

Welcome to Issue 48 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in London on 6th December 2017 and other items:

- Accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors;
- International engagement;
- Nuclear sector deal proposals;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- National developments in radioactive waste management;
- NDA Business Plan 2018-2021
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors

At a meeting on 6th December, the NuLeAF Steering Group heard a presentation from Simon Boniface of NDA on their proposals to move away from the Care and Maintenance strategy towards accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors. At present NDA is drawing up proposals to present to government in late spring/summer 2018 and is carrying out a programme of engagement with stakeholders to inform their thinking. A copy of the presentation is available on the NuLeAF [website](#). NuLeAF members generally welcomed the approach and NDA's engagement with local community representatives, though recognise that it will only be possible to decommission between one and three sites much earlier than expected, and some sites will still remain in a state of quiescence for up to 30 years. NuLeAF understands that draft proposals on the approach to determining the sequence of reactor decommissioning will be published in due course and will circulate to members ahead of preparing a consultation response.

International engagement

NuLeAF's Chair and Executive Director attended an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting in Vienna during the week of the 4th to 8th December. The meeting was on 'Learning from Experience of Local involvement in radioactive waste management' and involved delegates from across the world. IAEA convened the meeting in recognition of their need to better understand social and political aspects of nuclear waste management and disposal. The meeting proved a useful discussion and exchange of information between countries, with significant interest in the UK approach. A follow up meeting is planned for late 2018.

Nuclear sector deal proposals

The Nuclear Industry Council has written to government outlining their [proposals for the Nuclear Sector Deal](#). It includes various recommendations regarding decommissioning and waste management including: a goal of selecting a site for a Geological Disposal Facility by 2030 (4.21); a review of site-end states with a view of possible re-use for further nuclear purposes (4.33); an industry led review of commercial arrangements for decommissioning (4.14); and development of a national waste management strategy with common policy and infrastructure (4.24). NuLeAF will review the proposals and report to members in due course.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

The opening of the consultations on working with communities and land-use planning has been further delayed. In his speech to the NIA annual conference, Richard Harrington MP, the Minister for Energy and Industry, stated that the consultations would open “early in the New Year”. In response, NuLeAF has rearranged the postponed GDF workshop for members on 24th January at Monticello House, Russell Square, London, 11.00 – 3.00. Speakers include Umran Nazir, Deputy Director, Decommissioning, Radioactive Material and GDF at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS); and Mike Brophy, Head of Community Engagement at RWM.

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.**

National developments in radioactive waste management

The Steering Group received a report from the Executive Director on discussions for a review of the NDA Transport Strategy with a view of maximising the use of its resources. The Chair expressed concern that public consultation would not be part of the review as Transport Strategy is a national issue, and many local authorities around nuclear licensed sites will have transport related planning issues which should be considered by the review. The Steering Group directed the NuLeAF secretariat to write to NDA highlighting issues of concern and asking for the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy.

The meeting was also advised that NDA has produced draft guidance for SLCs on site-end states. This is also not due to go out to public consultation. The Steering Group again asked that the Executive Director write to NDA asking if this guidance could be circulated prior to finalisation.

NDA Business Plan consultation

NDA has opened a [consultation on its Draft Business Plan 2018-2021](#). NuLeAF will review the document and circulate a draft proposal to its members for comment early in the new year. The consultation closes at 3 p.m. on 4th February 2018.

Euratom update

The House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee has published a [report on the implications for the civil nuclear sector of leaving the EU](#). The Government has stated that, as Euratom is legally joined to the EU, the decision to leave the EU requires that the UK leave Euratom, but that it remains committed to the highest standards of nuclear safety through the establishment of a domestic nuclear safeguards regime. The Committee Report sets out a series of recommendations about regulation, market access, R&D and other areas affected by withdrawal from Euratom.

Seasonal greetings

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please note that the NuLeAF office will close from 20th December 2017 to January 2nd 2018.



Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for 2018. Please note these dates in your diary for future reference. Meetings of the Steering Group are open to elected members and officers from NuLeAF member authorities. The Radioactive Waste Planning Group is officer only.

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
24 th January, 2018	Combined Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting including GDF workshop	Anglo Educational, Monticello House, Russell Square, London
21 st March, 2018	Steering Group	Leaf Centre, Portland Street, Manchester
25 th April, 2018	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, Brunswick Square, London
6 th June, 2018	Steering Group and AGM (please note this meeting may be re-arranged to coincide with NDA National Stakeholder meeting)	18 Smith Square, London
18 th July, 2018	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, Brunswick Square, London
12 th September, 2018	Steering Group	Tba
24 th October, 2018	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, Brunswick Square, London
5 th December, 2018	Steering Group	Tba

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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