

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

**Minutes of the Steering Group held on 15 October 2015,
Local Government House, Smith Square, London**

Present:

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council (Chair)
Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Chubb, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire County Council
Cllr David Moore, Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Chris Morgan, West Somerset Council
Cllr David Southward, Cumbria County Council
Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
Richard Griffin, Cumbria County Council
Katharine Harvey, Shepway District Council
Sean Morris, Manchester City Council
Guy Robinson, Somerset County Council
John Pitchford, Suffolk County Council
Steve Smith, Copeland Borough Council
Lesley Stenhouse, Essex 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: Nik Hardy – Allerdale Borough Council, Mike Garrity – Dorset Borough Council, Rob Sellen – Hampshire County Council, Adrian Hurst – Hartlepool Borough Council, Byran Geake - Kent County Council, Richard Sharples – Lancashire County Council, Cllr David Blackburn – Leeds City Council, Cllr Grace Fletcher-Hackwood – Manchester City Council, Phil Watson – Northamptonshire County Council, Peter Day and Trevor Brown – Oxfordshire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Cllr Peter Downing & Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Cllr David Monk – Shepway District Council, Clive Pink – Suffolk Coastal District Council, Matt Meldrum - West Berkshire Council, Andrew Goodchild - West Somerset Council.	

2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JULY, 2015	
2.1	Cllr Holdcroft noted that he had sent his apologies to the meeting which had not been recorded.	
2.1	Subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July, 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 would be addressed through the course of the meeting.	
4	UPDATE ON THE GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS	
4.1	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; • update on work on land use planning • report on RWM paper on boundary waste; • Welsh policy on geological storage; and • Scottish consultation on Higher Activity Wastes. 	
4.2	In response to a question was raised during discussions on the Call for Evidence PM undertook to find out who was preparing the Societal Aspects Status Report and what it's status was (i.e. was it independent from the Call for Evidence?).	PM
4.3	Key points raised during discussions were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of community will be of paramount importance. It is difficult to make progress on this topic without the outcomes from the Call for Evidence. • £1M community investment in the early stages of engagement is not seen as a significant sum, and may be insufficient to encourage communities to come forward. • As there will be two parts to the GDF – surface works and underground works, it would be appropriate to have two parts to the NPS reflecting this. • Public education on the issues around radioactive waste management and GDF is vital if the process is to succeed. 	
4.4	The Vice-Chair asked if shallow boreholes would be covered by the planning regime. It was agreed that this question should be referred to the Radioactive Waste Planning Group for answer.	PM
4.5	A proposal was made that a NuLeAF Steering Group meeting should be held in Wales to enable NuLeAF to engage with Welsh local authorities around the GDF siting process, although the process for local authority engagement there is slightly different to that in England. Consideration will be given to holding a meeting in Cardiff/Anglesey in 2016.	PM

4.6	It was noted that NDA is undertaking considerable work in researching alternative approaches to radioactive waste management which has the potential to reduce the inventory for a GDF.	
4.7	The Steering Group meeting noted the report and thanked the ED for his work in this area.	
5	UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NDA STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS	
5.1	PM introduced the paper which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reports from NDA Theme Overview Groups (TOGs); • NDA Strategy 3 update; • engagement with NDA and regulators on institutional controls; • annual meeting with LLWR and the supply chain; and • Low Level Waste Delivery Overview Group (DOG). 	
5.2	During discussions on Strategy 3, DM advised the meeting that the public consultation period would only run for 6 weeks. This raised some concern as it did not give sufficient time to work within local government meeting structure and accommodate internal consultation and approval of response. It was noted that consultation on the NDA Business Plan would take place at the same time. It was agreed that NuLeAF would circulate a draft response to the draft Strategy 3 document no later than 31 October, and that it would seek a confirmed date from NDA for the start of the public consultation in January.	PM
5.3	The secretariat advised the meeting that an approach had been made to NDA asking for a presentation on the effects of the Comprehensive Spending Review on their work programme. It was agreed that it would also be suitable to request an update on Strategy 3.	PM/CD
5.4	CM highlighted that it had at one time been government policy that new nuclear power station build had to go hand in hand with decommissioning and no new station could be built until one had been decommissioned. Was this still the case?	PM
5.5	Regarding significant budget cuts for the Low Level Waste National Programme, the ED will seek clarification on local site implications.	PM
6	NuLeAF FINANCES	
6.1	PM introduced the paper which provided an overview of the current financial situation.	
6.2	The Chair advised the meeting that he had, that day, written to EDF to ask for financial support and that similar applications would be made to other suitable organisations.	
6.3	In response to a question from DS, the Chair confirmed that NuLeAF has written to John Clarke asking for a modest increase in	

