

NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group

Note of the meeting held on 5 September, 2013 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London

1. Attendance:

Sue Brett	Cumbria County Council
Trevor Brown	Oxfordshire County Council
Hamish Burrell	Essex County Council
Richard Conway	Purbeck District Council
Rachel Cutler	Kent County Council
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Mike Garrity	Dorset County Council
Paul Howting	Hampshire County Council
Mark Laurenson	Northamptonshire County Council
Philip Matthews	NuLeAF
Louise Nurser	Lancashire County Council
David Palk	Suffolk County Council
Lisa Price	South Gloucestershire Council
Rebecca Williams	West Berkshire Council
Mark Plummer	Department for Communities and Local Government

Apologies:

Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Andrew Goodchild	West Somerset Council
John Groves	Copeland Borough Council
Heather James	Somerset County Council
Stewart Kemp	NuLeAF
John Prosser	Kent County Council
Phillip Rowson	Maldon District Council
Alistair Stewart	Shepway District Council
Phil Watson	Northamptonshire County Council

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 Item 4.5.1 amend text to clarify that the following points were those raised by individuals throughout the meeting and were not the view of the meeting as a whole.

2.2 Item 5.2.3 para 2 amend text to "The meeting noted the work LLWR was undertaking".

2.3 Subject to the above amendments the note of the last meeting was approved as a true record and would be posted on the website.

Action: CD

3. Matters arising

3.1 Item 3.1 (5 June) Juliet Long had not yet responded to PMs follow-up email.

3.2 Item 4 (5 June) The draft report had been submitted to LLWR in July but at present PM waiting to speak to CG and DR before circulating to group.

3.3 Item 5.1.1 (5 June) This issue can be raised with Mark Plummer later in the meeting.

3.4 Item 4.2 (12 December) A draft brief for a workshop on planning and permitting had been produced. The meeting indicated its agreement that this would be a useful event and could be combined with a future RWPG meeting.

Action: PM/CD

3.5 Item 4.2 (12 December) PM had not received a response to his chasing email regarding supplementary guidance.

4. Report on Intermediate Level Waste (ILW)/Fuel Element Debris (FED) workshops

4.1 A paper reporting on the ILW/FED workshops run by Magnox was circulated prior to the meeting. PM ran through paper highlighting key points. These include:

- Magnox intends to hold regional SE & SW meetings to discuss the issue of combined waste location with District and County Councils.
- The preferred options document will be published in November. Magnox will produce a list of preferred options from those already discussed.

4.2 DP had attended the workshops and commented on the lack of elected members which presumably Magnox will address at regional meetings. There had been criticism that Magnox had pared down the number of critical options without explanation of the rationale behind their decision. Their response was that there was a lot of complicated information to impart.

4.3 RW asked for clarification about those authorities who would be invited to attend the regional meetings. DP said that the invitation would be restricted to those local authorities who had Magnox sites. However he noted that RW raised a valid point as there was the potential issue of transport of wastes between sites which could impact other local authorities.

5. Radioactive waste management guidance and PPS10

5.1 The meeting was joined by Mark Plummer and colleagues from DCLG. MP reviewed the current situation regarding radioactive waste planning guidance and how this had been achieved.

5.2 The next step is to take PPS10 companion guide and waste framework guidance and merge to provide one web-based resource. MP asked for comments on policy, how it relates to radioactive waste and what the guidance should contain.

5.3 DP commented that a general criticism is that policy and PPS10 are silent on radioactive waste, which is only referred to in guidance. This is not good enough and even if policy just referred to where further information on radioactive waste could be found this would be an improvement.

5.4 LN raised the issue that the emphasis seems to be on household waste to the exclusion of other waste streams. It is also inconsistent in how it takes into account the waste hierarchy. The emphasis seems to be on disposal rather than management of waste.

5.5 MP responded that the policy had to be consistent with the government approach which means that the greater detail on waste types has to go in the guidance. With regard to signposting other documents which contain further information, this is an issue we came across with fracking, and our initial reaction is that we put in guidance. So the question is what do we put in guidance?

5.6 In response to a query MP confirmed that the intention is to produce guidance in parallel with the new policy, hopefully later this year. He also advised that the reason that there was no NPS on radioactive waste was that it was not included in the list of primary legislation for the term of this parliament. It could be covered in a later parliament, but only if demand warranted inclusion.

5.7 Other concerns raised were: against what was a local authority to judge proposals for ILW and FED transfers between sites; and the perception that different planning inspectors took differing views on the weight of planning policies against other policies i.e. those of NDA. MP responded that the Secretary of State was the ultimate authority on issues of planning.

5.8 MP thanked the meeting for their input and undertook to circulate the draft policy for comment before final publication for consultation.

