

Welcome to Issue 41 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group and EGM held in Manchester on 10 March 2016 and other items:

- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- Update on NDA strategy and operations;
- Marking 30 years since Chernobyl and 5 years since Fukushima; and
- joining NuLeAF and dates for the diary.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

At the Steering Group meeting on 28 January, the Executive Director provided an update on recent developments in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process¹.

Community Representation Working Group (CRWG)

The work of the CRWG is now drawing to its conclusion, with the final meeting of the Group set for the 20 April. At that meeting the CRWG will seek to agree their final position on the range of issues they have been considering. These are:

1. **Community representation:** Defining 'communities' in relation to GDF development, and defining effective processes for community representation, including how to involve different tiers of local government; defining roles and responsibilities for those community representatives, including governance and decision making processes; and how these will evolve over time.
2. **Test of public support:** Providing clarity around the point at which a local test of public support would be considered appropriate, and the method(s) by which such a test could be carried out.
3. **Community investment:** Developing options for disbursement of community investment, including when payments should be made, management of the investment, criteria for assessment of any funding applications and the ability of communities to influence investment within their geographic areas.

If the Group is able to reach agreement, their proposals will then be submitted to the Minister who, after considering them, will set out the Government's draft framework for engaging communities. There will then be a public consultation, expected to take place in July following the European referendum.

Government has published a summary report² on the responses received for the Implementing Geological Disposal Call for Evidence: Working with Communities which ran late summer 2015. 54 responses were received and NuLeAF's response to the Call can be found on our website³.

1 Information on the Geological Disposal Facility siting process is available on the RWM [website](#).

2 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/505339/2016_02_11_Call_for_Evidence_Summary_Report.pdf

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

National Policy Statement

NuLeAF understands that public consultation on the NPS will be carried out concurrently with the consultation on the outcomes of the CRWG work programme.

LGA Conference

NuLeAF will be co-hosting a fringe event at this year's LGA Conference with RWM. The aim will be to raise awareness amongst local authorities of the GDF siting programme. If you will be at the conference, please keep an eye open for further communication from us about this event.

NuLeAF will continue to work to inform and advise both central and local government on the pertinent issues around this complex process. **Any local authority wishing to have informal discussions or seeking further information should contact the Executive Director, Philip Matthews on 07949 209126 or philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk.**

Update on NDA strategy and operations

The meeting of NuLeAF Steering Group on 10 March was joined by Bill Hamilton, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at NDA. Bill provided an update on the outcome of the Spending Review and other issues at NDA.

NDA was content with the settlement it received in the autumn **Spending Review**. The settlement will enable NDA to provide steady programmed funding over the estate for the next five years. However, in order to secure the settlement NDA was required to make £1Bn of efficiency savings. It aims to make these savings through requiring its contactors to either deliver more work for the same price, or in reducing costs. Contractors will need to be smarter in the way they manage work, materials and staff. If this fails to deliver the required savings then NDA will look at delaying certain programme items.

NDA is revising the way it manages its **socio-economic programme** and responsibility for this area has now transferred to Bill Hamilton. A scoping paper has been submitted to the NDA Board which outlines the revised approach which includes the publication of an annual report on NDA's performance against set targets and the outcomes achieved.

NDA and Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) are currently in the consolidation period of the new Parent Body Organisation competition process. CFP are reviewing their contract bid against the actual situation on site after taking over **Magnox** in October 2014. This may result in some changes to work programmes. Magnox/NDA will be publishing revised lifetime plans in the near future and NuLeAF will review these and liaise with its member authorities over common themes.

A change to the management model for **Sellafield** was announced by the then Secretary of State, Ed Davey in January 2015⁴. The current Site Licensee Company, Nuclear Management Partners will leave the site on 31 March 2016 and management will transfer to NDA. The Board of Sellafield Ltd will be chaired by Tony Fountain who was also CEO of NDA for a short period. UK Government believes that the new management arrangement help drive forward the clean-up work at Sellafield and help produce efficiency savings for the UK taxpayer who fund the work.

⁴https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/456597/New_Management_Arrangements_for_Sellafield_-_Stakeholder_Briefing.pdf

Marking Chernobyl and Fukushima

Our colleagues at the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) are organising events⁵ to mark the 30th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl and the 5th anniversary of the Fukushima incident. Speakers include the former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Naoto Kan.

Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work

Nuclear waste and legacy issues are major concerns for local authorities across the country. Critical issues include decisions about disposal of Low and Very Low Level Waste to landfill, changes to planning guidance, considerations on the siting of a Geological Disposal Facility the need to maximise community benefits from nuclear legacy operations and the impacts of the decommissioning of many nuclear power stations.

NuLeAF continues to be an effective voice for local authorities on all these issues. We welcome new member authorities and the active participation of Elected Members and officers in our Steering Group and in the officer Radioactive Waste Planning Group. If your authority would like to join NuLeAF, if you would like to participate in the work of the organisation, or find out more then please contact Catherine Draper at the address below.

NuLeAF on LinkedIn and Twitter

NuLeAF has a group on [LinkedIn.com](https://www.linkedin.com). We hope that members will use this as a forum to discuss issues and seek advice with other members. We also post regular items of news. We have set up a Twitter account which we are using to alert members of consultations, news and other items of interest as they happen. Our Twitter handle is [@nuleaforguk](https://twitter.com/nuleaforguk).

Diary dates

The next meeting of **NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group** (an officer working group) will take place on **12th April 2016** at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.30 – 3.15. The meeting will take presentations from James McKinney, NDA on proposals for a single radioactive waste policy, and by John Garraway, Environment Agency as part of their consultation on the Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation.

The next meeting of **the NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM** will take place on **7 June** at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 11.00 – 3.00. NIA have been invited to give the afternoon presentation. Should they be unavailable we hope that Paul Lonsdale of Magnox will give his presentation on their Care and Maintenance programme.

A full calendar of meetings can be found on the [NuLeAF website](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk).

Contact point

All member authorities are asked to ensure that NuLeAF is kept informed of any changes to officer or councillor contacts. It is important that these are kept up-to-date, so that the right people receive e-bulletins, invitations to NuLeAF meetings and other information.

The NuLeAF Secretariat can be contacted at *T*: 01473 264833 *W*: www.nuleaf.org.uk
E: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk

⁵ <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/events/>