

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group held on 23 July 2015, Albion Square, Whitehaven

Present:

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council (Chair)
Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Moore, Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Mark Hackett, Manchester City Council
Cllr Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Chris Morgan, West Somerset Council
Nik Hardy, Allerdale Borough Council
Denice Gallen, Copeland Borough Council (telephone)
John Groves, Copeland Borough Council
Richard Griffin, Cumbria County Council
Sean Morris, Manchester City Council
Katharine Harvey, Shepway District Council
Guy Robinson, Somerset County Council
Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
Michael Wilks, Suffolk County Council
Philip Matthews, NuLeAF
Catherine Draper, NuLeAF

1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those were attending the meeting for the first time. Participants introduced themselves.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Cllr David Southward – Cumbria County Council, Mike Garrity – Dorset Borough Council, Lesley Stenhouse – Essex County Council, Rachel Cutler – Kent County Council, Adrian Hurst – Hartlepool Borough Council, Cllr Marcus Johnstone & Richard Sharples – Lancashire County Council, Cllr David Blackburn – Leeds City Council, Lucy Atkinson – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Phil Watson – Northamptonshire County Council, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Cllr Anne Fraser & Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Alistair Stewart – Shepway District Council, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft – Suffolk Coastal District Council, Matt Meldrum - West Berkshire Council, Andrew Goodchild – West Somerset Council.	

2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY, 2015	
2.1	The following corrections were made to the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015: 10.2 – amend handshake to handover 10.3 – delete	CD
2.2	Subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May, 2015 were held to be a true and accurate record and will be posted on the website.	CD
3	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	All actions from previous meetings were in hand or completed	
	<i>Item 4 was taken at the end of the meeting as John Clarke was delayed.</i>	
5	UPDATE ON THE GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS	
5.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Call for Evidence; • the Communities Representation Working Group (CRWG); • an update on the work on the national geological screening process; • progress on the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project framework; and • the Welsh Higher Activity Waste Policy consultation. 	
5.2.1	NuLeAF had circulated a link to the Call for Evidence webpage to all its members and encouraged them to either contribute to the NuLeAF response or submit their own.	
5.2.2	The meeting discussed how a community could be defined. No conclusions were reached. Reference was made to both the approach taken in planning where the impact of the development is considered, and that taken by LLWR in its socio-economic policy where greater benefit is concentrated around the site, and then a reduced proportion out towards the margin of a defined radius.	
5.2.3	It was noted that care must be taken not to focus the community investment in too small an area. There was also a need to see the funding available as potentially transformational, to move beyond painting the cricket pavilion to meaningful socio-economic investment in an area.	
5.2.4	It is important that community investment is not available only when the GDF is operating, but during construction also.	
5.3	PM advised the meeting that the afternoon session of the seminar would be devoted to the work on communities which had been undertaken by the CRWG.	

5.4	RS and BS updated the meeting on their engagement with RWM at the LGA conference earlier their month. They were pleased that RWM recognised the need for proper engagement with local authorities as the GDF process evolved.	
5.5	A comment was made that public understanding of radioactive waste needed to be improved before it would be possible to have meaningful engagement.	
5.6	The weighting given to community investment in the forthcoming NSIP will be of interest as this is not normally addressed in planning.	
5.7	Any response to the Welsh Government Consultation should highlight cross boundary issues.	
6	UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NDA STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS	
6.1	PM introduced the paper which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a report on the Theme Overview Group meetings; and • engagement with the NDA and regulators on institutional controls. 	
6.2	PM advised the meeting that the National Stakeholder Engagement Event would be held in West Cumbria on 24 September. RS and BS would represent NuLeAF.	
6.3	Regarding the launch of Strategy 3, NDA had agreed to use the morning session at the NuLeAF seminar on 30 September to engage with local authorities on this issue.	
6.4	SM said that he had been very disappointed at the standard of the Strategy 3 engagement event held in Manchester earlier in the year. He had been told that it had been aimed at local authorities but only one or two had attended. He hoped that NDA would organise future events more effectively.	
7	NuLeAF FINANCES	
7.1	PM introduced the paper which provided an overview of the audited accounts for FY 2014-15 and funding for NuLeAF in FY 2015-16.	
7.2	RS advised the meeting that the application to John Clarke for an additional £10K funding for this financial year had been turned down.	
7.3	Two proposals for commissioned work had been submitted to RWM and feedback was awaited.	
7.4	RS said that he would be seeking a refund from Suffolk County Council auditors for the additional charges incurred in carrying out this year's audit because of faults with Suffolk CC's expenses software.	RS

