

NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group

Note of the meeting held on 8 December, 2011 at Local Government House.

1. Attendance:

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| Fred Barker | NuLeAF |
| Heather Brown | Somerset County Council |
| Trevor Brown | Oxfordshire County Council |
| Katherine Dove | Kent County Council |
| Catherine Draper | NuLeAF |
| Denice Gallen | Copeland Borough Council |
| Mike Garrity | Dorset County Council |
| Richard Evans | Cumbria County Council |
| David Palk | Suffolk County Council |
| Paul Prowting | Hampshire County Council |
| Richard Sharples | Lancashire County Council |
| Phil Watson | Northamptonshire County Council |

Apologies:

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| Doug Bamsey | Sedgemoor District Council |
| Bob Chamberlain | Suffolk Coastal District Council |
| Gillian Ellis-King | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Richard Griffin | Allerdale Borough Council |
| Louise Nurser | Lancashire County Council |
| Jamie Simpson | Maldon District Council |
| Andrew Smith | Lancashire County Council |
| Steve Smith | Copeland Borough Council |
| Lesley Stenhouse | Essex County Council |

2. Note of the meeting of 8 September, 2011.

The Note was agreed subject to checking if SEPA had granted approval for disposal to Lillyhall (reference subsequently removed) and will be posted on the NuLeAF website

Action: CD

3. Matters Arising

A Table of Actions was circulated before the meeting. The following additional updates were provided:

Item 6: the National Waste Management Plan is now scheduled for delivery in spring 2013 with consultation carried out in summer 2012. Defra had advised the secretariat that radioactive waste would not be included. DP intended to raise this through POS.

Item 7: FB had spoken with Ben Liscott of PINS. It appeared that there was no collective view amongst Inspectors of how WPAs should approach

radioactive waste in MWDFs. BL is to confer within the Inspectorate to ascertain whether there are issues which have arisen to which PINS should take a corporate approach and will give feedback on the outcome. RE expressed disappointment that PINS did not confirm that all WPAs with licensed nuclear sites should have appropriate policies on radioactive waste management.

NuLeAF agreed to alert interested members when WPAs are carrying out consultations on MWDFs.

Action: CD

4. Update on national developments in radioactive waste management

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

- NDA strategy development and implementation;
- proposed approach to radioactive waste and spent fuel management at Hinkley Point C;
- Submarine Dismantling Project consultation;
- West Cumbria MRWS Partnership consultation; and
- environmental permitting.

FB advised the group that he and DP would cover attendance at meetings of the NDA's Integrated Waste Management Topic Overview Group, attending as appropriate to the needs of the meeting.

On potential future engagement between NDA and LAs regarding local area development plans and options for future land use, MG suggested that it would be beneficial to have a broader departmental attendance from local authorities. FB agreed to liaise with NDA to identify appropriate arrangements.

Action: FB

HB gave the group an update on Somerset CC's approach to radioactive waste issues within the Hinkley Point C application. A topic paper is being prepared outlining how the issues could be addressed. A coordinated approach with WSDC and SDC will be developed. FB offered to comment informally on the paper if appropriate. HB undertook to clarify next steps.

Action: HB

PW, RE and RS expressed an interest in participating in discussions with EA regarding Environmental Permitting.

Action: FB

5. Update on local developments

Suffolk: EdF will carry out preparatory works for the Sizewell Spent Fuel Dry Store in 2012, with main build scheduled for 2013. This would trigger the mitigation fund.

Cumbria: Work continuing on Habitat Regulation Assessment for the Keele Head proposal - the anticipated committee date for considering the planning application is January 2012. A detailed regulation 22 request for further information had been submitted to LLWR Ltd for the application to extend the Repository. Representations had been made by Environment Agency and Natural England over the lack of supporting information. The Site Allocations policy would be resubmitted in January 2012.

Northamptonshire: The High Court Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's decision on the King's Cliffe application had failed. However, leave to appeal has been granted and is tabled for w.c. 16 January. NCC had received 2 notifications of intentions to dispose to the site – one from RSRL (Harwell) and one from ACB (Kent). Harwell have secured a variation to dispose of low activity LLW to off-site landfill. TB would copy Harwell permit papers to FB. Protestors had applied for a stay on disposals which was listed for 14 December. Members of the Local Community Liaison Council had asked PW to seek NuLeAF's views on what stood in the way of Augean disposing of higher activity LLW to the facility. FB thought that the site would need to apply for variations on both the disposal permit and planning permission before this could be increased. Finally, PW reported that the application for extension to the site is expected to be submitted to the IPC in January 2012.

Action: TB

Kent: A planning application has been received for beach feeding (flood defences). Opposition was expected from the local fishing community because of access restrictions.

Oxfordshire: RSRL had indicated that they hoped to send the first consignment of LLW to King's Cliffe in a few months time. RE pointed out that insurance arrangements for LLW disposals to landfill had not yet been sorted out. FB understood that this was being addressed by DECC and a joint SLC approach was likely to be adopted. The business case for transfer of ILW from Winfrith to Harwell was with NDA for consideration. A planning application for the Harwell ILW store was expected after approval of that business case. 10 comments had been received on the Waste Strategy consultation – RSRL objected to the wording around storage of ILW from outside the county. TB to send documentation to FB.

Action: TB

Lancashire: the planning application for a LLW disposal facility on the Springfields site was now in abeyance as contract for disposal to Clifton Marsh has been renewed and an application for life extension to 2020 was anticipated. LCC has written to DCLG regarding concerns over lack of transparency to the BAT process and environmental permitting. No response received to date.

Hampshire: Currently consulting on a draft Minerals and Waste Plan, which includes reference to the disposal of residues from the Fawley incinerator to landfill.

Dorset: All evidence had now been received and assessed regarding the planning contravention notice served on Winfrith. Council is yet to make a formal decision. However, it is unlikely to take further action. The episode shows the need for transparent records of site activities to be kept and reviewed against permissions. DCC will want to review its MWDF in the light of aspirations for decommissioning and restoring the Winfrith site.

6. Spent fuel storage for new nuclear power stations: Wet or dry?

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

- the approach to spent fuel storage in the UK;
- proposals for spent fuel storage at Hinkley Point C;
- the views of the Royal Society on best practice for spent fuel storage;
- the relevant findings of the UK Fukushima review (the 'Weightman Report'); and
- comments on proposal for spent fuel storage at Hinkley Point C

HB to confirm whether SCC will be addressing the issues raised in the paper. If not, consideration will be given to whether it is appropriate for NuLeAF to do so.

Action: HB and FB

7. NuLeaF seminar, 9 March – Agenda options

A note was circulated prior to the meeting outlining agenda options. The group agreed to adopt a broader agenda addressing Integrated Waste Management and the management of radioactive wastes and spent fuel from new nuclear build, in addition to LLW management. It was also agreed that PINS should be encouraged to participate.

Action: CD/FB

8. Date of next meeting

The seminar will be held in place of the next meeting on 9 March, 2012 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London. Any issues arising meantime will be circulated and addressed electronically.

9. AoB

RE drew the meetings attention to the ONR consultation on the definition of bulk quantities which closes 12 December.