

Welcome to Issue 45 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in London on 15th March, 2017 and other items:

- NDA settlement, contract termination and enquiry;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- NDA review of Site Stakeholder Groups and other community liaison groups;
- NDA Stakeholder Summit;
- Review of UK radioactive waste policy and infrastructure;
- Survey of NuLeAF members;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

NDA settlement, contract termination and enquiry

On the 27th March, Energy Secretary Greg Clarke issued a written ministerial statement announcing the termination of the contract for the decommissioning of the 12 UK Magnox and research reactors, the settlement of a related legal case, and a public enquiry.

The tender process, worth £6.1Bn, was tendered in 2012 and in September 2014 Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) was awarded a 14 year contract. At the same time a process began to check that the scope of the contract, as set out in the 2012 contract, matched the actual status of the decommissioning to be done on each site, a process known as consolidation. This identified that there was a significant variance between the specification tendered for in 2012 and the work that actually needs to be done. The NDA Board feels that this amounts to a material change and have exercised their right to terminate CFPs contract in September 2019, after 5 years. This has been done with the agreement of CFP.

A replacement contracting structure will be in place when the current contract comes to an end. In the meantime, CFP will continue their programme of work and NDA do not believe that this situation will affect the delivery of current planned work.

In parallel to this, the Minister has announced that a settlement of the outstanding legal claim from Energy Solutions and Bechtel, which challenged the process for awarding the 2014 contract to CFP. NDA has agreed to pay Energy Solutions £76.5million plus £8.5 million costs and Bechtel around £12.5 million including costs.

The Government has announced an inquiry into the operation of the 2012 contracting process which will be led by Steve Holliday, former Chief Executive of National Grid which will look at the whole process of tendering and contract award. It is not clear what the timetable for the enquiry is or when it is likely to report.

Minister Greg Clarke stated that 'This was a defective procurement, with significant financial consequences, and I am determined that the reasons for it should be exposed and understood; that those responsible should be properly held to account; and that it should never happen again.'

The impact of around £100 million of costs on the NDA operations is likely to be felt but it is not clear what the implications are likely to be. It is also not clear whether any new contract for the management of the former Magnox and RSRL sites is likely to be awarded on a similar basis, or whether NDA will consider a change of model, as occurred at Sellafield. The full statement is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/nda-settlement-contract-termination-and-inquiry>.

NDA has also issued a report on its Quarterly performance against business plan targets, covering Quarter 2 in 2016/17. This is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-quarterly-performance-report-quarter-2-status-for-2016-17>

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 after the May local elections. NuLeAF will submit a response to both consultations, and would encourage member authorities to also respond. As part of the consultation process, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will be organising a series of stakeholder events and NuLeAF will alert members when these are announced. Tom Wintle, Deputy Director SMRs, Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste, will be giving a presentation and discussion at the Steering Group meeting on 7th June. We would encourage members to attend and take the opportunity to engage with government on this important topic

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.**

Review of NDA Site Stakeholder Groups

At the Steering Group meeting held in Manchester on 15th March, NuLeAF members heard from Bill Hamilton, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at NDA that they will be carrying out a review of the Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs). The purpose of the review is to draw the groups back to focussing on their remit of holding the Site Licensee Company to account to deliver safe decommissioning of sites. NDA would like to encourage more public attendance and participation in the meetings, and will also increase the visibility of the group by improving their web presence and use of social media. New guidelines for SSGs are currently being drawn up, and these will be shared with the current SSG Chairs for comment over summer 2017. The revised guidelines will then go to the wider SSG membership for consultation in autumn 2017 before being finalised in later 2017 or early 2018 and take effect from April 2018.

NuLeAF broadly welcomes the review of SSGs, though we do not believe they provide an appropriate forum for detailed discussions on issues such as planning or socio-economics, and would encourage NDA and Site Licensee Companies to engage directly with site local authorities and establish a good working relationship to the benefit of all.

NFLA (Nuclear Free Local Authorities) has produced a timely review of NDA SSGs and other community stakeholder engagement groups. A copy is posted on the NuLeAF website for your consideration¹.

NDA Stakeholder Summit

On Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th September, NDA will be holding a 'Stakeholder Summit' at Energus in West Cumbria. In addition to offering the opportunity to meet the new Chair and Chief Executive, the summit will also show case successful projects which have benefited from NDA socio-economic funding. There will be the opportunity to review case studies on how successful bids were made and to speak to those who made them. There will also be

¹ http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/A269_NB156_SSGs_LLCs_and_stakeholder_policy.pdf

discussion on NDA Waste Strategy. Invitations will be sent to stakeholders including all local authorities who host an NDA site shortly.

Review of UK radioactive waste policy and infrastructure

The UK Government is reviewing UK radioactive waste policy and infrastructure. It will cover radioactive waste across the UK and not just that generated by the NDA estate. A Forum has been established, involving NuLeAF along with BEIS, the devolved administrations, environmental regulators (Office for Nuclear Regulation along with the Environment Agency, Natural Resource Wales and SEPA), and the NDA.

The objective of the infrastructure review is 'to ensure that the UK continues to have access to a robust and sustainable infrastructure that ensures proper protection of people and the environment and which enable delivery of our objectives for energy, climate change, defence, growth and healthcare.' It will develop an assessment of the risks to effective management caused by the loss of individual components of waste infrastructure and the likelihood of this happening.

The radioactive waste policy review is seeking to establish a policy that:

- Addresses all forms of radioactive waste, irrespective of source;
- Ensures proper protection of people and the environment, including future generations; and
- Enables people and business to benefit from the responsible use of radioactive substances.

Underpinning this, the review will consider the classification and categorisation of radioactive wastes. The classification of wastes will aim to establish clear definitions of all waste types e.g. High Level Waste. The categorisation of wastes will look more widely at the physical and chemical properties of waste and the best approach to management and disposal. This could lead to some wastes currently earmarked for geological disposal instead being disposed of in a near-surface facility.

NuLeAF has long supported a more integrated approach to the management of radioactive waste and has also expressed concern at the limitations of current infrastructure. However, any change in classification or in management and disposal routes must meet the highest standards of safety and environmental protection, and be supported by any host community.

It is expected that an interim report on the review will be published in April 2017, setting out initial considerations and findings. A final report, with recommendations and an implementation plan, is expected in December 2017. NuLeAF will continue to engage and report back on members as the Forum's work develops.

NuLeAF member survey

NuLeAF carries out a biennial survey to ensure that it is responding members needs and delivering the services they require. A telephone survey was conducted of a small pool of members who were predominantly satisfied with the work NuLeAF undertakes on their behalf, and recognised the value of its existence in a time when local authorities were under financial pressure and staff resources were limited. It was felt that NuLeAF provided expertise which most local authorities would otherwise struggle to access. However, it was suggested that NuLeAF could look at the transport issues arising from the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process, create a web resource on progress being made in GDF in other countries, and look at working with other organisations such as the Association for Public Service Excellence.

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
26 th April, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
7 th June, 2017	Steering Group and AGM	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
4 th – 6 th July, 2017	LGA Conference	Birmingham
19 th July, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
18 th or 19 th September, 2017	Steering Group	West Cumbria, venue tbc
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 26th April, 2017** will take place 12.30 – 3.30 at Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London. As part of the meeting, Juliet Long, who is on secondment to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will be coming to speak to us about her work on the review of UK radioactive waste infrastructure and policy. RWM have also expressed an interest in attending the meeting. Officers from member authorities wishing to attend the meeting should contact the secretariat at catherine.draper@suffolk.gov.uk.

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/groups/). 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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