7.5	Concerns were noted that introducing a charge, however small, for corresponding membership may result in a reduction in the number of authorities which NuLeAF represents.	
7.6	It was suggested that Welsh Government should be approached for funding support in light of their recent re-engagement with the GDF process.	PM
7.7	It was noted that the auditors had awarded NuLeAF top status for its financial management.	
8	NuLeAF 2015 SEMINAR	
8.1	PM introduced the paper which gave an outline programme for the NuLeAF seminar to be held on 30 September.	
8.2	PM advised the meeting that NDA had offered to provide some staff to help facilitate the seminar.	
8.3	The Steering Group approved the programme for the seminar.	
9	UPDATE ON OTHER KEY TASKS	
9.1	PM introduced the report which provided an update on progress on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Low Level Waste National Programme regulatory meeting; • the Very Low Level Waste/Low Activity Low Level Waste engagement event; • the Submarine Dismantling Project; and • NuLeAF responses to consultations. Points made during discussion were:	
9.2	NuLeAF will cite SDP engagement programme in its response to the Call for Evidence for the GDF siting process.	
9.3	Members are concerned that NDA may push for more on-site disposal of V/LLW, especially in view of possible budget cuts following the spending review.	
10	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
10.1	The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 15 October, 2015 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London.	
11	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
11.1	It had been brought to BS's attention that 100% of the business rates from the new power station at Moorside will go to HM Treasury. He asked the meeting if others had heard the same and if this would be common practice for other new nuclear sites?	
11.2	The meeting felt that there was a lack of clarity around the topic and asked PM to investigate and produce a paper for the next	PM

	meeting if necessary.	
11.3	SM updated the meeting on the status of SCCORS, the Scottish sister group to NuLeAF. Edinburgh has now taken over as lead authority and it is hoped that meetings will recommence in September. SM will pass secretariat details to NuLeAF.	SM
11.4	PM advised the meeting that NuLeAF was now on Twitter at nuleaforguk and encouraged people to follow our feed.	
4	PRESENTATION AND QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH JOHN CLARKE, CEO, NDA	
4.1	RS welcomed John Clarke and Bill Hamilton to the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to attend. The meeting members introduced themselves and PM gave a short presentation on NuLeAF and its current work programme. This was followed by a Q&A session.	
4.2	In answer to a question about how RWM can raise public understanding of NuLeAF issues, JC said that once the first phase of the GDF siting process is completed, RWM will be able to act as an advocate for the process. This aspect was missing from the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process. Until then, public engagement is the remit of DECC.	
4.3	JC confirmed that government is committed to the volunteerist approach. Waste is being moved into modern stores which will allow time for a volunteer host community to be found.	
4.4	In response to a question about NDA/RWMs links with Cabinet Office and the benefits of linking major projects together to create supporting infrastructure, JC confirmed that they are working with both Cabinet Office and Infrastructure UK.	
4.5	JC said that NDA was aware of the need to manage the supply chain, especially where skills were concerned. There needed to be a co-ordinated approach to ensure the workforce for decommissioning projects which were being wound down could move on to new build at the appropriate point.	
4.6	In respect of the spending review, any changes to the work programme will be based on hazard management.	

ACTION LIST

Steering Group, 23 July, 2015			
2.1	Amend Minutes of 14 May as directed	CD	Done
2.2	Post Minutes of 14 May on website	CD	Done
7.4	Seek rebate from auditors at Suffolk County Council	RS	In-hand
7.6	Contact Welsh Government re: funding	PM	In-hand

	support		
11.2	Seek clarity on the distribution of business rates from new nuclear build. Prepare paper to October SG if necessary	PM	In-hand
11.3	Pass SCCORS secretariat details to NuLeAF	SM	In-hand
Steering Group, 14 May, 2015			
5.8	Seek meeting with LGA Chair and Lead Board Members	CD/CG	Awaiting appointment of board (September)
5.10	Consider cross SIG issues such as NSIPS and developing an LGA approach to central government to move issues forward.	CG	CG now moved on. Will follow up with replacement
5.12	Check NuLeAF Minutes are read.	CG	
5.13	Look at LGA work programme and that of other SIGs for common interests	PM	Information requested from LGA. No response to date.
5.14	Circulate list of LGA Board members and political affiliation (when new Board formed)	CD	Awaiting appointment of board (September)
6.8	Identify topics for commissioned work	PM	In-hand
6.9	Write to corresponding member asking if they would consider moving to contributing membership	RS/BS/CD	In-hand
Steering Group, 24 July 2014			
6.10	Ask DECC for clarity on its timeline (GDF) in order to assist NuLeAF in timetabling internal discussions	PM	Raised with DECC. Timeline not yet agreed