

**May 2015,
Issue 37**

Welcome to Issue 37 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group held in London on 14 May and other items:

- the Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- the relationship between NuLeAF and the LGA;
- update on NDA strategy and operations;
- joining NuLeAF; and
- dates for the diary.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

Government published the White Paper¹ outlining the revised process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in July 2014. Between now and late 2016, some key aspects of the siting process are being considered through expert groups and engagement with local government and other stakeholders.

As part of this work programme DECC will be carrying out a **Call for Evidence** for a period of 5 weeks in early June. The Call will be concerned solely with the building of the evidence base around the key issues under consideration: defining communities in a practical sense for GDF siting purposes; community investment; and recommending a practical approach to the final test of public support. All local authorities will be directly invited to provide evidence and NuLeAF will also alert its members once the Call is opened.

Workshops aimed at specific stakeholder groups are also planned over the summer of 2015. A **Local Government Workshop** will be held in the week of the 6th July, with a second one planned for the week of the 14th September. Workshops will also be held with the business sector, academics, young people and community interests. A final workshop testing proposals with a range of stakeholders will be held in November.

The national geological screening exercise has produced draft guidance. Before publication, the **Independent Review Panel** established by government to oversee the work on the national geological screening exercise will be holding a public meeting to discuss the draft guidance, and consultation is planned for summer 2015.

An article in LGA magazine **First**² magazine by NuLeAF Chairman, Cllr Richard Smith MVO, highlights the issues and opportunities for local authorities

NuLeAF will continue to work to inform and advise both central and local government on the pertinent issues around this complex process. **Any local authority wishing to have informal discussions or seeking further information should contact the Executive Director, Philip Matthews on 07949 209126 or philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk.**

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-geological-disposal>

2 <http://www.local.gov.uk/first-digital-edition;jsessionid=BA853B15D2AE9A705EF3E885349549DF>

NuLeAF and the LGA

NuLeAF is a Special Interest Group³ (SIG) of the Local Government Association. There are 19 SIGs and they cover a diverse range of areas from City Regions Transport to World Heritage Sites. NuLeAF is one of the larger SIGs, with its own secretariat.

NuLeAF is keen to engage with the wider LGA and invited Caroline Green of LGA to speak at the Steering Group meeting on 14 May.

Ms Green stressed that the LGA valued the work the SIGs carried out, and wanted them to feel that they have the mandate to act on behalf of the LGA on their specialism. The meeting agreed that NuLeAF and LGA should look at work programme themes which are common to many SIGs and consider how a joined up approach could be taken.

NDA strategy and operations

NuLeAF invited Magnox to speak to the Steering Group meeting on 14 May on developments in its strategy for the management of Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste (ILW). Concerns had been raised at previous meetings about the change of direction, the introduction of two new waste streams (pond skips and filters), and the way in which this had been communicated. You can view their presentation on the NuLeAF website⁴.

Magnox assured the meeting that the changes had been informed by the experience of dealing with ILW from the sites going into early Care and Maintenance. Changes to waste acceptance criteria at the Low Level Waste Repository had also meant that it was possible to send some of the waste there for disposal. Magnox stressed that they valued the cooperation of the local communities and local authorities and would continue to engage as they further developed their plans. A position paper will be published shortly and NuLeAF will circulate details to those authorities affected.

Consultations

The Scottish Government is consulting on an [implementation strategy for its Higher Activity Waste policy](#). The consultation closes on 7 August and NuLeAF will circulate its draft response.

Northamptonshire County Council is undertaking consultation on the [Issues and Options stage](#) of the review of its Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The consultation closes on 9 July.

Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work

Nuclear waste and legacy issues are major concerns for local authorities across the country. Critical issues include decisions about disposal of Low and Very Low Level Waste to landfill, changes to planning guidance, considerations on the siting of a Geological Disposal Facility the need to maximise community benefits from nuclear legacy operations and the impacts of the decommissioning of many nuclear power stations.

NuLeAF continues to be an effective voice for local authorities on all these issues. We welcome new member authorities and the active participation of Elected Members and

³ <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/LGA-governance-structure-paper-for-Nuleaf-may-2015.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/steering-group-papers-minutes/steering-group-papers-2015>

officers in our Steering Group and in the officer Radioactive Waste Planning Group. If your authority would like to join NuLeAF, if you would like to participate in the work of the organisation, or find out more then please contact Catherine Draper at the address below.

NuLeAF on LinkedIn

NuLeAF has a group on [Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com). We hope that members will use this as a forum to discuss issues and seek advice with other members. We also post regular items of news.

Diary dates

The next meeting of NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group (an officer working group) will take place on 4 June 2015 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.30 – 3.15.

The next meeting of the NuLeAF Steering Group will take place on Thursday 23 July in Whitehaven, 10.30 – 12.30. We have kindly been offered the use of NDA offices. The meeting will be preceded by a visit to the Low Level Waste Repository on 22 July. Details of the visit will be circulated to NuLeAF members shortly.

A full calendar of meetings can be found on the [NuLeAF website](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk).

Contact point

All member authorities are asked to ensure that NuLeAF is kept informed of any changes to officer or councillor contacts. It is important that these are kept up-to-date, so that the right people receive e-bulletins, invitations to NuLeAF meetings and other information.

The NuLeAF Secretariat can be contacted at *T*: 01473 264833 *W*: www.nuleaf.org.uk
E: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk