

<b>Meeting:</b>	NuLeAF Steering Group, 20 October 2010
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	5
<b>Subject:</b>	Radioactive Waste Management and New Nuclear Build
<b>Author:</b>	Fred Barker
<b>Purpose:</b>	To report on developments

## **Introduction**

This report provides a high level overview of developments relating to:

- the Energy National Policy Statements
- Generic Design Assessment
- second stage consultation at Hinkley Point
- NuLeAF input to the Somerset authorities
- Somerset authorities seminar on 20 September
- the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group

## **Recommendation**

That the Steering Group delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to approve submission of comments on the radioactive waste management aspects of the revised Nuclear NPS.

## **Contribution to Achieving Strategic Objectives**

The activities described in this report relate to the following NuLeAF objectives:

- 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 build continue to move forward, to promote debate about the interactions with nuclear legacy management and the pros and cons of utilising these interactions to the benefit of nuclear legacy management. Any such use should be in accordance with the principle that the companies concerned meet the full cost of decommissioning and radioactive waste management liabilities that arise from new nuclear power stations. This debate should include how a more coordinated 'across site' approach could be taken in locations that have or are proposed to have multiple licensed nuclear sites.

## **1 National Policy Statements (NPSs)**

The Government has announced that it will be re-consulting on the draft Energy NPSs because of issues associated with the initial Sustainability Appraisal. It is anticipated that this will start in October. Following consultation, DECC anticipates Parliamentary ratification in the Spring of 2011.

NuLeAF's comments on the draft Nuclear NPS during the initial round of consultation highlighted the need to clarify that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will be able to consider the radioactive waste management issues identified in Local Impact Reports and for Government to take steps to ensure that the prospects for effective radioactive waste management are maintained.

It is recommended that the Steering Group (SG) delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to approve submission of comments on the radioactive waste management aspects of the revised Nuclear NPS, taking into account NuLeAF's comments on the version consulted upon early this year.

## **2 Generic Design Assessment (GDA)**

The Environment Agency (EA) is assessing the environmental impacts of new reactor designs through an approach called Generic Design Assessment (GDA). This enables the acceptability of generic environmental aspects to be assessed before individual site applications are made. The EA launched a consultation on its detailed GDA findings for the EPR (AREVA/EDF) and AP1000 (Westinghouse) reactor designs in June. A NuLeAF response to the consultation was approved by the Strategy Review Group on 1 October and is available on the NuLeAF website at [Comments on GDA](#).

## **3 Second Stage Consultation on Hinkley Point C**

The second stage consultation on EDF's proposals to build a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset closed on 4 October. The proposals were heavily criticised by NuLeAF member authorities - Sedgemoor DC, Somerset CC and West Somerset DC - on the grounds of inadequate information and mitigations measures. EDF has said that it does not plan to offer a third stage of consultation (see [BBC News - EDF Energy: 'More consultation not needed'](#)).

## **4 NuLeAF input to Somerset Authorities**

The ED has been in discussion with officers at Somerset CC about input into a potential work programme on the radioactive waste management aspects of EDF's proposals for new build at Hinkley Point. On the approval of the Chair and Vice Chair, it is proposed that NuLeAF fulfil an advisory and peer review role. This proposal has been incorporated in a Topic Paper that will be considered by the Somerset Strategic Project Board later in October.

## **5 Somerset Authorities Seminar 20 September**

This heard presentations from DECC, EDF, the Somerset local authorities, Copeland BC, the IPC, the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) and Robert McCracken QC. The seminar provided a good opportunity to hear about the experience of the Hinkley Point Planning

Performance Agreement, the scope and basis for mitigation of impacts, the role of the IPC, and the high level feasibility study of spent fuel management options. Further information on the latter is due to be published later in the autumn. The presentations are available on the Sedgemoor DC website at [New Nuclear Build Document Library](#). The seminar was attended by the ED and representatives of member local authorities from Anglesey, Cumbria, Lancashire, Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Suffolk.

## **6 New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG):**

Following a fringe event on 7 July at the LGA Conference in Bournemouth, NNLAG has been established as a Special Interest Group of the LGA, with Somerset County Council in a lead role. NuLeAF has been represented at meetings leading to the setting up of the group, and is establishing a good working relationship with its secretariat. It is envisaged that the new group will draw on NuLeAF's expertise and experience when addressing issues associated with the management of radioactive wastes.