

NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group

Note of the meeting held on 25 September, 2012 at London School of Economics.

1. Attendance:

Peter Day	Oxfordshire County Council
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Denice Gallen	Copeland Borough Council
Mike Garrity	Dorset County Council
Stewart Kemp	NuLeAF
Philip Matthews	NuLeAF
Louise Nurser	Lancashire County Council
David Palk	Suffolk County Council
John Prosser	Kent County Council
Guy Robinson	Somerset County Council
Phil Watson	Northamptonshire County Council

Apologies:

Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Bob Chamberlain	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Paul Prowting	Hampshire County Council

2. Note of the meeting of 31 May, 2012

Two amendments are necessary under the local development update section: Cumbria – final sentence should read 'Allerdale BC had been omitted from the consultation list', and South Gloucestershire – delete final sentence as premature to include. Subject to these two amendments being made the note of the meeting was agreed as correct and would be posted on the website.

Action: CD

3. Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered within the meeting.

4. Update on national developments in radioactive waste management

A summary note had been issued prior to the meeting which covered:

- NDA Low Level Waste (LLW) regulatory meeting,
- NDA LLW Delivery Overview Group (DOG) meeting,
- NDA Alternative Disposal Routes for Very Low Level Waste (VLLW) meeting,
- discussion with the Environment Agency (EA) on Environmental Permitting and LLW disposal,
- general developments with community benefits,
- SCCORS update, and
- Radioactive Waste Inventory 2013: Consultation.

Points made during discussion were:

4.1 NDA Alternative disposal routes for VLLW

- It would be useful to re-circulate near-term Low Activity LLW data from LLWR to group members.

Action: CD

- Inspector for King's Cliffe examination has not raised issue of capacity versus need and data on arisings. PW will ascertain if Augean has been asked to provide this information.
- PM will confirm which 4 Magnox sites were considered to have the potential for on-site disposal in the assessment which was carried out 7 years ago and will advise the group accordingly.

Action: PM

- NuLeAF is preparing a paper on the Duty to Cooperate and scope for working with LLWR, with the aim of presenting a draft to the October Steering Group.

4.2 Discussions with Environment Agency

- The draft paper on 'weaknesses' in the planning/permitting process which is being prepared by NuLeAF will be circulated to the group for comment.

Action: PM

- SK reported that although the EA consultation on non-radioactive waste permitting process had closed, they would still welcome any input from the group.
- An officer at Northants CC is preparing a document on the relationship between planning and permitting following a presentation from EA. PW will circulate document when available.

Action: PW

- It was agreed that the current engagement with EA was valuable and should be continued. It is hoped that SEPA will participate in future meetings.

4.3 Other issues

- No feedback had been received from Andrew Smith (Lancs CC) on the Site Restoration Topic Overview Group on 18 September. (Subsequently

advised that the meeting had been postponed.) Will monitor and report further to the next meeting.

Action: SK

- Concerns were raised over the quality of feedback and liaison between NDA Topic Overview Groups.

4.4 Radioactive Waste Inventory

- SK undertook to look at the consultation on the 2013 inventory and comment if necessary.

Action: SK

5. Update on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)

A summary note was circulated prior to the meeting. It covered:

- developments with MRWS in West Cumbria,
- developments with MRWS in Shepway, Kent,
- on-going MRWS promotion by DECC,
- CoRWM discussion update,
- report back from the MRWS Regulatory Interface Management Meeting (RIMM) on 27 July 2012,
- attendance at Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) Strategic Environment Assessment scoping workshop on 30 July 2012,
- meetings with NDA's RWMD on 30 August and 12 September 2012.

Key points raised during discussion:

- Some West Cumbria stakeholders have indicated a preference for further geological investigation to be carried out before a decision about participation in MRWS Stage 4.
- Consultation on the Cumbria CC Waste Local Plan had flagged a strong preference for a volunteerist approach after geological research had been carried out.
- Local parish councils have circulated a letter flagging their concerns and asking for more work to be done on the geology and for clarification of how the volunteerist approach will work in practical terms if the decision to move to MRWS Stage 4 is taken.
- JP advised the meeting that to the best of his knowledge the final decision regarding whether or not Shepway DC would make an expression of interest lay with the Leader of the Council, and that nothing had yet been made public.
- NDA will consult on the scope of a Strategic Environmental Assessment in MRWS Stage 4 and will seek views about appropriate 'alternative sites' if volunteerism was not a constraint on the process.

6. Update on developments at sites

A summary note was circulated prior to the meeting. It covered:

- EDF response to Somerset Waste Topic Paper,
- other relevant developments at Hinkley Point 'C' (HPC),

- King's Cliffe developments,
- Clifton Marsh developments,
- Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) developments, and
- updates from other sites.

