

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 24 July 2014
Agenda Item:	8
Subject:	Service Plan 2013-15 Update
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Purpose:	To update members on progress with the actions set out in the NuLeAF Service Plan 2013-15 not covered elsewhere

Introduction:

This paper covers progress in all the main areas set out in the Service Plan, excluding those for which a separate paper has been provided.

- Update on the SDP
- Seminar report
- Potential engagement in European work programme
- Issues around Detailed Emergency Planning Zones
- Potassium Iodate tablet distribution

Recommendation:

That the Steering Group agree to the involvement of NuLeAF in the European STING (Stakeholder Involvement for Robust Geological Disposal) consortium, on the understanding that all costs of involvement will be met by other parties.

That NuLeAF officers write to ONR write to seeking clarification on outstanding issues around DEPZs.

Contribution to 2013/15 Service Plan:

This report provides a note of progress against areas of the Service Plan, enabling members to assess the extent to which NuLeAF is delivering against the objectives set.

1. Update on the SDP

In February the provisional shortlist of sites to be used for the interim storage of radioactive waste from the UK's nuclear submarines was announced, with pre-engagement on the shortlist undertaken in March and April. NuLeAF's Vice-Chair Cllr. Brendan Sweeney attended one of two pre-engagement workshops¹.

Drawing on this, in May the MOD published a response to the pre-engagement workshops. This document is not online but was circulated to participants in the workshops. Their report notes the main stakeholder comments on issues of Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) transport, Community Benefits, Planning and Permitting, Responsibility and Accountabilities, Screening and Assessment, Engagement and the scope of the SEA. Comments made by stakeholders on the 5 sites on the provisional shortlist were also included.

Of particular interest to local authorities:

- Many stakeholders called for RPV transport to be an explicit element of the options assessment, with consultation materials clear as to the risks and impacts on local communities
- Many stakeholders believe there is a need for benefits to be awarded to the host community, although MOD does not appear to feel that the impact of the SDP store merits such payments. The MOD note the new NuLeAF proposal for a community benefits framework and are preparing a factsheet summarising their position on this issue
- There is a view that the project should urgently clarify key aspects of the approach to planning and permitting, with this being presented to detail to communities during the public consultation phase

In terms of the 5 individual sites on the provisional shortlist, the main issues arose around Chapelcross and Sellafield.

In relation to Chapelcross there was concern about how disposal would fit with the stated policy of the Scottish Government. Regarding Sellafield, there were concerns about the existing complexity of the site and how this might have an impact on the MOD's plans. There was also strong support for community benefits to be forthcoming if Sellafield was to be the host.

Based on the pre-engagement, a final shortlist of interim storage sites will be published in summer 2014. These will be taken forward as the basis for public consultation which will be carried out both locally around each candidate site, and at a national level. Public consultation is anticipated to take place in late 2014 and early 2015.



Workshops
1 report-Final.pdf

More information on the SDP and the selection process for the provisional shortlist can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/submarine-dismantling-project-interim-storage-of-intermediate-level-radioactive-waste>.

2. Seminar report

On 16 June, NuLeAF hosted a seminar at Local Government House. The theme was Radioactive Waste Management: local authorities and regulation. Presentations were given by the Environment Agency, Officer for Nuclear Regulation, NDA, DECC, Magnox and Auegan plc.

In total 43 people participated in the seminar, including representatives from 24 local authorities. Participants also came from DECC, the Environment Agency, Kingston University, Magnox Ltd, NDA, Radioactive Waste Management Ltd, an independent consultation and a Parish Council representative.

The presentations and seminar report are posted on the NuLeAF website.

3. Potential engagement in European work programme

NuLeAF has in the past participated in a range of European Union supported projects aimed at building the capacity of member states, and in particular local government, with regard to nuclear decommissioning and waste disposal.

An invitation has now been extended to NuLeAF to be a partner in a new proposed programme of engagement and knowledge sharing entitled STING (Stakeholder Involvement for Robust Geological Disposal). STING follows on from the IPPA and InSOTEC processes that NuLeAF was involved in in 2012 and 2013.

STING recognises that across the EU, nations are at different stages in the process of preparation for geological disposal and that there is a need to share information. Stakeholders, including local government and those with the social-economic and environmental interests of communities at heart, must be central to such processes as they advance.

STING is proposed to include a number of work packages, which deal with issues of

- The safety case
- Retrievability and surveillance
- Early disposal or intermediate storage?
- The site selection process
- Compliance of public participation processes with regulations and international conventions
- Local and regional empowerment

Of particular relevance to NuLeAF will be the potential opportunity for visits to other countries, such as Sweden and Finland, to learn about their processes and the nature of engagement of local government.

It is understood that funding is likely to be available to support NuLeAF involvement in this process. There is scope for NuLeAF to be either a full partner or simply a UK partner for relevant aspects of the various work programmes, with any engagement not expected to place an unacceptable burden on NuLeAF officer time.

On this basis, the views of NuLeAF members on whether the organisation should seek to engage in this programme are sought.

4. Issues around Detailed Emergency Planning Zones

As noted at the last Steering Group, ONR has issued revised principles for the identification of Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (DEPZ) at licenced nuclear installations. In some areas implementation of these principles appears to have progressed slowly with debate about what the logical boundary of the DEPZ in different localities proving a particular issue. On this issue, ONR has committed to engage with local authorities and base its decisions on DEPZ's on practical and strategic factors, such as local demographic and geographic features that influence where the boundary lies, as well as technical assessments. This is likely to lead to non-circular shaped DEPZs being adopted in future.

NuLeAF officers requested feedback from member authorities where DEPZs have been or are being reviewed, to establish whether there were common issues that needed to be addressed.

A number of responses were received. These show a diverse picture across the country in terms of the size of proposed DEPZs under consideration and on the experience of local authorities in engaging with ONR on this issue.

It was agreed at the April 2014 Steering Group that, once the situation in local areas is understood, the Steering Group would write collectively to ONR seeking clarification on outstanding issues.

5. Potassium Iodate table distribution

NuLeAF Vice Chair Cllr. Brendan Sweeney has highlighted an issue related to Potassium Iodate tablet distribution. Potassium Iodate tablets are prescription only medicines issued in the event of a radiation incident.

While tablets are provided to schools and some other facilities, regulations do not allow for the pre-distribution to individuals, despite requests from Public Health England to the medicine regulator.

Within Barrow in Furness, BAE used to have plans for pre-identified volunteers to distribute the tablets in the event of an incident, but have now said that they don't think this would work and have withdrawn the offer to do it, creating an issue about public protection in the event of an incident. Cllr. Sweeney is keen to establish whether similar issues arise in other areas and if NuLeAF should seek to raise this issue with the relevant bodies.