

NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group

Note of the meeting held on 14 June, 2011 at Local Government House.

1. Attendance:

Fred Barker	NuLeAF
John Bennett	Dorset County Council
Heather Brown	Somerset County Council
Trevor Brown	Oxfordshire County Council
Bob Chamberlain	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Katherine Dove	Kent County Council
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
Mike Garrity	Dorset County Council
David Palk	Suffolk County Council
Lisa Price	South Gloucestershire Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council
Lesley Stenhouse	Essex County Council
Phil Watson	Northamptonshire County Council

Apologies:

Richard Conway	Purbeck District Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Kerry Rickards	Sedgemoor District Council
Andrew Smith	Lancashire County Council
Mark Woodger	Maldon District Council

2. Note of the meeting of 8 December, 2010.

Subject to amendments by Oxfordshire CC and South Gloucestershire C, the Note was agreed and will be posted on the NuLeAF website

Action: CD

3. Matters Arising

FB still to contact DECC regarding 2nd stage consultation on NORM, otherwise all actions completed or covered within topic papers.

Action: FB

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:

- Weightman review of the implications of the Fukushima accident for the UK

- LLW management and disposal
- the process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for higher activity wastes, and
- arrangements for enhancing engagement with NDA et al.

FB observed that it was possible to interpret the 12th recommendation that Dr Weightman favoured dry storage of spent fuel. BC responded that EdF were considering both options for Sizewell C, but there was an indication that they preferred wet storage.

RE advised the meeting that Cumbria CC was starting discussions with the Nuclear Industry Association regarding the possibility of centralised storage at Sellafield. He added that LLWR Ltd will be submitting planning applications for further vaults at the LLWR, disposal in Vault 9 and continued and further increase in stack height.

It was agreed that there was merit in covering consolidation issues for ILW/SF in discussions with NDA et al in the meetings later that month and information would be fed back to this group.

Action: FB

5. Update on local developments

Suffolk: Waste Core Strategy adopted 17 March. Application for Sizewell Dry Fuel Store still with minister (decision anticipated early autumn). S106 Agreement in place for mitigation package.

Cumbria: *Keekle Head* - further information from the developer had been received. No committee date has yet been set. Further response with regard to possible impact on the water table was awaited from Environment Agency. *Lillyhall* – current planning permission requires site to be fully restored by 2014, no application for life extension has been submitted. A challenge to the Environment Agency's permitting process is being considered. *MWDF* – Barrow BC had challenged the Site Allocation policy. The challenge was being considered in High Court w.c 20 June.

It was agreed that Environment Agency should be asked to explain its process for considering and approving disposal permits at the Steering Group on 6 July.

Action: FB

Northamptonshire: The need to include a radioactive waste policy will be considered when the Waste Core Strategy is reviewed. See also item 6 below.

South Gloucestershire: Waste Core Strategy now adopted. LDF CS examination will be in September 2011. CS contains policy on nuclear development at Oldbury. Objection to content of policy received from Horizon.

Kent: Preferred Options consultation ends 26 July.

Dorset: Information had been submitted to DCC following the issue of a planning contravention notice. This would now be reviewed. A considerable amount of material was still being brought on to the site for treatment, including metals.

It was agreed that the point should be raised at the engagement meetings that operators should not make a blanket assumption that planning permission for a treatment facility covers treatment of wastes from other sites.

Action: FB/JB

Oxfordshire: A revised report to cabinet on Waste & Minerals Core Strategy (WCS) will be submitted in July. WCS considers options for storage of ILW and disposal of VLLW. RSRL have indicated that they will submit a planning application for an ILW store at Harwell in early 2012, which would also take ILW from Culham and Winfrith.

Copeland: SS had attended a briefing regarding the movement of materials from Dounreay which will commence in 2012. Whilst this will require regulator approval it is within 'the existing envelope'.

Somerset: Work on Waste Core Strategy is progressing. DP is providing peer review. On proposed new build at Hinkley Point, submission of DCO to IPC has been postponed until September. Discussions on S106 on-going. Application on preliminary works anticipated at meeting 28 July 2011.

Suffolk Coastal: Sizewell C programme will be delayed because EdF is focused on Hinkley Point C application. Stage 1 consultation likely early 2012.

Essex: Waste Plan Issues & Options went to consultation in November 2010 and covered radioactive wastes. Current decommissioning at Bradwell has necessary planning permissions, but trying to determine future needs. No developments on new build front at this stage.

6. Secretary of State's decision on Augean appeal re disposal to the ENRMF, King's Cliffe

FB circulated a paper prior to the meeting outlining the SofS's overall conclusions and Northampton CC's response to the decision.

PW advised the meeting that he thought it unlikely that NCC would pursue the case further. WasteWatchers had intimated that they might consider a challenge, but on what basis was unclear. Augean had held an open day at the site. Further applications will be submitted to extend the size and life of the site. The S106 for community fund was signed prior to the inquiry taking place. PW anticipates that the site will be ready to receive waste in 2-3

months time. In response to a question from SS, PW advised the group that he estimated the costs to NCC of the appeal were in the region of £250K, not including officer time.

FB took an action to review the new Waste Policy Review document published that day by Defra for any reference to radioactive waste.

Action: FB

DP commented that recent SofS decisions on application for incinerators had removed catchment area requirements. It is not clear where this leaves KPO2 from PPS10.

7. Outcome of LLW inventory forecast meeting

A small group of officers from the RWPG met with colleagues from LLWR Ltd on 23 May. A paper covering the topics discussed was circulated prior to the main meeting.

The group agreed that the documentation provided by LLWR Ltd was a useful starting point, but that further information was required. There were some instances where data provided could not be reconciled with information from sites. A 'capacity gap' analysis is the critical next step.

Further discussion with LLWR Ltd would be organised when the 'capacity gap' analysis is available.

Action: FB

8. A Community Benefits Protocol for radioactive waste management developments?

A discussion paper was circulated to the group prior to the meeting. FB had also spoken to officers at Somerset CC, who are working on the community benefits issues regarding Hinkley Point C. A proposal for a new nuclear build benefits protocol is likely to be taken to the meeting of NNLAG (New Nuclear Local Authorities Group) at their meeting on 29 June.

In discussion it was noted that:

- there could/should be separate protocols for new build and legacy wastes, but that there would need to be compatibility between the two;
- this approach was in line with the government's localism agenda where communities should benefit from developments in their area;
- community benefits should be handled separately from planning applications;
- timing of payments was important (potentially starting at the granting of consent);
- care needed to be taken over how the fund was set up and managed; and
- we can promote the idea of a protocol, but it needs to be developed/adopted by the industry.

RE had been advised that NDA were taking a tougher stance and questioned whether they would support such an initiative.

FB will develop the paper further for submission to the July meeting of the Steering Group.

Action: FB

9. Identifying a process for involving LAs in discussion about locational options for managing spent fuel from new nuclear power stations.

A discussion paper was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that it was too early to get to grips with this issue and that liaison with NNLAG would be advisable.

Action: FB

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 September, 2011, 12.30 to 3.30, Room 7.1, Local Government House, Smith Square, London