6.1 EDF response to Somerset Waste Topic Paper (WTP)

GR gave a verbal overview of the issue. The WTP had been produced primarily in support of the Development Consent Order (DCO) for Hinkley Point C. The Waste Core Strategy had been published in pre-submission form in October 2011. EDF were robust in their response to perceived impacts of radioactive waste management, which was to be expected. However, they had also accepted that there were other 'less easily defined impacts which will be felt by local communities and which may not be addressed by the full range of other mitigation commitments'.

6.2 King's Cliffe developments

Planning permission for the extension of the site's operating life until end December 2016 had been approved at the September Development Control Committee meeting. The application for DCO for the planning application submitted to the National Infrastructure Directorate was progressing and hearings were set for October. NCC continues to raise the issue of the distance by which the material is transported before disposal. The Examining Authority has asked the Environment Agency whether there should be a restriction imposed on the total amount of LLW accepted at the site.

6.3 LLWR developments

Grouted material inside some containers in Vault 8 has slumped leaving a void of up to 300mm. This has implications for the design of the cap, and also for the design of any future vaults. LLWR is in discussions with Environment Agency re implications for the Environmental Safety Case. Work on the planning application has halted until these have been resolved.

6.4 Local site updates

Suffolk: Preparatory work is being taken on evidence base for the review of SCC Minerals and Waste Plans. It is anticipated that the review proper will commence post May 2013.

DECC has made Suffolk Coastal District Council the determining body for the Sizewell Dry Fuel Store mitigation fund. EDF hope to start preparatory works in November and the main building to take place in summer 2013. An increased volume of concrete which needs to be removed has been identified, and this will result in increased volume of traffic. The S106 will be subject to a minor amendment.

Cumbria: Regulation 19 consultation on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan should take place at the end of the year.

South Gloucestershire: Examination of Core Strategy closed in July and the Inspector's preliminary findings have been received. Subject to the

amendment of some wording, proposed radioactive waste and community benefits policies have been retained almost in entirety, thus far.

Northamptonshire: A partial review of the Core Strategy was in hand and Issues and Options will go out for consultation.

Kent: Progress on the MWDF has slipped by six months. Duty to cooperate compliance is being reviewed.

Oxfordshire: Current aim is to submit Minerals and Waste Core Strategy in October 2012. At present checking that they are duty to cooperate compliant. There is provision for ILW storage in Oxfordshire. Planning application for ILW store at Harwell to take waste from Winfrith as well as Harwell and Culham is expected.

Dorset: There had been a visit from Oxfordshire CC to Winfrith to tour the site and improve the understanding of the link between that site and Harwell. A review has begun on the Waste Plan, which is currently silent on radioactive waste. At present evidence is being gathered. Regulation 18 consultation should take place in early 2013.

Lancashire: A criteria based policy has been submitted to PINS for hazardous waste sites.

7. NuLeAF Seminar 2013

It was proposed that a further seminar be held on 12 March 2013 in the series on spatial planning and radioactive waste management. Topics to be discussed could include:

- duty to cooperate looking at compliance and soundness of strategy,
- capacity gap analysis and radioactive waste inventory 2013
- site restoration
- approach to radioactive waste in other countries.

Action: SK/PM/CD

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 12 December, 12.30 to 3.30 at the Senate House, University of London.

9. AOB

In response to a question from DG, SK confirmed that he had written to the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) regarding the changes to the nuclear liabilities regime. To date, no response has been received from NNLAG. SK will chase and report at the Steering Group meeting on 24 October.

ACTIONS FROM RWPG, 25 September 2012

Agenda item	Action	By	Status
2	Amend Note of Meeting, 31 May and post on website	CD	Done
4	Re-circulate near-term capacity data from LLWR	CD	Done
4	Identify 4 sites mentioned in VLLW ADR meeting to DP	PM	Done
4	Circulate information from Juliet Long re permitting & licensing	PM	Done 2 November
4	Circulate for comment draft paper on planning 'weaknesses' for EA	PM	
4	Provide document being prepared by Northants on planning and permitting	PW	
4	Circulate feedback from Site Restoration TOG	SK	
4	Review inventory consultation and determine if response required	SK	Done (submitted comments available from CD on request)

ACTIONS FROM RWPG, 31 May 2012

Agenda item	Action	By	Status
4.1.2	Disseminate report on capacity against need	PM	Report anticipated November 2012
4.5	Expand draft Briefing Note from EA to cover SEPA	PM	Briefing note not received but further meeting with EA held and further actions now agreed.
5	PM to update PW on outcome of IWM TOG	PM	To do