

<b>Meeting:</b>	NuLeAF Steering Group, 25 January 2007
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	8
<b>Subject:</b>	MRWS – NuLeAF Initiatives on Implementation
<b>Author:</b>	Fred Barker
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide an update on NuLeAF initiatives

## **Introduction**

This report provides an update on NuLeAF initiatives, including:

- Preparations for input to Government on the implementation framework
- Preparations for the Implementation Briefing Meeting on 21 March
- Submission to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
- Submission of comments on the CoRWM Implementation Report
- Proposed LGA Conference

## **Recommendations**

That the Steering Group:

- 1 Endorse the approach being taken to the preparation of inputs to Government.
- 2 Encourage attendance at the Implementation Briefing Meeting in Manchester Town Hall on 21 March
- 3 Submit comments to Government stating that it is broadly supportive of most aspects of the CoRWM Implementation Report, with the exception of two main areas of potential difference and subject to the need for more detailed discussion of proposals over coming months.

## Preparations for Input to Government

The Steering Group meeting on 11 December agreed that a series of officer-level liaison meetings with Government should be organised to present and discuss NuLeAF proposals for developing specific aspects of the implementation framework. The meetings will also provide an opportunity to discuss latest developments across the MRWS programme.

The schedule for the liaison meetings is as follows:

January 26	Proposals for Siting Partnerships
February 21	Initial Invitations and Local Decision-Making about Participation
March 20	Funding Participation and Enhancing Community Well-Being
April 17	Siting, Planning Requirements and Rights of Withdrawal

It is anticipated that the meetings will be attended by DEFRA, DTI and NDA. Each discussion will be informed by a Briefing Paper setting out NuLeAF's proposals for what should be included in the implementation framework on each of the listed issues.

The Briefing Paper, 'Proposals for Siting Partnerships', has been submitted to Government for discussion on 26 January and is attached. The draft was circulated for comment on 3 January. Members may wish to highlight specific points for discussion with Government.

The schedule for preparation of the remaining papers is:

<b>Briefing Paper</b>	<b>Drafting period</b>	<b>Date for circulation of draft to SG for comment</b>	<b>Officer meeting to discuss draft (10.00 am Kendal)</b>	<b>Date for sending to DEFRA</b>	<b>Date of Liaison meeting (London)</b>
<b>Initial invite and response process</b>	Jan 18 – Feb 2	Feb 2	Feb 12	Feb 14	Feb 21
<b>Participation and community packages</b>	Feb 5 – Feb 23	Feb 19	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 20
<b>Rights of withdrawal, planning requirements</b>	By Mar 19	Mar 19	Mar 26	April 10	April 17

The second and third briefings are being prepared 'in-house'. The fourth briefing has been commissioned from John Hetherington (Hetherington Nuclear Consulting).

### Implementation Briefing (21 Mar 07)

A briefing for the Steering Group and interested member authorities is being held on 21 March in Manchester Town Hall, starting at 11.00am. The meeting will provide opportunity to discuss:

- Environment Agency thinking on: (a) when and how it should become involved in the siting process; (b) the R&D needed to reduce uncertainties in the long-term safety of geological disposal; (c) the development of stakeholder confidence in emerging repository safety cases; and (d) the pros and cons of the phased geological disposal concept.
- NDA thinking on: (a) how functions relating to the long-term management of wastes will be ring-fenced; (b) how it will develop the capacity to work in partnership with local communities; (c) the appropriateness of its current contractor model for repository development; and (d) the draft outline repository development plan (including R&D to reduce long-term safety uncertainties).

Presentations will be made by speakers from the Environment Agency and NDA, followed by discussion.

### **Submission to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee**

The Select Committee is holding a short follow-up inquiry into radioactive waste management, focusing on CoRWM's final report and the Government's response. The deadline for written submissions was 8 January. The attached letter was submitted on behalf of NuLeAF.

The Committee is meeting in public to hear evidence from CoRWM and the NDA (on 16 January), and from the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (on 29 January). It is expected that the Committee will publish its report shortly thereafter.

### **Comments on the CoRWM Implementation Report**

The Government has invited comments on the CoRWM Implementation Report by 31 January ('Proposals for Implementation', Document 1703, November 06). The report provides a more detailed underpinning for CoRWM's recommendations on implementation.

There is considerable agreement and consistency between most of the proposals in the CoRWM report and those developed by NuLeAF. Two areas of potential difference are:

- CoRWM suggests that the Partnership approach be based on establishing an "open and equal relationship between the implementing organisation and the host community". It is not clear whether CoRWM considers that the implementing organisation would formally participate in Partnership decision-making, for example, about recommendations to local authorities. The NuLeAF briefing on Siting Partnerships proposes that the implementor should not participate in the Partnership's formal decision-making, although it should contribute substantially to its work in a spirit of partnership.
- CoRWM has noted that in some parts of the UK, the areas covered by local authorities are so large that it may prove difficult to resolve conflicts between potential host communities and the wider area. In such cases, CoRWM states, special arrangements for the ratification of partnership proposals may be necessary. The NuLeAF briefing on Siting Partnerships expresses disagreement with this view, stating that 'special arrangements' for devolved local decision-making are not necessary or desirable in local government in England and Wales.

It is proposed that NuLeAF write to Government stating that it is broadly supportive of most aspects of the CoRWM Implementation Report, with the exception of the two main areas of potential difference and subject to the need for more detailed discussion of proposals over coming months.

### **LGA Conference on Implementation**

The LGA are willing to organise a conference in early September, which should fall within the consultation period for the draft implementation framework and outline repository plan. LGA will handle logistics, with NuLeAF input on the agenda and speakers.

The Steering Group meeting on 11 December agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director to agree an appropriate format with the LGA.

The Secretary of State has been invited to make the Key Note presentation to the conference. Once a response has been received, a date and programme will be decided.