

<b>Meeting:</b>	NuLeAF Steering Group, 29 January 2015
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	8
<b>Subject:</b>	Service Plan 2014-16 Update
<b>Author:</b>	Philip Matthews
<b>Purpose:</b>	To update members on progress with the actions set out in the NuLeAF Service Plan 2014-16 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 Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP)
- Report on the first annual meeting on low level waste treatment and disposal routes
- Office for Nuclear Regulation Strategy
- Other consultations

### **Recommendation:**

This report is for noting.

### **Background Information:**

None beyond those provided, where appropriate, throughout the document.

## 1. Update on the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP)

A consultation on the site for the interim storage of the 27 Reactor Pressure Vessels (RPVs) from the UK's decommissioned nuclear submarines was launched in November 2014<sup>1</sup> and will run until the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Five sites are identified as potential locations for the store: AWE Burghfield and Aldermaston on the MOD estate, along with Sellafield and Chapelcross on the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estate and Capenhurst, operated by URENCO.

Consultation events have been held in the vicinity of each of the 5 shortlisted sites along with two national events in Birmingham and Glasgow. NuLeAF Vice-Chair Cllr Brendan Sweeney attended the Birmingham event and raised a number of issues including that:

- There is potential for the interim store to be used over a very long period of time, given uncertainty of the timescale for a Geological Disposal Facility;
- There is a need for greater clarity on community benefits; and
- There is the potential for the application to generate a significant amount of work for local planners and that MOD should consider reflecting this through a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

NuLeAF will submit a response to the consultation.

## 2. Report on the first annual meeting on Low Level Waste treatment and disposal routes

Some local authorities have in the past expressed concerns about the lack of engagement around the disposal of Very Low Level Waste (VLLW), something that runs against the commitments made in the Low Level Waste Strategy<sup>2</sup>.

Over the last two years NuLeAF has engaged in dialogue with the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) to try and resolve this issue. Through this discussion it was agreed to host an annual meeting between Waste Planning Authorities, LLWR, Site Licence Companies and the supply chain.

The intention is to provide Waste Planning Authorities with a holistic overview of the volumes and types of Low Level Waste (LLW) accessing the various waste treatment and disposal routes operated through LLWR framework contracts on behalf of the Nuclear Industry and in support of the National Low Level Waste Strategy.

The first annual meeting was held in Manchester on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Feedback from local authority attendees, and others, has been positive. It is hoped that this open and transparent approach will afford all present with the opportunity to air issues/concerns, gain a better understanding of what was going where and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/submarine-dismantling-project-site-for-the-interim-storage-of-intermediate-level-radioactive-waste>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nda.gov.uk/publication/uk-strategy-for-the-management-of-solid-low-level-radioactive-waste-from-the-nuclear-industry-august-2010/>

enable local authorities to better determine who they need to engage with under the requirements of Duty to Cooperate.

On this basis it is planned to hold a similar meeting annually every June.

### **3. Office for Nuclear Regulation Strategy**

The Office for Nuclear Regulation published its 2015-2020 Strategy in December 2014<sup>3</sup>. The Strategy establishes a mission for the organisation, namely to *'provide efficient and effective regulation of the nuclear industry, holding it to account on behalf of the public.'*

The mission is underpinned by three Strategic Themes:

- Influencing improvements in nuclear safety and security;
- Achievement of our vision through our people; and
- Inspiring a climate of stakeholder respect, trust and confidence

In relation to the last of these three, there is a commitment to placing as much information as possible in the public domain. NuLeAF submitted a response to the consultation on the Strategy which is available on the NuLeAF website

### **4. Other consultations**

In addition to those reported elsewhere, NuLeAF also responded to the consultation by the Welsh Government on their policy on the disposal of Higher Activity Waste. Wales currently neither supports nor opposes the development of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). As a result of this consultation this stance may change, with a potential impact on the process through which Welsh communities could enter into the GDF siting process. The consultation response is available on NuLeAF's website<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.onr.org.uk/about.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/consultation-responses/consultation-responses-2015>