

Meeting:	NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 15 October, 2015
Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	Annual Report
Author:	Catherine Draper
Purpose:	To provide an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2014

Introduction

This report provides an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2014.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the AGM agrees that the report presents a true picture of organisational developments and activities.

1. Context

The last 12 months has seen a range of significant developments in nuclear waste and decommissioning. NDA has been active in developing its strategy and in evolving its plans for site restoration; while DECC and RWM have been taking forward a range of work to support the development of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). NuLeAF has been an active partner in this work.

In terms of the NDA estate we have:

- Been actively engaged in the development of a refreshed Low Level Waste Strategy;
- Worked through the Theme Overview Group (TOG) meetings to develop Strategy III;
- Undertaken a wide range of work on site restoration and decommissioning, including an ongoing dialogue with the NDA and environment agencies on the scope for local government oversight of nuclear sites after the permit is surrendered;
- Organised a visit by 12 NuLeAF elected members and officers to the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg and a presentation and escorted tour of the site by LLWR Managing Director, Dennis Thompson;
- Organised an annual meeting between waste planners, LLWR and the supply chain to ensure effective engagement on low level wastes; and
- Hosted a meeting between our Steering Group and John Clarke, CEO of NDA
- Hosted meetings and dialogue with a range of organisations including Cavendish Fluor and staff from across the NDA.

In terms of our engagement with RWM:

- Our Executive Director has participated in the Communities Representation Working Group as part of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- Held regular briefing meetings with DECC and RWM on progress of the Geological Disposal Facility process;
- Provide detailed responses to DECC and Welsh Government consultations on a range of aspects of the GDF siting process, such as the Call for Evidence or the Welsh siting process; and
- Engage in dialogue with the wider Local Government Association to raise awareness of the plans for a GDF.

2. Overview of Organisational Developments and Activities

Organisational developments and activities have included:

Steering Group

Four meetings of the Steering Group (SG) have been held in: Manchester (29 January) London (14 May and 15 October) and in Whitehaven (23 July). The latter included a visit to the Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg. Guest speakers were:

- James McKinney, Head of Integrated Waste and Deborah Ward, Corporate Communications Manager at NDA. They gave presentations on the development

of NDA Strategy on Higher Activity Wastes and Strategy 3 2016-2021 respectively.

- Jim Cochrane, SEPA, John Garraway and Bob Smith of the Environment Agency and Kim Baines of NDA attended to give a presentation and discuss the role of planning in the regulation of former nuclear licensed sites.
- Ben Bridgewater - Waste Strategy Engineer, Val Drake – Programme Director – Waste, and Pip Hatt – Head of Communications – Sites, spoke about the changes to the plans for the interim storage of Intermediate Level Waste, the dissolution of Fuel Element Debris, and other waste streams put forward after awarding of the Parent Body Organisation contract to Cavendish Fluor Partnership in 2014.
- John Clarke, CEO of NDA attended the July Steering Group meeting and answered questions on a wide range of topics.
- Members of the Steering Group visited the Low Level Waste Repository on 22 July.

The Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)

The RWPG has met four times since the last AGM. It continues to provide a mechanism for officer review and discussion of key issues prior to preparation of reports for the Steering Group. During the course of the year issues it has considered include:

- the national geological screening process for the Geological Disposal Facility;
- members of the group met with the Low Level Waste Repository and their supply chain to discuss waste movements over the forthcoming year;
- the review of the Low Level Waste Strategy;
- the transportation of nuclear materials including a presentation and discussion with Steve Dutton, Head of Transport at NDA;
- the regulation of former nuclear licensed sites following decommissioning; and
- the progress of decommissioning at Winfrith.

The meetings continue to be well attended, with around 15 officers, plus NuLeAF. Core membership includes: Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, Dorset County Council, Essex County Council, Hampshire County Council, Kent County Council, Lancashire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Somerset County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Suffolk County Council and West Berkshire Council.

Siting a Geological Disposal Facility process

Since the launch of the White Paper: Implementing Geological Disposal in July 2014, NuLeAF has worked with RWM and DECC to ensure the local authority voice is heard and issues are understood by government and the operator. After some negotiations with DECC and the LGA, the Executive Director was appointed in a personal capacity to be one of two local government representatives at the Communities Representation Working Group. This group meets to discuss community based issues around the implementation of the GDF siting process. NuLeAF has also worked with RWM to put on local authority engagement events and has attended workshops on

the geological screening process, responded to the Call for Evidence on Working with Communities¹ and is the local authority representative at land use planning meetings.

Member Authorities

NuLeAF has 108 member authorities comprising: 18 contributing authorities, 81 corresponding members, 3 National Park Authorities and 6 Nuclear Free Local Authorities (FLA) co-optees. The list of member authorities is attached.

Services to Member Authorities

Services to member authorities continue to be maintained and new opportunities to provide added benefit sought.

E-bulletins have been published following each Steering Group meeting summarising the discussions and decisions and alerting the readership to other topics of interest.

A newsletter rounding up items of interest, dates for the diary and current consultations is sent out to contributing member authorities in those months when an e-bulletin is not issued.

The website continues to be updated with papers and items of interest on a regular basis.

NuLeAF hosts a successful and popular group on LinkedIn, using it as a platform for peer to peer advice and support. NuLeAF also recently established a presence on Twitter and uses it to highlight items of interest as they happen @nuleaforguk.

Seminar

NuLeAF has held two seminars since the last AGM. The 2014 seminar was held on 23 October and focused on the role of local authorities and regulators in radioactive waste management. Presentations were given by Juliet Long - Environment Agency, Kulvinder McDonald - ONR, Stephen Wilmott - Magnox Ltd, Gene Wilson – Augean Ltd, Dave Loudon – NDA, and Colin Mackie – DECC.

