

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 20 th July 2012
Agenda item:	9
Subject:	General progress report
Author:	Phil Matthews
Purpose:	To update the Steering Group on the proposed approach to job-sharing by the Executive Co-Directors and other items of interest

Introduction

This report covers:

- An outline of the planned approach to joint working between the new Executive Co-Directors and the Office Manager
- An update on NuLeAF finances
- An update from the NID's consideration of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) application.
- Plans for revision of NuLeAF's interim guidance on MWDFs.

Recommendations

That the Steering Group notes the proposal on staffing and reviews progress as appropriate.

That the Steering Group notes the other updates in this paper.

Contribution to Strategic Objectives

The information on HPC links with Strategic Objectives 12-14 for 2012, namely:

- Seek to ensure that proposals for radioactive waste management and decommissioning of new nuclear power stations do not prejudice effective management of the nuclear legacy.
- If proposals for new nuclear power stations continue to move forward, promote debate and thinking about the ways in which this could be done to the benefit of nuclear legacy management and in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle, including how a more coordinated across site approach could be taken in locations that have or are proposed to have multiple licensed sites.
- Liaise effectively with the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group and with local authorities addressing the radioactive waste management implications of new build and provide assistance as appropriate.

1. NuLeAF staffing

Following Fred Barker's departure, Phil Matthews and Stewart Kemp have been appointed as Executive Co-Directors – Phil started work on the 30th May and Stewart on the 18th July. Both Phil and Stewart will work a 2.5 day week for NuLeAF and discussions have been on-going as to how this arrangement can work most effectively.

Below is an outline of the intended approach to job-sharing. The effectiveness of this arrangement will be subject to review involving the Executive Co-Directors, the Business Support Co-ordinator, the Chair and Suffolk County Council after 6 months.

The proposal is that:

- Stewart will in general work Monday to Wednesday and Phil Wednesday to Friday although on occasion meetings and other commitments may lead to changes to this. A phone conference between the Executive Co-Directors and the Business Support Co-ordinator will be held every Wednesday to review work and plan ahead. An online file sharing system has already been established to allow easy access to all files.
- For an initial period both Stewart and Phil will cover the full spectrum of issues in the NuLeAF work programme, to ensure that both understand all aspects of the job and the inter-relationship between different work strands.
- Following that, it is envisaged that an approach involving topic-based 'lead responsibilities' will evolve. There are likely to be options for the way this is done. One option could be based on an allocation of topics using the categories in NuLeAF's strategic objectives (NDA strategy, LLW strategy, GDF siting, radwaste and new build, SDP, community funds and socio-economic support and major accidents). Another option might be to divide lead responsibilities according to waste category, for example, higher activity wastes and low level wastes, and then allocate remaining topics. Following a 6 month review, the suggested way forward will be further discussed with the Chair, Business Support Co-ordinator, Suffolk CC and the Steering Group.
- Once topic-based lead responsibilities have been developed, several other activities will fall into place by topic, including: report preparation for the Steering Group (SG); preparation of consultation responses and briefing papers; review of case study drafts; and attendance and input to 'external' meetings.
- Other, more general, activities will be shared including: coordination of preparation of SG agendas and general reports; preparation of updates and/or spatial planning reports for Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG); and preparation of post-SG e-bulletins.
- Both Phil and Stewart will attend Steering Group meetings. Depending on allocation of lead responsibilities, it may be possible for other NuLeAF organised meetings (RWPG and engagement meetings with NDA/SLCs) to be attended by one Executive Co-Director.

The secretariat will produce a 'service plan' outlining the work programme for 2012-13 which will be tabled at the October Steering Group meeting for discussion, amendment, and if approved, adoption.

2. NuLeAF Finances

It was agreed at the AGM in October 07 that NuLeAF's accounts be audited by Suffolk County Council on an annual basis. The fifth annual audit has recently been completed. The main findings were that:

- Audit Services found all files (both manual and electronic) to be in order. The audit stated that "administration and audit trails are clear, concise and easy to follow", and rated the overall accounts to be of a 'High Standard'.
- The Income and Expenditure Statement for 2011-12 was checked and verified. Income was £90,690 and expenditure £110,889.15. The small deficit has been met from reserves.

In terms of the current financial year (FY), NDA has made an increased contribution in the current financial year (£75,000 against £50,000 in previous years). However, applications for funding have to be made each year and this increased payment cannot be relied upon.

A shortfall of £12,250 is anticipated at the end of FY12-13, which can be met from reserves.

At the time of writing 7 local authorities had yet to pay their membership contribution.

3. Update on the NID's consideration of the Hinkley Point C application

As noted in papers to the previous Steering Group meeting on 25th April, the National Infrastructure Directorate (NID) has now set out a timetable for consideration of the application for a new nuclear station, Hinkley Point C (HPC).

The detail of the case and the issues of concern to NuLeAF are set out in the relevant paper from the April 25th meeting. Since that date the IPC Panel has:

- Held the first open floor hearings
- Provided comment on the Local Impacts Report and written representations
- Held the first two issue hearings on mitigation measures

Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council submitted a joint Local Impact Report (LIR) on HPC to the Examining Authorities at the Planning Inspectorate at the start of May. This along with other documentation from the Examining Authority is available at <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/south-west/hinkley-point-c-new-nuclear-power-station/>.

The three Somerset Councils have also prepared a new topic paper on the waste issues around HPC. The paper covers:

- The on-site management and long-term interim storage of radioactive waste and spent fuel, the transfer of which is subject to the construction of a Geological Disposal Facility that is able to accept radioactive waste and spent fuel from Hinkley Point C

- Treatment and/or disposal of construction and demolition waste at the main site and associated sites
- The treatment and/or disposal of municipal and commercial waste at the development site and associated sites

The topic paper in particular provides the justification for Section 106 obligations / payments towards mitigation of the impact of long-term interim storage of radioactive waste and spent fuel at Hinkley Point C. It also considers community impact mitigation measures (including a Community Impact Mitigation Fund) where mitigation is not possible, relating to both perceived risks and other negative impacts. The paper is available on the NuLeAF website [http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/B17_Topic_Paper - Waste - FINAL-formatted.pdf](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/nuleaf/documents/B17_Topic_Paper_-_Waste_-_FINAL-formatted.pdf).

The previous Executive Director was involved in supporting and advising the Somerset Councils on the legacy and waste issues relating to HPC. The new Executive Co-Directors will discuss with officials in the relevant Councils how NuLeAF can best support this work in future.

4. Revision of NuLeAF's interim guidance on MWDFs

This issue was discussed at the RWPG meeting held at the end of May. At that meeting it was agreed to prepare a revised paper in light of the significant changes in the policy landscape.

It was agreed that the remit of the advice would be expanded to include Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs), and the overall advice should be aimed at Local Plans, not MWDFs. It was also agreed that consideration should be given to whether a different approach should be taken in unitary and two tier authorities.

The new advice will:

- stress the importance of the Duty to Cooperate
- deal with onsite disposal of VLLW/LLW
- deal with co-location of waste
- provide options which LAs can select as appropriate to the local situation
- make reference to what Planning Inspectors have said
- consider Sustainability Appraisal.

The updated Briefing Paper will also be informed by the outcomes of the ILW consolidation project, the LLW disposal group, and the Somerset CC and South Gloucestershire C hearings.

The Executive Co-Chairs will draft a new briefing and circulate for comment by the Steering Group.