

NuLeAF LOW LEVEL WASTE OFFICER WORKING GROUP

Note of the meeting held on 5 March, 2009 at New Academic Building,
London School of Economics

Attendance:

Fred Barker	NuLeAF
Peter Day	Oxfordshire County Council
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Chris Stokes	Dorset County Council
Susan Tipping	Kent County Council
Michael Wilks	Suffolk County Council

A presentation on the NDA's draft LLW strategy was given by Dr Matthew Clark, LLW Technical Support Manager. This was based on a similar talk given to the NDA Low Level Waste Strategy Group on 26/27 February which can be found on the LLWR website [here](#).

Comments

- MC reported that the draft strategy is informed by preliminary work on business cases for potential initiatives. These cases raise questions about whether some potential initiatives, for example, incineration, and on-site disposal at Hinkley, should be preferred.
- Cumbria CC is looking for clarification of the basis for the NDA's assumptions about potential capacity of the LLWR.
- NDA consider that the approach taken in the Strategic Environmental Assessment is consistent with Sustainability Appraisal (SA). RE thought that it would have been better to have undertaken a full SA.
- The graph showing the potential impact of various initiatives on reducing LLW volumes is purely illustrative. The estimated volumes of LLW in these graphs do not include arisings from new build
- Concerns about disposal of LLW to landfill could result in local authorities looking to include radwaste exclusion clauses in conditions attached to permissions for any new waste management sites.

1. Note of the meeting on 27 November, 2008.

With the exception of one typographical error the Note of the Meeting held on 27 November, 2008 was agreed as an accurate record and would be placed on the NuLeAF website.

Action: CD

2. Matters arising

2.1 Dounreay

- Planning permission for a LLW disposal facility has been granted and the Scottish Government did not call the application in for further scrutiny.
- A Community Fund has been approved, though details have not yet been released.
- A case study will be produced when further information is publicly available.

Action: CD

2.2 Government and Community Funds

- A draft paper had been circulated for discussion and FB thanked contributors for their comments.
- A meeting with Government would be arranged.

2.3 De-licensing of site with LLW disposal facility

- In response to GH's query at the last meeting, FB had received some clarification of the situation from NDA (a site would still have to comply with NII criteria - "no danger" - in order to be de-licensed).
- Questions remained however over what types of LLW disposal facilities will require licensing by the NII. FB agreed to do a note to clarify the position.

Action: FB

2.4 NDA Strategic Priorities in LLW Management

- The paper to the Steering Group proposing promotion of discussion of a 'hierarchy of siting preferences' had been accepted.
- A series of seminars has been organised to co-ordinate with the NDA/NNI consultation period
- The Planning Officers Society was consulted with regard to the hierarchy of siting preferences and were supportive
- FB and the Vice-Chair were to meet to brief the LGA Waste Portfolio holders on 19 March
- FB had produced articles for Waste Planning and First which would be published shortly

2.5 Non-Nuclear Industry (NNI) Strategy

- Consultation on NNI Low Level Waste strategy will take place concurrent with that of the NDA [Note: consultation on NNI LLW strategy now unlikely to start before the autumn]
- The scoping report had been previously circulated

3. Update on developments at specific sites and MWDF

3.1 Oxfordshire

- No change in the schedule for development of MWDF. Consultation on the core strategy is planned for October.
- In December, PD met with UKAEA in order to develop understanding of the operator's position on LLW management at Harwell. As a result of a BPEO assessment, UKAEA's preference had been for on-site disposal of VLLW (high volume, low activity). However UKAEA are now seeking off-site disposal (and refer to concerns over geological suitability of the site). PD wishes to explore these concerns further with the Environment Agency.
- Licensing/de-licensing issues have been included in the deliberations. UKAEA wish to keep on-site disposal as a fallback position.
- The CC may favour off-site approaches because of aspirations for the Harwell site as a whole.

3.2 Suffolk

- It was anticipated that consultation on the MWDF core strategy would take place in July.
- There was some disappointment at the low response from the public to the issues and options consultation.
- David P is supportive of the siting preferences hierarchy with the caveat that the preference is for disposal within the licensed site, not adjacent to it. However, hosting waste from another location would be a step too far.

3.3 Cumbria

- Construction on Vault 9 has commenced
- £5M received for LLWR Community Fund and the two independent members for the Project Board have been appointed. No grants/expenditure from the Fund has yet been made.
- MWDF - the inspector's report has now been received and the core strategy will be adopted by full council on 23 April. However, MWDF policies on radioactive waste management are deemed interim until national strategies have been established.
- CCC met with Dept of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to discuss how to encourage all waste planning authorities to include radwaste in their MWDFs.
- Leading counsel's opinion is that planning permission is not needed for the disposal of VLLW to landfill at Lillyhall.
- Site Allocation Policies have recommenced. CCC is encouraging Sellafield Ltd to identify an area adjacent to the site for waste management.

3.4 Kent

- Dungeness is trialling 'yellow box' storage containers for ILW.
- Issues and Options consultation is scheduled for the autumn.

3.5 Dorset

- This was CS's first meeting. He had found the meeting very informative and would provide an update by email.

4. Date of next meeting

CD would circulate participants for future dates for the rest of year. Dates now agreed are: 9 June (LSE), 10 September (LG House), 8 December (LG House).