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| <b>Meeting:</b>     | NuLeAF Steering Group, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2015                  |
| <b>Agenda Item:</b> | 9  |
| <b>Subject:</b>     | Update on other key tasks  |
| <b>Author:</b>      | Philip Matthews  |
| <b>Purpose:</b>     | To provide an update on other key tasks in the NuLeAF Service Plan |

### **Introduction:**

This report provides an update on progress with other items within the NuLeAF service Plan. It covers:

- LLW National Programme regulatory meeting
- VLLW/LALLW Engagement event
- Submarine Dismantling Project
- Consultations

### **Recommendation:**

This report is for noting

### **Background information**

Environment Agency is carrying out a consultation on the application<sup>1</sup> by the Low Level Waste Repository to vary its environmental permit in order to allow further disposal at the site.

NDA published a Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the Nuclear Industry in 2010<sup>2</sup>. A revised Strategy is anticipated later this year.

You can read about the MoD consultation on the selected shortlist of sites on their website<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/environmental-permit-application-low-level-waste-repository>

<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/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/submarine-dismantling-project-interim-storage-of-intermediate-level-radioactive-waste>

## **1. Low Level Waste(LLW) National Programme Regulatory meeting**

1.1 Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) hosted a meeting of the Low Level Waste (LLW) regulators in Penrith on the 27<sup>th</sup> May.

1.2 The meeting reviewed the first of a new form of quarterly report on the LLW National Programme. This provides an overview of the Successes, Opportunities, Failures/issues and Threats (SOFT) for the programme, data on progress against targets and reports from the Site Licensee Companies.

1.3 Overall diversion of waste from the LLWR site remains high at around 90%, extending the lifespan of the LLWR significantly.

1.4 Issues for the national programme include a missing of the target for diversion of combustible wastes, the limited capacity in the marketplace for the recycling of metallic wastes and the lack of suitable treatment processes for asbestos contaminated wastes.

1.5 LLWR's planning application to Cumbria County Council for the longer term use of the site near Drigg for disposal has also been withdrawn. However, there are plans to submit a revised, shorter term planning application in 2015/16.

1.6 The Executive Director provided the group with an update of NuLeAF's recent work and there were also updates from the Environment Agency, Office for Nuclear Regulation and Cumbria County Council.

## **2. Very Low Level Waste/Low Activity Low Level Waste (VLLW/LALLW) Engagement event**

2.1 NuLeAF and LLWR Ltd held a successful engagement event on VLLW/LALLW in Manchester in October 2014. The meeting drew together LLWR, the SLCs, supply chain and local authorities with the aim of updating local authorities on planned movements and disposal of VLLW/LALLW over the coming year. It also provided a forum for all parties to highlight issues of concern. NuLeAF had been pushing for such a meeting for some time, in response to the concerns of members that engagement was not sufficient and did not fulfil the stated aim of the LLW Strategy.

2.2 The meeting was judged a success and it was agreed to hold the event annually. The next meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 in London, on the same day as a planned meeting of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG). The meeting will be held at London School of Economics and invitations have been issued to NuLeAF member authorities.

### **3. Submarine Dismantling Project**

3.1 The Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) advisory group met in Bristol on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

3.2 The project has run in various forms for over a decade but is now reaching its conclusion. Following consultation, the final shortlist of sites for the storage of the 27 submarine reactor pressure vessels has been agreed.

These are:

- AWE Aldermaston
- AWE Burgfield
- Chapelcross (NDA)
- Sellafield (NDA)
- Capenhurst

3.3 A decision on the final site is anticipated in summer 2016. The SDP Advisory Group will meet again at the launch and may also meet in autumn 2015 if deemed necessary, but all significant work is now complete.

3.4 Although the SDP only covered a very small part of the UK inventory (0.2%) it has in many ways proved a good model for engagement. More information can be found on the MOD website<sup>4</sup>.

### **4. Consultations**

4.1 NuLeAF has recently submitted responses to the consultation on the Cumbria County Council Minerals and Waste Plan. The final submission is available on the NuLeAF website<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/submarine-dismantling-project>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/NuLeAF-response-to-Cumbria-MW-con.pdf>