

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group held on 18th September 2017, Energus, Lillyhall, West Cumbria

Present:

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| Cllr Brendan Sweeny | Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council (Chair) |
| Cllr David Monk | Shepway District Council (Vice-Chair) |
| Cllr Grace Fletcher-Hackwood | Manchester City Council (Vice-Chair) |
| Cllr David Moore | Copeland Borough Council |
| Cllr David Southward | Cumbria County Council |
| Cllr Ioan Thomas | Gwynedd County Council |
| Cllr David Blackburn | Leeds City Council |
| Cllr Geoff Holdcroft | Suffolk Coastal District Council |
| Cllr Richard Smith | Suffolk County Council |
| Cllr Chris Morgan | West Somerset Council |
| Cllr Richard Dew | