

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 18 th September 2017
Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	Proposal for GDF workshop at December 2017 Steering Group
Author:	Philip Matthews
Purpose:	To get member views on a proposal to hold a workshop on the GDF consultations and wider plans.

Introduction:

This paper sets out the rationale and suggested agenda for a short (half day) workshop on the geological disposal facility process. The aim of the workshop would be to discuss the Government consultations on the planning and communities' aspects of the proposals, which are anticipated to have been opened by then. It would also enable members to consider issues around the disposal of higher activity waste in more depth.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to approve the proposal. Comments on the planned structure, speakers and timings are invited.

1. Introduction and context

NuLeAF has over many years been involved in shaping policy around geological disposal, and was active in the last siting process (Managing Radioactive Waste Safely) in West Cumbria. NuLeAF has also engaged in the development of the current policy since it was set out in the 2014 White Paper¹, most notably through participation in the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) and by hosting workshops for members, for example on geological issues.

It is understood that the UK and Welsh Governments plan to launch consultations on the communities and planning aspects of the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process in late October.

These consultations represent the last opportunity to ensure that the approach taken reflects the needs of local government and communities, removing barriers and limitations that may affect any Council wishing to enter and remain in the process.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-geological-disposal>

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2. Current NuLeAF policy

NuLeAF has a clear policy on geological disposal (Policy Statement 3²), which is closely aligned with the agreed position of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM).

This is to support geological disposal as the best available approach in the current state of knowledge, but to stress that there must be continued research and development and an openness to other practical alternatives if they arise. It is also accepted that not all NuLeAF members view geological disposal as the best approach.

Based on this agreed position, we wish to ensure that the framework is workable and reflects the needs of any local authority entering the siting process. We will also, if requested, advise any council or community engaged in the future siting process and reflect their concerns back to Government or RWM.

3. Proposal for Workshop

NuLeAF policy on the GDF was set out in 2006. While there does not appear to be a desire among the membership to revisit the basic policy, current members have not had an opportunity to reflect in depth on the overall framework or some specific aspects of the framework for geological disposal.

It is therefore proposed that a short workshop on geological disposal is held during an extended afternoon session at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting of the 6th December, to be held in Coram Campus, London.

This will enable members to hear from, and discuss, the consultation with Government but also to 'dig down' into specific issues and gain other perspectives.

4. Suggested format and speakers

The meeting will be held theatre style with a number of presentations along with an opportunity for discussion and clarification of certain points. In addition to NuLeAF members, invitations will be issued to:

- The LGA
- ADEPT
- County Council Network
- District Council Network
- SOLACE
- The LEP Network

The aim is to ensure a broader local government perspective and also to enable these other bodies to help shape their own responses to the consultation. A suggested structure of the meeting is set out overleaf.

² <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/policy-statements>

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NuLeAF Steering Group meeting and Workshop

6th December 2017

Steering Group and EGM

10.30 – 12.00 NuLeAF Steering Group and Extraordinary General Meeting (Note slightly earlier start time).

12.00 – 12.30 LUNCH

Seminar

PART I: GDF consultations and local government

12.30 - 12.35 **Welcome** Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Chair of NuLeAF

12.35 - 13.05 **Overview of (a) communities and (b) NPA consultations** Umran Nazir, Deputy Director, BEIS

13.05 - 13.25 **Large infrastructure projects: a local government perspective on issues and opportunities** Rupert Clubb, ADEPT

13.25 - 13.45 **Communities and RWM: supporting local siting partnerships** Mike Brophy, Head of Community Engagement, RWM

13.45 - 14.30 **Discussion**

PART II: Geological disposal – issues for further consideration

14.15-14.35 **Higher Activity Waste management: An NFLA perspective** Prof. Andy Blowers

14.35-14.55 **GDF operation: key technical issues** (Phil Matthews, Executive Director, NuLeAF): Will cover current NDA work on near surface disposal and also issues including retrievability and the nature of the GDF inventory.

14.55-15.20 **Discussion**

15.20-15.30 **Closing Remarks** Cllr. Brendan Sweeney, Chair of NuLeAF