The 2015 seminar was held on 30 September and looked at community issues in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process and the review of NDA Strategy. Presentations were given by Sara Johnston, Head of Strategy Development at NDA, and by Bruce Cairns, Head of Geological Disposal at DECC. Break-out groups discussed and provided feedback on important issues on each topic.

Both seminars were held at Local Government House, Smith Square, London. In addition to local authority officers and members, participants also came from DECC, the Environment Agency, University of East Anglia, Kingston University, Magnox Ltd, NDA, North London Waste Plan and independent consultants. A full report on the seminar 2014 is published on the NuLeAF [website](#) and the 2015 report will be published shortly.

¹ <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Call-for-Evidence-on-Working-with-Communities-NuLeAF-final.pdf>

Responses to Consultation

During the course of the year [consultation responses](#) and comments have been submitted on:

- DECC's consultation on the Appraisal of Sustainability and Habitat Regulation Assessment for the GDF;
- Dorset County Council's draft Waste Plan;
- the Call for Evidence on Working with Communities;
- Welsh Government on Higher Activity Waste policy;
- Scottish Government implement strategy of their Higher Activity Waste policy;
- Cumbria County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan;
- decommissioning activities at Imperial College;
- the review of UK strategy for the management of solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the nuclear industry;
- the CoRWM Triennial Review;
- the sites shortlisted for the interim storage of reactor pressure vessels from the decommissioning of nuclear submarines;
- NDA's draft Business Plan 2015-18;
- Best Available Technique for the treatment of metallic wastes by the Low Level Waste Repository; and
- Welsh Government's review of its policy on the management and disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Wastes.

Events and Representation at Meetings

Officers have arranged or attended a large number of meetings and workshops on MRWS and other nuclear legacy management issues. These include:

- the NDA's Integrated Waste Management, Critical Enabler and Site Restoration Theme Overview Groups;
- briefings on topics discussed at the NDA's Spent Nuclear Fuels Theme Overview Group;
- the LLWR's Integrated LLW Programme Delivery Overview Group, and Regulatory Group
- the Advisory Sub-Group of the MoD's Submarine Dismantling Project;
- GDF liaison meetings with Government and Radioactive Waste Management;
- open meeting by RWM and the Independent Review Panel on the draft guidance for the national geological screening exercise;
- NDA annual stakeholder meeting (2014);
- GDF annual stakeholder meeting
- GDF Appraisal of Sustainability workshop
- CoRWM plenary meetings
- Environmental Agency seminar
- NDA Strategy 3 workshops

NuLeAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Contributing members:

1. Allerdale Borough Council*
2. Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council
3. Copeland Borough Council
4. Cumbria County Council *
5. Dorset County Council*
6. Hampshire County Council*
7. Hartlepool Borough Council
8. Manchester City Council*
9. Oxfordshire County Council
10. Plymouth City Council*
11. Sedgemoor District Council
12. Shepway District Council
13. Somerset County Council *
14. South Gloucestershire Council
15. Suffolk Coastal District Council*
16. Suffolk County Council
17. West Somerset District Council
18. Ynys Mon County Council

* subscription pending at time of writing

Corresponding members

19. Arun District Council
20. Ashford District Council
21. Birmingham City Council
22. Blackpool Borough Council
23. Braintree Borough Council
24. Breckland District Council
25. Broadland District Council
26. Bromsgrove District Council
27. Caerphilly County Borough Council
28. Carlisle City Council
29. Chelmsford Borough Council
30. Chesterfield Borough Council
31. Cheshire West and Chester Council
32. Colchester Borough Council
33. Cornwall Council
34. Dacorum District Council
35. Denbighshire County Council
36. Derby City Council
37. Derbyshire Dales District Council
38. Devon County Council
39. Durham County Council
40. Eden District Council
41. Essex County Council
42. Forest Heath District Council
43. Fylde Borough Council
44. Gosport Borough Council
45. Great Yarmouth Borough Council
46. Greater London Authority
47. Gwynedd County Council
48. Halton Borough Council
49. Harlow District Council
50. Hyndburn Borough Council
51. Kent County Council
52. Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council
53. Lancashire County Council
54. Lancaster City Council

55. Leeds City Council
56. Leicestershire County Council
57. Lewes District Council
58. Liverpool City Council
59. London Borough of Hackney
60. London Borough of Harrow
61. London Borough of Hillingdon
62. London Borough of Newham
63. London Borough of Tower Hamlets
64. Maldon District Council
65. Melton Borough Council
66. Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
67. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
68. Norfolk County Council
69. Northamptonshire County Council
70. North East Derbyshire District Council
71. North London Waste Planning
72. North Norfolk District Council
73. Norwich City Council
74. Nottinghamshire County Council
75. Northumberland County Council
76. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
77. Pembrokeshire County Council
78. Purbeck District Council
79. Rutland County Council
80. Scarborough District Council
81. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
82. South Lakeland District Council
83. South Ribble Borough Council
84. Southampton City Council
85. South Norfolk District Council
86. Stroud District Council
87. Spelthorne Borough Council
88. Staffordshire County Council
89. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
90. Taunton Deane Borough Council
91. Tendring District Council
92. Tunbridge Wells District Council
93. Vale of the White Horse District Council
94. Wansbeck District Council
95. Waveney District Council
96. West Berkshire District Council
97. West Lancashire District Council
98. West Lindsey District Council
99. Worcestershire County Council

NFLA authorities

100. Caerphilly County Council
101. Cardiff City Council
102. Hull City Council
103. Leeds City Council
104. Oxford City Council
105. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

National Parks Authorities

106. Lake District National Park Authority
107. North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority
108. Snowdonia National Park Authority