

# NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group

Note of the meeting held on 10 March, 2011 at the University of London.

## 1. Attendance:

Fred Barker	NuLeAF
John Bennett	Dorset County Council
Emily Butcher	Hampshire County Council
Peter Day	Oxfordshire County Council
Katherine Dove	Kent County Council
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Barry James	Somerset County Council
David Palk	Suffolk County Council
John Pell	Cumbria County Council
Phil Watson	Northamptonshire County Council

### *Apologies:*

Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Andrew Smith	Lancashire County Council
Mark Woodger	Maldon District Council

## 2. Note of the meeting of 8 December, 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.

All actions completed or dealt with elsewhere within the meeting.

## 4. Update on national developments in radioactive waste management

A note setting out updates on national developments had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It covered the following:

- LLW management and disposal
- the process for siting a GDF

- radioactive waste management and new nuclear power stations
- consultation on the NDA Business Plan
- arrangements for enhancing engagement with NDA et al, and
- community benefits.

FB advised the meeting that attendance at the seminar on 22 March was around 40 delegates. NDA would now be assisting DECC with their presentation. The updated LLW inventory was being launched on the same day as the seminar.

Arrangements for improved engagement with NDA et al were ongoing. It was anticipated that meeting dates would be arranged for the end of June.

FB had met with senior officials at DECC to discuss the government's approach to community benefits. Their stance was that they remained to be convinced on the need to change their current approach but were prepared to discuss the issue. They feel that there is sufficient flexibility within S106 to meet requirements. The wind power industry had issued a protocol which it expected developers to sign up to, which goes beyond S106 benefits. This may provide a useful precedent and format which could be followed. FB agreed to circulate a link to the document, and will report to the April Steering Group on the idea of developing a protocol appropriate to radioactive waste management.

**Action: FB**

## **5. Update on local developments**

**Suffolk:** Waste Core Strategy (WCS) should be adopted w.c. 14 March. The benefits package associated with the Sizewell Dry Fuel Store had been agreed. British Energy had accepted SCC's argument that the construction of the store delayed site restoration. Fund will be £120K for first year, and £20K p.a. thereafter for 60 years or until the store is decommissioned. A small funding group will be established to handle applications. Approval of the planning application, which was made under the Electricity Act is still awaited from DECC.

**Cumbria:** Policy on Site Allocations had gone to full council and been adopted. SITA would provide additional information required for Keekle Head application. Lillyhall still awaited Article 37 permission. LLWR will be submitting a planning application for vaults 10-14 at the same time as submitting the safety case. The new application will mean the issue of a Community Fund will come up again. The Environment Agency anticipates a 2 year timescale for dealing with the Environmental Safety Case.

**Hampshire:** Work continues on a single development plan document. Consultation setting out policy approach is currently underway. Hope to publish final document in 2012. Radioactive waste has not been specifically addressed in policy terms.

**Northamptonshire:** WCS already adopted. Site Allocation Policy had passed through cabinet. Control Development Plan Document had undergone examination. An issue had been raised about the inclusion of catchment areas for waste. Secretary of State's decision on the King's Cliffe inquiry is due by 24 May. Auger will submit 4 new planning applications, 3 to extend the life of the current facility at King's Cliffe and one to extend the capacity of the site by 1 million metres<sup>3</sup> for 10 years.

**South Gloucestershire:** WCS will be adopted shortly – radioactive waste is not addressed. Reactor 1 at Oldbury had received a life extension until the end of 2012. Project at an early stage with respect to new build. SGC are stressing that there needs to be joined up thinking between new build and decommissioning projects. Core Strategy includes policy on nuclear developments expected to go to EiP summer/autumn 2011, including proposed policy on community benefits.

**Kent:** WCS preferred strategy and site allocations will go out for consultation in parallel in June. Natural England appears to have performed a U-turn over its opposition to the construction of a new power station at Dungeness.

**Somerset:** Stage 2A consultation for Hinkley Point C underway. Work on the Environmental Impact Assessment is gathering momentum. The extent to which different aspects of community benefits are covered by S106 in under discussion. SCC will be consulting shortly on WCS and would be grateful for NuLeAF's input.

**Dorset:** With regard to the continued treatment of radwastes from other sites, planning contravention notices had been served on NDA, RSRL and various tenants with responses due by 23 May.

**Oxfordshire:** Options for the WCS were being drawn together and discussions with Harwell were taking place. RSRL has put forward a case for off-site storage of ILW and has undertaken a review of the BPEO for VLLW which favours off-site disposal.

## **6. King's Cliffe Inquiry: Overview of issues addressed**

The draft Briefing Paper was warmly received with no further comments. This would now be published on the NuLeAF website.

## **7. Consultation on plutonium management**

A paper on preliminary comments on the government consultation on the management of plutonium stocks was circulated prior to the meeting. It covered:

- background and current position,
- management options
- government's preliminary policy view
- consultation questions
- preliminary comments for discussion.

FB advised the meeting that he proposed to make some further amendments to the draft response, including:

- adding further drivers to the response to question 1; and
- pointing out that the development of dedicated reactors for MOX use on or adjacent to the Sellafield site would avoid the need for commercial reactor developments to address issues of MOX use.

The draft response would now go forward to the Steering Group for approval.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 14 June, 2011, 12.30 to 3.30, Room 7.1, Local Government House, Smith Square, London

## **9. Any other business**

EB raised the question of when Government will undertake the second stage of consultation on Non-Nuclear Industry LLW, particularly NORM. FB agreed to report further to the next meeting.