

Welcome to Issue 42 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM held in London on 7 June 2016 and other items:

- NuLeAF co-hosted Fringe Event at LGA Conference 2016;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- Discussions with John Clarke, CEO of NDA
- Update on NDA strategy and operations;
- Outcomes of NuLeAF AGM 2016;
- Public Value Conference in West Cumbria; and
- joining NuLeAF and dates for the diary.

LGA Conference 2016

NuLeAF is co-hosting a Fringe Event at this year's annual LGA Conference in Bournemouth. Entitled 'Local benefits of hosting national major infrastructure – myth or reality' the event is being chaired by Sir Merrick Cockell, former Chairman of the Local Government Association and currently Chair of Crossrail 2 Growth Commission.

The event will take place in Tregonwell Seminar Suite 1 at 6.30 on Tuesday, 5 July. Speakers include David Toman, Chief Executive of the Prince's Foundation for Building Community and Natalyn Ala, GDF Siting Director of RWM Ltd. You can find more details on NuLeAF's [website](#) and we look forward to welcoming you to the debate.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

At the Steering Group meeting on 7 June, the Executive Director provided an update on recent developments in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process¹. Key points included:

- The Communities Representation Working Group had now concluded its work and a paper has been submitted to Ministers for consideration. Ministers may accept, reject or amend the group's recommendations which covered: the definition of a community; the composition of a siting partnership; community investment; the test of public support and right of withdrawal. Public consultation on proposals is now expected in autumn 2016² and it is now anticipated that communities will be able to enter into the formal siting process from summer 2017.
- The first meeting of RWM's GDF Stakeholder Action Group was held on 25th May. NuLeAF has been invited to be a member of the Group, and the then Vice-Chair and Executive Director attended. Other organisations involved in the group are the LEP Network, Institute of Directors, Prospect Trade Union, the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA), and various UK Government Departments (BIS, Defra, DCLG, DECC) along with RWM and the NDA. The aim of the Group is to advise and guide RWM as it develops its 'offer' to communities, and to ensure that communications and engagement are effective and aligned with central and local government and

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

2 The timetable for consultation may be affected by the outcome of the EU referendum and subsequent changes to ministerial posts.

business agendas. Further meetings of the group are planned in the coming months and NuLeAF will feedback to its members as appropriate.

Other topics addressed in the paper presented to the meeting were the Societal Aspects Report commissioned by RWM, the Geological Disposal Facility National Policy Statement and guidance on the national geological screening exercise. You can read the full paper on the NuLeAF [website](#).

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.**

Discussions with John Clarke, Chief Executive, NDA

NuLeAF was pleased to welcome John Clarke, CEO of NDA to its meeting on 7 June. Mr Clarke gave an overview of work at NDA and around the sites and took questions from the meeting. Key points raised in discussion included:

- NDA has now reached the position where the management arrangements are in place to the satisfaction of Mr Clarke and the Board at all sites.
- The fuel fabrication business at Springfields has been sold to Westinghouse and the Capenhurst site has been sold to Urenco, of which UK Government is one of the partners.
- The contract with Nuclear Waste Management Partners at LLWR will continue for a third five-year term. LLWR have had success in extending the life expectancy of the site and this is expected to continue (on-going planning issues notwithstanding).
- Cavendish Dounreay Partnership won the Parent Body Organisation competition for Dounreay 3 years ago. They have committed to moving some materials to Sellafield, but no additional funding is available for this, therefore some other work has been deferred.
- The Parent Body Organisation competition for the Magnox and RSRL sites was won by Cavendish Fluor Partnership nearly two years ago and they are in the final part of the consolidation stage, whereby they ascertain if the assumptions on which they based their bid are true. It is a target cost contract.
- Changes to the Sellafield management structure were announced in 2015 and came into effect on 1 April 2016. It is now a subsidiary of NDA.

Mr Clarke highlighted that NDA were concerned in a drop in the previously outstanding safety record at Magnox sites. This was not to say that the sites were unsafe, but there had been slippage in the previously high standards, which the NDA would work to correct.

Update on NDA strategy and operations

NDA is proposing to pilot three sites – Trawsfynydd, Dounreay and Winfrith – for accelerated decommissioning: 'Lead and Learn'. This ties in with work being carried out by the environment agencies on developing guidance for the release of sites from formal regulatory control (GRR) and with work on Proportionate Regulatory Controls (PRC). NuLeAF has been involved with discussions with the regulators, NDA and DECC on this work and will continue engage on this issue on behalf of local government.

National Low Level Waste (LLW) Programme: in 2015/16, 89% of material was diverted from the LLWR, to other disposal routes. Some issues around boundary wastes (i.e. those close to the boundary between LLW and ILW) had arisen which in turn had prompted the

commissioning of a study of LLW/ILW boundary wastes which aims to achieve a better understanding of this area and define what is/isn't acceptable to be taken by LLWR. LLWR is also looking at the range of approaches used internationally to classify radioactive wastes and will engage with stakeholders to understand the advantages, disadvantages and implications of each approach for the UK.

The LLWR National Waste Programme has recently launched an online E-learning module: Introduction to Low Level Radioactive Waste. The module is free of charge and open to everyone. It covers what solid LLW is and where it arises; LLW management principles and good practice, waste treatment and disposal routes; and the legislative framework and can be found here³.

NDA has published a Higher Activity Waste Strategy. This draws together existing strategy strands into a single document. Whilst not out for formal consultation comments have been invited. NuLeAF has circulated a draft response to members for comment.

Magnox has published an [Integrated Decommissioning and Waste Management Strategy](#). NuLeAF will review the document and advise its membership of any items of interest. Also published is its [Socio-Economic Plan 2016-19](#).

NuLeAF AGM 2016

NuLeAF's AGM was held on 7 June 2016. Cllr Richard Smith MVO of Suffolk County Council retired as Chairman and spoke warmly of his time in the role and the support he had received from the secretariat. The Vice-Chair thanked Cllr Smith for his hard work on behalf of the organisation. Cllr Brendan Sweeney of Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council was elected to the Chair, and Cllr David Monk of Shepway District Council to the position of Vice-Chair. Neither candidacy was contested. The AGM received the Annual Report and Report on Finance and Funding which can be found on the [NuLeAF website](#).

At the meeting the Chair was also able to confirm that NuLeAF had been provided with an enhanced funding settlement from RWM which, along with the maintained funding from NDA, put the organisation on a much firmer financial footing.

Public Value Conference, 1st July

The University of Central Lancashire is organising a conference on 'Achieving Public Value: A 360 degree view of project management' at Westlakes Conference Centre in Cumbria on 1 July. The event is free to attend and speakers include Andy Leigh, Vice-President for Nuclear Clean-up at Jacobs and Martin Chown, Supply Chain Director at Sellafield. There will be an address and live Q&A session with Meg Hillier, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee. For more details on timings, sessions and how to register for your free place please see this flyer.



Achieving Public
Value - A 360 Degree

³ https://www.nucleartrainingnetwork.com/mod/advancedsearch/detailed_view.php?id=180

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 **20 July 2016** at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.30 – 3.15. The meeting will focus on the draft outputs from the British Geological Survey for the national geological screening exercise as part of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.

A full calendar of meetings can be found on the [NuLeAF website](#).

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.

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