

Welcome to Issue 43 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in Manchester on 7 September, 2016 and other items:

- Dates for the diary
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- Update on NDA strategy and operations;
- Update on national developments in radioactive waste management; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for the rest of 2016 and into 2017. Please note these dates in your diary for future reference.

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
19 th October, 2016	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Local Government House, Smith Square, London
7 th December, 2016	Steering Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
24 th January, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Tba, London
15 th March, 2017	Steering Group and EGM	Tba, Manchester
26 th April, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Tba, London
7 th June, 2017	Steering Group and AGM	Tba, London
4 th – 6 th July, 2017	LGA Conference	Birmingham
19 th July, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Tba, London
6 th September, 2017	Steering Group	Tba, Manchester/Dorset
18 th October, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Tba, London
6 th December, 2017	Steering Group	Tba, London

The meeting of the **Radioactive Waste Planning Group on 19th October** will take place 12.30 – 3.30 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London. We have invited NDA to discuss the final report on 'administrative controls for protecting people and the environment from residual contamination' and this will be confirmed shortly. Officers from member authorities wishing to attend the meeting should contact the secretariat at catherine.draper@suffolk.gov.uk.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

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

- NuLeAF and RWM had co-hosted an event at the Local Government Association Conference in Bournemouth. The event was chaired by Sir Merrick Cockell, former LGA Chairman, and had focused on '*Local benefits of hosting major infrastructure projects – myth or fact?*'. There was a good turnout and the presentations were followed by a useful discussion on the Geological Disposal Facility and wider issues for local authorities in delivering the maximum benefits from such large scale investments. A similar event in 2017 is being considered.

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

- Government is aiming to consult on the community and land use aspects of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process in the autumn. NuLeAF will submit a response to both consultations, and would encourage member authorities to also respond.
- RWM's annual stakeholder meeting will be held on 13th and 14th October in Manchester. NuLeAF's Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Director will be attending and will report back at the next Steering Group meeting on 7 December.

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.**

Update on NDA strategy and operations

The Steering Group meeting on 7 December considered a paper² providing updates on Low Level Waste, Magnox, John Clark's retirement, Guidance on Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation, and a report on the discussions at NDA Theme Overview Group meetings.

The meeting discussed concerns around Magnox's engagement with local authorities on the changes it is making to its decommissioning plans, and it was agreed that Magnox/Cavendish Fluor Partnership should be invited to attend the next Steering Group meeting to discuss the issue. Separately, a letter is being sent to Magnox highlighting the concerns around the lack of engagement with local authorities regarding transport of radioactive waste between sites and other issues.

The Chair advised the meeting that he had written to John Clark, CEO of NDA on the announcement of his retirement, thanking Mr Clark for his support of NuLeAF and wishing him well in retirement. The exact date of Mr Clark's departure is not yet public, nor are there any indications on who will succeed him. NuLeAF will work with NDA to continue the good working relationship which has developed.

The Steering Group received a presentation on developments in NDA's socio-economic and stakeholder engagement following the publication of Strategy III from Bill Hamilton, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at NDA. Discussions ranged around the role of Site Stakeholder Groups, how NDA should engage with local authorities and the next steps for NDA in developing their engagement programme. You can find Mr Hamilton's presentation on the NuLeAF [website](#).

You can read more about NDA's work in the latest edition of their magazine '[Insight](#)'.

Update on national developments in radioactive waste management

A paper³ highlighting national developments in radioactive waste management was considered at the Steering Group on 7 September. Topics covered were: changes in the UK government, community benefits and fracking, NFLA Scotland, the Submarine Dismantling Project and a briefing on Small Modular Reactors.

The meeting discussed the announcement by Government that money from the Shale Wealth Fund would be paid directly to households. This was a departure from the previous approach to community benefits which was to pay benefits to the community affected. It was agreed that NuLeAF should write to the Secretary of State reminding him of NuLeAF's position on community benefits (see [Briefing Paper 26](#)).

2 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/7-September-2016-SG-Item-5-NDA-update.pdf>

3 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SG-Item-6-national-update-v5.pdf>

The Submarine Dismantling Project which sought to find a site for the storage of the reactor pressure vessels taken from the decommissioned nuclear submarines has concluded with the selection of the URENCO site at Capenhurst. The Steering Group felt that the MOD had conducted exceedingly effective stakeholder engagement and agreed that a letter should be sent to MOD congratulating them on their work on this matter.

An overview of Small Modular Reactors was presented to the Steering Group meeting. While NuLeAF's remit is focuses on legacy radioactive waste management and decommissioning, we also monitor new build and developments in the nuclear industry in order to ensure our members are informed of issues which may affect them. UK Government is currently considering the potential of SMRs in the UK and in March 2016 launched a competition seeking Expression of Interest to find the best value SMR for the UK. This competition has now concluded and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has met with the respondents eligible to go forward to the next stage. NuLeAF felt it was timely to consider this topic in order that members may better understand the waste and decommissioning issues created by Small Modular Reactors. The paper is on the NuLeAF website and we will continue to monitor developments and keep our membership informed.

Updated Briefing Paper

A revised version of Briefing Paper 19 on UK Low Level Waste Strategy and local authority planning was presented to the Steering Group for consideration. The paper sets out the background to the LLW Strategy, its principles and implications for local authorities. Following further consideration at the next meeting of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group, the paper will be published on the NuLeAF website.

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/company/nuleaf). 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).

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
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