

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

**Minutes of the Steering Group held on 7 September, 2016,
Manchester Meeting Place, Sackville Street, Manchester**

Present:

Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr David Monk, Shepway District Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Moore, Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire County Council
Cllr Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Manchester City Council
Cllr Peter Downing, Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr David Chubb, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council
Catherine Hadfield, Allerdale Borough Council
Steve Smith, Copeland Borough Council
Richard Griffin, Cumbria County Council
Lesley Stenhouse, Essex County Council
Sean Morris, Manchester City Council
Andrew Clark, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
Doug Bamsey, Sedgemoor District Council
Katharine Harvey, Shepway District Council
Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
Philip Matthews, NuLeAF
Catherine Draper, NuLeAF

1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	Cllr Sweeney welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those were attending the meeting for the first time. Participants introduced themselves.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Cllr David Southward – Cumbria County Council, Mike Garrity – Dorset Borough Council, Adrian Hurst – Hartlepool Borough Council, Bryan Geake – Kent County Council, Phil Watson – Northamptonshire County Council, Cllr Van Coulter – Oxford City Council, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Keith O'Brien – Snowdonia National Park, Paul Browning – Somerset County Council, Cllr Matthew Riddle – South Gloucestershire Council, Clive Pink – Suffolk Coastal District Council, Andrew Goodchild & Cllr Chris Morgan – West Somerset Council	

2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE, 2016	
2.1	A request was made that comments made in the Minutes were given wider attribution.	CD
2.2	Subject to the above change, the Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting on 7 June 2016 and would be posted on the NuLeAF website.	CD
3	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	3.1 – Bill Hamilton will update the meeting when he gives his presentation that afternoon. 4.9 – NFLA were receiving more meeting invitations from NDA. All other items were either in hand or had been dealt with	
4	UPDATE ON THE GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY (GDF) SITING PROCESS	
4.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NuLeAF/RWM event at the Local Government Association conference 2016; • RWM stakeholder engagement; and • CoRWM update. 	
4.2	The Chair asked for comments from any member who had had a one to one meeting with RWM following the LGA Conference.	
4.2.1	Concerns were raised that discussions after the conference did not seem to be informed by comments made during the one to one. Were RWM listening, recording and building on the discussions? PM said he would feed this back to RWM.	PM
4.3	PM advised the meeting that it was possible that consultation on the BGS outputs and NPS may not take place until early 2017. At present the form of the consultation was not known.	
4.4	With regard to RWMs engagement on the draft BGS outputs, concerns had been expressed to RWM that the level of detail given was not sufficient to be useful in identifying which areas were in any given local authority area. They were too driven by the geology.	
4.5	The RWPG had also commented on the draft BGS outputs. RWM had indicated that it wished to bring the revised outputs back to the RWPG in October, but this had now been timetabled for the January meeting.	
4.6	NuLeAF had written to the Chair of CoRWM to remind him of the importance of engaging with NuLeAF and local authorities, following the appointment of new members, none of whom had a significant level of local government experience.	

5	UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NDA STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS	
5.1	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Theme Overview Groups (TOGs) and other related meetings; • Low Level Waste update; • Guidance on Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR); • John Clarke announces his retirement; • Magnox update; and • ONR annual report 	
5.2	<p>DM assured the meeting that Copeland BC were happy with the outcome of the planning application at LLWR and the progress being made on works there. He complimented LLWR on their stakeholder engagement.</p>	
5.3	<p>It was noted that despite considerable engagement with those carrying out the work on administrative controls of sites following the surrender of the nuclear site license and allied projects, there was still no certainty that the burden of responsibility would not be passed to local authorities. The secretariat would approach NDA and ask them to bring the final report on the administrative controls for protecting people and the environment from residual contamination on decommissioning site to an RWPG meeting for consideration and comment.</p>	CD/PM
5.4	<p>The meeting discussed the <i>Panorama</i> 'whistleblower' programme which had been aired two days previously. Many members felt that whilst it raised valid concerns, these were known issues and mostly related to 2012-13 and it was understood that steps had been taken to address the problems. Some members remained concerned about the situation at Sellafield. It was felt that the BBC hadn't done enough to present a balanced picture and had passed up opportunities to engage with the local community.</p>	
5.5	<p>A draft letter to Magnox had been circulated to member authorities with Magnox stations regarding concerns about their plans for transportation of waste by road in the East of England, and the lack of engagement with communities and local authorities. It was agreed that the wording should be amended to reflect the concerns by local authorities across the country about the lack of engagement by Magnox. Other comments on the draft letter should be fed back to the secretariat.</p>	PM
5.6	<p>Concerns were again raised that there had been no engagement by Magnox following their change to the FED and ILW treatment programme, which under the earlier PBO had been the subject of considerable local authority input. Magnox's actions had the potential to threaten community relations with other projects and it was in NDA's interests to ensure that they adhered to NDA stakeholder engagement strategy.</p>	