	financial support which would have covered the anticipated shortfall. However, this request had not been successful.	
6.4	DM suggested that an approach should be made to the tier 2 and 3 contactors around Sellafield. A modest contribution from each would meet the funding gap and would be an opportunity for the contractors to meet their social-economic commitments.	PM
6.5	The Steering Group agreed that NuLeAF officers and secretariat should continue to monitor the financial situation, and seek further opportunities for income where and when possible.	
7	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
7.1	The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 28 January, 2016 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London.	
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
8.1	GEK gave feedback on the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) meeting which took place on 13 October.	
8.1.1	The meeting had been officer only and had been well attended.	
8.1.2	NuLeAF had been referred to as an example of good practice on a number of occasions, though it was recognised that lack of resources meant that NNLAG could not operate in a similar way. It had been agreed that NuLeAF would have a standing invitation to attend meetings.	
8.1.3	The meeting had discussed the opportunities to share skills and experience between member authorities.	
8.1.4	It was recognised that there would be different community benefit requirements and mechanisms around the sites, appropriate to each locality.	
8.1.5	A Spring conference would be held each year which would include elected member representatives. An officer only meeting would be held between conferences.	
8.1.6	Engagement with new nuclear developers is seen as key and the group is interested in the work being undertaken by the new National Infrastructure Commission lead by Lord Adonis.	

ACTION LIST

Steering Group, 15 October, 2015			
2.1	Amend Minutes of 23 July as directed	CD	Done
2.2	Post Minutes of 23 July on website	CD	Done

4.2	Ascertain who is preparing the Societal Aspects Status report and its status.	PM	ARUP are preparing the report on behalf of RWM.
4.4	Refer question of shallow boreholes and the planning regime to RWPG	PM	Done. Response circulated.
4.5	Consider holding NuLeAF SG meeting in Wales to facilitate meetings with Welsh local authorities around GDF	PM/CD	In hand.
5.2	Circulate draft response to draft Strategy 3 by end of October	PM	Done.
5.2	Ask NDA for confirmed date for launch of public consultation on Strategy 3	PM	Done. Launch 4 January 2016.
5.3	Invite NDA to give presentation on Strategy 3 at January Steering Group	PM/CD	Done. Whilst originally NDA accepted the invitation they subsequently cancelled the week prior to the event.
5.4	Ascertain if it is still UK policy for any new station build to be accompanied by a station decommissioning	PM	No clarity as yet.
5.5	Seek clarification on local site impacts of significant budget cuts on LLW National Programme	PM	Done. No significant changes. Some work was done in-house which previously would have been outsourced.
6.4	Write to tier 2/3 contractors around Sellafield site for funding contribution	PM	Awaiting clarity on core funding for 2016/17 from NDA/RWM.
Steering Group, 23 July, 2015			
7.4	Seek rebate from auditors at Suffolk County Council	RS	Done. Received.
7.6	Contact Welsh Government re: funding support	PM	In-hand
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	CG	CG now moved on. Will follow up with replacement

	approach to central government to move issues forward.		
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	Done.