

Welcome to Issue 44 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in London on 7 December, 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;
- NuLeAF office hours over the Christmas and New Year period; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for 2017. Please note these dates in your diary for future reference.

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
24 th January, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
15 th March, 2017	Steering Group and EGM	Town Hall, Manchester
26 th April, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
7 th June, 2017	Steering Group and AGM	tbc
4 th – 6 th July, 2017	LGA Conference	Birmingham
19 th July, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
6& 7 th September, 2017	Steering Group	Site visit to Trawsfynydd
18 th October, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
6 th December, 2017	Steering Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London

The next meeting of the **Radioactive Waste Planning Group on 24th January, 2017** will take place 12.30 – 3.30 at Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London. As part of the meeting, the Low Level Waste Repository will give a presentation and discuss waste transfer movements for the coming year. 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

It is NuLeAF's understanding the Government will consult on the community and land use aspects of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process in February/March 2017. NuLeAF will submit a response to both consultations, and would encourage member authorities to also respond. Government will be organising a short series of awareness raising workshops early in the new year. The local authority workshop will be held in London on 24th January, 10.00-12.00. Invitations will be issued by BEIS before Christmas.

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

NDA has published its [Draft Business Plan 2017-20](#) for consultation. It sets out the objectives and expected progress for NDA sites over the coming three year period. NuLeAF will circulate a draft response to its members for comment in due course, and we would encourage individual authorities to submit their own response. The consultation deadline is 3 February, 2017.

Also recently published is the [NDA Quarterly Report](#) for the first quarter of 2016-17. This sets out progress made against targets set in the 2016-19 Business Plan.

NDA is considering how best to deal with **legacy pipes** which extend beyond the boundaries of its sites. The physical situation is different for each site where this occurs and it is likely that a different approach will be taken at each site, whether that be in-situ disposal or retrieval. The legislation governing the regulation of such pipelines is complex. Following a review of the legislation and building on the experience of the oil and gas industry, NDA concluded that there is no barrier to operators taking what they consider to be the correct action, including the abandonment of pipelines if they can demonstrate that this represents Best Available Technique. NuLeAF will continue to engage with NDA on this topic to ensure that appropriate engagement takes place with the communities around the sites in question.

An NDA **Radioactive Waste Strategy** is currently in development. This will provide an overview of key policies and strategy for the management of Higher Activity Waste and Low Level Waste across the UK and identify potential policy issues, gaps and opportunities. It should ensure better information on the infrastructure requirements for radioactive waste management across the lifetime of the NDA's programmes. NDA sets out the vision of the new strategy as *"To manage radioactive waste and dispose of it where possible, or place it in safe, secure and suitable storage, ensuring the delivery of UK and devolved administrations' policies"*. You can read more about the principles underpinning the strategy in [Paper 6](#) to the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting on 7 December.

Update on national developments in radioactive waste management

Over the past year NuLeAF has been involved in an on-going dialogue with UK Government, Environment Agencies and NDA on the options for the regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean up. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) published a [discussion paper](#) on 3rd November, inviting the views stakeholders on proposed policy development and any legislative changes. As part of their engagement on this topic NuLeAF and a number of local authority representatives attended a workshop in Manchester on 28 November. This informed our response to the discussion paper which is available on the NuLeAF website. The deadline for comment to BEIS is December 29th. It is understood that formal consultation will take place in 2017 on the revised proposals. NuLeAF will continue to engage and inform to ensure that the local authority perspective is understood.

A [presentation](#) on Site Optimisation and the 'lead and learn' sites was given to the NuLeAF Steering Group at its meeting on 7 December by Ian Warner of Magnox. The 3 'lead and learn' sites are Winfrith, Trawsfynydd and Dounreay. These sites are being used as a testing ground for the implementation of the proposed Guidance for Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR). NuLeAF Steering Group agreed that a visit to Trawsfynydd should be arranged for September 2017 so members can see how decommissioning is progressing.

Updated Briefing Papers

Over the years NuLeAF has produced a suite of Briefing Papers to inform and assist its members. These have been recently revised to take into account changes in government policy and NDA strategy. The [updated papers](#) can be found in the [Document Library](#) on NuLeAF's [website](#).

Publications

Professor Andy Blowers, Emeritus Professor of Social Sciences at the Open University, has published a new book: '[The Legacy of Nuclear Power](#)'. Over a long career he has been involved in the field of environmental politics and policy making as an academic, politician, government adviser, nuclear company director and prominent environmental activist. As a member of the first Committee on Radioactive Waste Management he was directly responsible for some of the UK's policy on legacy waste. The Legacy of Nuclear Power brings together his varied experience and expertise and reflects his lifetime concern with the fate of nuclear communities now and in the future.

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](#). 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](#).

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

Christmas and New Year office hours

The NuLeAF office will be **closed from Thursday, 21st December through until Tuesday, 3rd January.**

May we take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.