5.7	It was agreed that Cavendish Fluor Partnership should be invited to the next Steering Group meeting to discuss concerns regarding the lack of appropriate engagement.	PM
6	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING SMALL MODULAR REACTORS)	
6.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the UK Government; • Community benefits and fracking • Report on meeting with NFLA Scotland; • The Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP); and • NuLeAF Briefing on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). 	
6.2	The meeting was advised that, in the wake of the announcement of the change of distribution procedure for Shale Wealth Fund, NNLAG had written to BEIS Secretary of State reminding him of their agreed policy on community benefits. It was agreed that it would be timely for NuLeAF to do the same, and to highlight that this new approach didn't sit with the mechanism for distributing community benefits established elsewhere.	PM
6.3	Following discussion about the Submarine Dismantling Project and the quality of the MOD stakeholder engagement and involvement of a wide range of bodies in the Advisory Group, it was agreed that NuLeAF should write to MOD congratulating them on their approach to this project. It was felt that other organisations could learn from MODs approach to stakeholder engagement.	PM
6.4	The meeting welcomed the presentation of a paper on Small Modular Reactors. This was a topic of interest to many present. It was noted that some comments on the paper had been received from NuScale, an SMR technology developer and a revised paper would be circulated and posted on the website.	CD
6.5	The Steering Group noted the content of the report.	
7	CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT UPDATED BRIEFING PAPER 19 ON THE UK LOW LEVEL WASTE STRATEGY AND PLANNING	
7.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This revised and updated the Briefing Paper which had been produced in 2010 to reflect current LLW Strategy and planning issues.	
7.2	The Chair asked that any comments on the paper be passed to the secretariat.	All
8	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
8.1	The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at The Coram Campus, Brunswick Square, London, 11.00 – 3.00. Cllr Smith gave his apologies.	

9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9.1	There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.10	
10	PRESENTATION BY BILL HAMILTON, HEAD OF STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS, NDA	
10.1	Cllr Sweeney welcomed Bill Hamilton to the meeting and round the table introductions were made.	
10.2	<p>BH gave a presentation on socio-economics and stakeholder engagement following the publication of NDA Strategy III. Key topics covered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The background to NDA's socio-economic and stakeholder responsibilities; • NDA's overarching socio-economic objective is to support the maintenance of sustainable communities near their sites, including a number of success stories; • The steps taken to achieve NDA's mission; • The challenges NDA faces in delivering its socio-economic policy, the impact of Strategy III, and the next steps for NDA; • The expected outcomes of delivering NDA socio-economic policy; • The objectives and aims of NDA stakeholder engagement; • NDA's current approach to stakeholder engagement, the case for change, and suggestions for how change may be made arising from Strategy III; and • Next steps for NDA stakeholder engagement. <p>A copy of the presentation will be posted on NuLeAF website for reference</p>	BH/CD
10.3	<p>BH said he would welcome input from NuLeAF member authorities on the format of Site Stakeholder Groups; whether it was appropriate for SSGs to consider new nuclear build issues; should NDA organise local authority events on a regional, issues based, or national basis; and how could NuLeAF help NDA engage with local authorities outside the usual sphere?</p> <p>The meeting opened up to questions and comments.</p>	
10.4	NuLeAF's concerns regarding Magnox/CFP engagement with local authorities over the transportation of ILW and FED and other issues were discussed. BH advised the meeting that he had invited CFP to review their stakeholder engagement. A new Head of Communications at Magnox would be announced shortly.	
10.5	SLC work on Lifetime Plans was done and was currently being reviewed by NDA prior to publication. NDA was reviewing the costs of each plan. Hopefully these will be ready for publication before the end of the year.	
10.5.1	NuLeAF queried whether the Plans would have benefited from consultation with local authorities before publication, and BH conceded that in hindsight this may have been beneficial.	

