

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 10 March 2016
Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	Update on developments in NDA strategy and operations
Author:	Philip Matthews
Purpose:	To update on developments in NDA Strategy and Operations

Introduction:

This report provides a report on recent developments in NDA Strategy and operations. It covers:

- NDA Strategy III and other consultation responses;
- Updated LLW Strategy published;
- Consultation on release of nuclear sites from radioactive substance regulation;
- LLW National Programme Regulatory workshop; and
- Lower Activity Waste (LAW) Asbestos Stakeholder Workshop.

Recommendation:

This report is for noting.

Background information

1. NDA Draft Strategy III consultation
<https://www.nda.gov.uk/publication/consultation-nda-draft-strategy/>
2. NDA Draft Business Plan 2016-19
<https://www.nda.gov.uk/publication/consultation-draft-business-plan-2016-to-2019/>
3. Magnox Socio-economic Policy consultation
<https://magnoxsocioeconomic.com/news.php?v=7>

1. NDA Strategy III and other consultation responses

The NDA consultations on **Strategy III** and the **Business Plan 2016-19** closed on the 15th February 2016. The consultation on Magnox's **Socio-Economic Plan 2016-18** ran until the 23rd February. NuLeAF submitted responses to all three. These are available on the website¹.

Bill Hamilton of NDA will be attending the Steering Group and will be available to discuss Strategy III, the Business Plan and the implications of the Spending Review on nuclear decommissioning.

2. Updated LLW Strategy published

The updated UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the nuclear industry was published on the 10th February 2016². The Strategy remains based around the same three strategic themes:

- The application of the waste hierarchy;
- The best use of existing LLW management assets; and
- The need for new fit for purpose waste management routes.

There is more recognition than in the previous strategy of the need for integrated waste management both in terms of the boundary between ILW and LLW and in relation to non-nuclear LLW and NORM waste.

3. Consultation on release of nuclear sites from radioactive substance regulation

The UK Environment Agencies have launched a consultation on draft guidance for the clean-up of nuclear sites and their release from the formal regulatory regime³.

The preparation of the guidance is in recognition of the need for clarity on the requirements for site clean-up, and the potential for the release of sites from the regulatory regime for radioactive substances. NuLeAF members, through the Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group, have been actively involved in this work, and NuLeAF will submit a response to the consultation.

The consultation ends on the 9th of May, and a draft version of NuLeAF's response will be discussed at the next Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting on April 12th and also circulated to NuLeAF members for comment. John Garraway of the Environment Agency will be attending the meeting on April 12th to discuss the proposed guidance.

¹ <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/consultation-responses/consultation-responses-2016>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-an-update-of-the-uk-strategy-for-the-management-of-solid-low-level-radioactive-waste-from-the-nuclear-industry>

³ <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/operations-portfolio/grr>

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4. LLW National Programme Regulatory meeting

A meeting of the LLW National Programme Regulatory meeting was held in Penrith on the 10th February 2016. The Executive Director was unable to attend and NuLeAF are grateful to Sue Brett of Cumbria County Council for attending and providing feedback.

The meeting heard that diversion of NDA LLW from the LLWR site remained high, at 89%, but that there was a need for greater clarity on data from the non-NDA estate (i.e. AWE, MOD, EDF and Urenco). There was also a clear need for more information on the quantities of NORM wastes that are likely to arise as this could have a significant impact on the operation of the LLW programme and the capacity requirements.

The **Environment Agency** reported that:

- LLWR has now been issued with an environmental permit enabling, with certain conditions, further disposal of solid radioactive waste
- The ENRMF (King's Cliffe) site in Northamptonshire wish to vary their environmental permit to enable the disposal of LLW in a new hazardous waste cell. If accepted this would give enable the site to accept radioactive waste until at least 2026.

SEPA are leading work on Proportionate Regulatory Controls for all three environment agencies. They submitted a preferred option to DECC in December 2015 which envisaged that responsibility could be handed to local authority planning control. Government is interested in this proposal but recognise that it would require changes to planning regulations and the Nuclear Installations Act.

The **Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)** is currently undertaking work on optimising end states for nuclear sites and also on their regulatory strategy for a GDF.

Finally, it was announced that the next **UK Radioactive Waste Inventory** was due for publication at the end of 2016.

5. Lower Activity Waste (LAW) Asbestos Stakeholder Workshop

A workshop on asbestos wastes was held in Manchester on the 11th February. The workshop was intended to engage stakeholders in reviewing national strategic options for asbestos. In particular the aim was to consider the new Environmental Safety Case for the LLWR, which has implications for the acceptability of certain asbestos and asbestos containing wastes at the site.

Phil Watson of Northamptonshire County Council attended the workshop on behalf of NuLeAF. Stakeholders discussed a Strategic Options paper for asbestos and based on feedback a final draft paper will be prepared and circulated in mid-March 2016. A final paper is planned for publication in April.