act. SCC response considered at Cabinet on 25 May and no objections made subject to conditions. A request for community benefits package had been made. This approach was echoed by Suffolk Coastal DC. Timetable for decision unknown as yet. DP to follow up with DECC.

Action: DP

Dorset

Winfrith has yet to give evidence to support the Certificate of Lawfulness for the treatment of desiccant from external sources.

Oxfordshire

Harwell – disposal of VLLW awaiting outcome of inquiry into the King's Cliffe appeal (see item 6).

MWDF – waste element on hold pending resolution of issues around an incinerator inquiry next month.

Hampshire

MWDF – intention is to undertake wholesale review of Core Strategy using Area of Search approach. Will liaise with Dorset regarding crossborder site. Public consultation scheduled for Jan – Apr 2011, submission Jul 2012.

HCC officers have undertaken a waste data study looking at waste streams, arisings and capacity.

Combustible waste from Sellafield was being transported to the Fawley plant in Hants. EA website fails to provide permit details and there are concerns about the lack of transparency in new permitting arrangements.

6. Planning appeal – King's Cliffe landfill

A copy of the 'Grounds of Appeal' submitted by Augean was circulated prior to the meeting. The following points arose in discussion:

- PW gave a brief synopsis of the Northants Development Control Committee meeting

- Northants CC are minded to use consultants to handle the appeal.
- Discussion is on-going about developing the grounds for upholding the refusal, including distance of the site from the sources of waste and the perception of harm to the local population
- Inquiry is likely to be held at the end of October
- The Secretary of State has called in the inquiry decision – possibly Spring 2011 before result is known.
- All members of the group agreed to contact PW with anything that happens in their purview which could affect the Northants case.

Action: All

7. Approaches to 'regional' evidence bases and NuLeAF seminar update

A note setting out a request that NDA provide a case study of a 'regional' evidence base for presentation at the NuLeAF seminar was circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were made in discussion:

- The note had been drafted prior to the change of government. However it was felt that with the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies there was still a need for the proposed approach.
- The evidence bases would enable planners to consider the potential spatial distribution of required facilities and identify criteria that could be used to refine local planning policies.
- It was agreed that the approach would be termed 'Strategic Planning' rather than 'Regional Planning'.
- Waste treatment will be included.

FB would discuss further with the NDA.

Action FB.

8. Log of requirements for treatment, storage and disposal facilities

A draft format for a site by site log was circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were made:

- Concerns were raised about the manageability of the project.
- It was important that planning implications were made clear.
- Waste streams should be grouped together and made more comprehensible.
- Information on when arisings and treatment would occur should be included.
- A pilot site project should be carried out to test the feasibility of the project
- Contact would be made with Adrian Lee of Hants CC to see if there were any lessons which could be learnt from their data gathering experience.

Action: CD

Decisions about whether to proceed with a full version would be made in the light of the pilot project and provision of a regional evidence base case study by the NDA (see item 7).

9. Outline NuLeAF Briefing Paper on LLW Strategy

A draft outline Briefing Paper was circulated prior to the meeting. The following points arose:

- The meeting was broadly happy with the proposed scope and content of the draft Paper.
- It was noted that the text of the first two bullet points in Annex 1 are contained within Cumbria CC Waste Core Strategy and so have been tested. The third bullet point is in their Site Allocation Policy and has yet to be tested.
- Care should be taken to avoid use of the term a 'community's own wastes'
- Quantifiable evidence should be given in support of the statement on Community Benefits, including the approach taken in other European countries.

A full draft would be circulated for comment following publication of approved LLW Strategy.

Action FB.

10. Name and remit of group

A paper outlining the evolving nature of the group's remit was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that 'Radioactive Waste Planning Group' would be more indicative of the group's function.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 September. Venue to be confirmed.

12. AOB

None.