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| 10.6 | Cllr Moore asked a question regarding the current drafting of the Sellafield's socio-economic plan to align it with other NDA SLC policies and which is still subject to agreement. He asked if the allocation of existing funds will be ring fenced and made available in the following year. BH assured the meeting that the annual fund allowance for Sellafield would be protected. |
| 10.7 | NDA is looking for all contracts let within the NDA family to offer greater local socio-economic value than there has been in the past. |
| 10.8 | SM offered to meet with NDA to discuss ways of engaging with non-nuclear local authorities. They would also welcome the 'community forum' format for SSGs. |
| 10.9 | NDA will be seeking leave to appeal the legal ruling against them in respect of the way they conducted the Magnox PBO competition. Any decision on final recompense to Energy Solutions won't be until autumn 2017. |
| 10.10 | NDA was disappointed with the one-sided view of the Panorama programme. They were concerned about the impact on the Sellafield workforce. |
| 10.11 | NDA is considering how it can establish better lines of reporting into councils. One option would be to make the monthly report to the SSG more attractive and accessible. |
| 10.12 | NDA is keen to find a way to engage with non-nuclear local authorities to promote involvement with STEM subjects in schools, and to highlight NDA/SLC's apprenticeship and degree programmes. |
| 10.13 | NDA is looking at strategic opportunities. One possibility would be for UK Government to take the decision that NDA would be responsible for decommissioning the current fleet of AGRs which are approaching the end of their operational life. |
| 10.14 | The review of the role of SSGs could incorporate a review of how NDA works with local authorities. NDA plans to hold a seminar for SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs to discuss proposals before the end of the calendar year. Following this, draft proposals for engagement will be published in April/May 2017 which would include the role of local authorities in SSGs and direct engagement. NuLeAF highlighted that engagement with local authorities should be separate from that with SSGs, as differing views may be held. |
| 10.15 | There was discussion on the involvement of SSGs in new build proposals. In one respect it made sense to be involved with discussions on new build as the stakeholders were the same. However, if the role of the SSG was to keep the nuclear site license holder to account, then it was less appropriate in the early stages of a new build project when the discussions were around construction and related issues. There was, however, a certain |

	amount of crossover (Venn diagram). It was agreed that a one-size-fits-all approach would not work, and that the SSG should reflect the issues at each site.
10.16	With respect to the way to engage with local authorities (local/regional/national/ issues based), the benefits of meetings needed to be made clear as there was ever increasing pressure on local government officer time. Again, a one-size-fits-all approach was felt to be inappropriate and the nature of engagement should fit the issue.
10.17	Regarding engagement with 'non-nuclear' local authorities: it was suggested that NDA should use existing local authority events such as LGA conference to raise awareness. Doubt was also cast on whether there was such a thing as a 'non-nuclear' local authority, as a review of the NIA map of the UK nuclear workforce shows that employees are drawn from a wider environment than the locality of a nuclear licensed site. However, local authorities may not be aware of the socio-economic implications of a nuclear licensed site in an adjoining local authority, or recognise that a large hospital produces radioactive waste.
10.18	NDA is doing what it can to support stakeholders at Trawsfynydd in their lobbying to become a site for an SMR. Whilst at present NDA is not aware of any other site's interest in this topic, they would be willing to review Lifetime Plans to protect part of the site for an SMR if that was what was wanted.
10.18.1	Shepway DC indicated that they are interested in this subject.
10.19	The Chair thanked Bill Hamilton for attending and for his presentation.
	The meeting closed at 15.00

ACTION LIST

7th September, 2016			
ITEM	ACTION	BY	OUTCOME
2.1	Give wider attribution to comments in the Minutes.	CD	Done where appropriate
2.2	Post amended minutes of the meeting of 7 June 2016 on NuLeAF website.	CD	Done
4.2.1	Feedback to RWM concerns that comments made at one to one interviews are not being reflected in later discussions.	PM	Done
5.3	Invite NDA to present and discuss final report on administrative controls to RWPG.	CD/PM	NDA invited to RWPG on 19 Oct.
5.5	Amend letter to Magnox to reflect concerns by East of England authorities are held by wider audience.	PM	Done. Letter sent. Response received.

5.7	Invite CFP to attend next SG to discuss their approach to stakeholder engagement.	PM	Pip Hatt of Magnox attending 7/12/16
6.2	Write to Greg Clark reminding him of NuLeAF position on Community Benefits and that new approach from Shale Wealth Fund is not consistent with that used elsewhere.	PM	Letter sent 31/10/16
6.3	Write to MOD applauding approach taken on stakeholder engagement in the SDP.	PM	Letter sent 31/10/16
6.4	Circulate updated paper on SMRs	CD	Done
7.2	Send feedback on revised BP 19 to secretariat	All	Done. Updated BP posted to website
10.2	Post NDA presentation on NuLeAF website	BH/CD	Done 14/9/16
7th June, 2016			
ITEM	ACTION	BY	OUTCOME
10.20	Discuss opportunities for release of land for re-use during C&M	BS/PL	