6. Fracking and radioactive waste management

6.1 A paper was circulated prior to the meeting by way of general information on the subject. Comments were welcomed.

6.2 MG commented that the issue had been raised by a lobby group during the examination of the Dorset Minerals Core Strategy. The group felt that Dorset CC should have specific fracking policies. Dorset CC's view was that their policies on Hydrocarbons cover this matter and the Inspector seemed to support view.

6.3 DP sought clarification that radioactive waste from fracking could comprise of water and solid material. CD confirmed that this was the case.

7. Update on national developments

7.1 A paper was circulated prior to the meeting. Additional points raised were:

7.2 PBO competition process – a meeting had now been agreed between the NuLeAF Chair and CEO of NDA in the margins of the October National Stakeholder event.

7.3 PM asked for a volunteer to attend the SR TOG on September 17th. SB suggested Richard Griffin might be interested. CD to contact.

Action: CD

7.4 SK and PM will meet with DECC and NDA on 25 September to discuss developments in the MRWS process.

7.5 LN advised the meeting that she had still not been contacted by SEPA regarding their work on the NORM strategy.

7.6 TB commented on RSRL's proposal to use VLLW as a landscaping material at Harwell. Oxfordshire CC had not been aware of this proposal until alerted by NuLeAF. It signals a change of direction for RSRL especially in regard to the disposal of VLLW at Harwell. In conversation with RSRL it transpires that they have already undertaken some disposal at Harwell in this way in the mistaken belief that they had approval from EA. Oxfordshire CC considers that what RSRL term landscaping is actually disposal and that planning permission may be required.

7.7 MG said that the use of some VLLW at Winfrith as part of the site restoration had been raised at the Site Stakeholder Group meeting. However, it was noted that this would have to be managed and monitored. No further details were available yet and it was just one option which was being considered.

7.8 RC pointed out that the decommissioning of the Dragon reactor will leave big hole which could be filled.

7.9 Cumbria, Dorset, Oxfordshire and Suffolk County Councils had all either submitted or would submit responses to the Waste Management Plan for England and PPS10 replacement consultations, echoing those points raised by NuLeAF.

8. Site specific updates

Dorset – Accelerated decommissioning programme is continuing at Winfrith. Work has also begun on Dorset's waste strategy plan.

Northamptonshire – The Development Consent Order (DCO) issued for the new planning permissions at King's Cliffe had not yet implemented. However, the

planning permissions granted last year covering the bridging period between the current permissions and the new had been implemented.

West Berkshire – Work has just begun on the Minerals and Waste plan. Currently gathering data in order understand volumes and flows. Looking to commence Duty to Co-operate with local authorities at Issues and Options stage.

South Gloucestershire - Core Strategy Inspector is writing up the final report and it is hoped that the Strategy will be adopted by end of year. Currently working on the next Development Plan Document which will deal with sites. This should contain Oldbury specific policies to support the Core Strategy.

Essex – The Examination in Public for the Minerals Plan is expected before the end of the year. Waste Plan consultation will take place next year with a pre-submission draft.

Kent – Aiming to produce draft plan for consultation in the middle of January.

Lancashire – Minerals and Waste Local Plan to be adopted on 26 September.

Cumbria – Waiting for further information from LLWR Ltd to support their planning application.

Oxfordshire – Following issues raised the by the Inspector at the examination, Oxfordshire CC took the decision to withdraw the documents. Work has begun on a new plan and consultation on the draft should take place in spring 2014. Duty to Co-operate consultation on-going. The planning permission for the ILW store at Harwell has now been issued.

Hampshire – The Inspectors report for their Minerals and Waste Plan was received in May and the Plan was found sound with a few moderations. The Plan will be adopted on 16 October. Currently taking a lot of calls regarding fracking.

Suffolk – no developments.

9. Date of next meeting – 5 December

10. Any other business

None. The meeting closed at 2.30.

ACTIONS FROM RWPG, 5 September 2013			
Agenda item	Action	By	Status
2.3	Post amended note on website	CD	Done
3.4	Organise workshop on planning and permitting	PM/CD	In hand
7.3	Contact Richard Griffin re attending SR TOG on 17 Sept	CD	Done
ACTIONS FROM RWPG, 5 June 2013			
Agenda item	Action	By	Status
4	Circulate draft report to LLWR	PM	Done
5.1.1	See clarification of content of Defra letter with author, and comment from Mark Plummer	PM	Done
ACTIONS FROM RWPG, 12 December 2012			
Agenda item	Action	By	Status
4.2	Produce supplementary guidance on radioactive waste issues	JL	In hand
4.2	Approach Rob Murfin and Deborah Sacks for update on MWDFs	CD	
ACTIONS FROM RWPG, 25 September 2012			
Agenda item	Action	By	Status
4	Circulate for comment draft paper on planning 'weaknesses' for EA	PM	In hand