

NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group

Note of the meeting held on 8 September, 2010 at the University of London.

1. Attendance:

Fred Barker	NuLeAF
Emily Butcher	Hampshire County Council
Jane Corry	Cumbria County Council
Peter Day	Oxfordshire County Council
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council
David Palk	Suffolk County Council
Phil Watson	Northamptonshire County Council

Apologies:

Adrian Dyer	West Somerset Council
Bob Chamberlain	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Clive Pink	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Kerry Rickards	Sedgemoor District Council
Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Lesley Stenhouse	Essex County Council
Mark Woodger	Maldon District Council
Stewart Kemp	Cumbria County Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council

2. Note of the meeting of 8 June, 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.

8/06/2010 item 5 - DP and PW gave verbal updates to the meeting (see under item 5)

6/06/2010 item 9 – the Strategy was published on 26 August and a draft Briefing Paper was circulated prior to the meeting for discussion.

All other actions completed.

4. Update on national developments

FB highlighted key points from the note circulated in advance of the meeting.

RE gave a verbal report on the meeting of the NDA LLW Strategy Group. The intention is to keep the group functioning for the near future, with a focus on implementation issues.

FB advised the meeting that LLWR Ltd had issued a 'customer notice' regarding new waste treatment services, including the incinerator sites in the UK that could be used for LLW treatment. This would be circulated.

Action: CD

FB advised the meeting that work on the regional evidence database by NDA was on hold pending the outcome of their organisational review. However, it was reassuring to note that in the LLW UK Strategy NDA states "We recognise that planning authorities will require a sufficient evidence base, with data about the volumes and types of LLW and High Volume VLLW arisings on a region by region basis, an indication of the timing of such arisings, and information about existing and reasonably foreseeable facilities for managing LLW and High Volume VLLW in each region..."

NDA has launched the consultation on Strategy II. It contains a section on integrated waste strategy. Significantly, the section on HAW confirms the direction NDA is considering taking in moving towards the utilisation of new treatment technologies and consolidating ILW treatment and storage at a smaller number of sites. WPAs may need to review the planning permissions at such sites to ensure that the importation of waste for treatment or storage is permissible.

In response to a question from EB as to how EA judge the level of public interest in an application, FB undertook to circulate information received from the EA to an earlier enquiry.

Action: FB

With regard to regulation of inter-site transfers, FB undertook to write to EA to seek clarification on whether it informed the WPA or local authority when an EPP application was made, who within the authority the notification went to and what their expectation was in notifying the local authority/WPA.

Action: FB

5. Update on local developments

Northamptonshire – The King's Cliffe inquiry is scheduled to commence 26 October and run for 4 weeks. Augean have advised NCC that they also intend to apply for an extension to operate the site to 2026. NCC is taking this as further reason for refusing the initial planning application for LLW disposal as the application is developing in a piecemeal fashion. WasteWatchers, a local action group are a Rule 6 party to the appeal. They have indicated that they intend to challenge the EA findings and take up the health issues. PW will circulate their Statement of Case when available, along with NCC's document list and the inquiry timetable.

Action: PW

NCC's Site Allocation Hearing in Public will begin two weeks prior to the inquiry. Augean have indicated that they will attend although they do not have a site under consideration.

Hampshire – hoping to receive approval from members to update Waste Core Strategy later this year. There will be a lot of evidence gathering to do in support. HCC is undertaking a specialist waste study in order to identify issues particular to the county. The council is meeting with a group of local authorities ("The South East 7") to consider planning issues along the south coast.

Cumbria – Site Allocation Hearing in Public will be held in September. The Planning Inspector has questioned the inclusion of policy on LLW management and may prefer this to be addressed during review of the WCS.

The applicant had been asked for further information on the application for disposal of LLW to Keekle Head. Committee date not yet known. Lillyhall application is awaiting Article 37 approval.

Oxfordshire – no update on issues at Harwell since last meeting.

Suffolk – The WCS submission draft has been considered at a Hearing in Public, with no discussion on the policies for radioactive wastes. It is hoped to be able to adopt the WCS by the end of the year.

British Energy made an application for a Spent Fuel Dry Store under the Energy Act in February of this year. SCC are pursuing the case for a S106 agreement and have written to DECC to justify the request in relation to the statutory tests. DECC have given no indication as to when the application will go to the SofS. DP will pursue directly with DECC if clarification is not shortly forthcoming.

DP has asked BE/EdF for clarification on why the Sizewell B site chose a dry fuel store, but a wet fuel store has been chosen for the proposed Hinkley Point C site. DP will circulate the response once received.

Action: DP

6. Draft Briefing Paper on UK nuclear LLW Strategy

The draft briefing paper was circulated prior to the meeting. A range of clarifications and amendments were identified. FB would develop the draft accordingly and circulate the draft for further comment.

Action: FB

7. Radioactive waste management and new nuclear build

A paper on a proposed response to consultation on the Environment Agency's preliminary findings on Generic Design Assessment was circulated prior to the meeting and its contents were noted.

8. Revised proposals for a future exemptions regime

DECC have clarified that the proposals do not include the reclassification of high volume nuclear industry VLLW as exempt waste for the purposes of disposal.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 December, 2010 in room 8.02, New Academic Building, London School of Economics, Kingsway, London, 12.30 to 3.30.

10. Any other business

Briefing Paper 16 on Planning Obligations will be revised in light of CIL and the outcome of the discussions with BE/DECC regarding the Sizewell Spent Fuel Dry Store application.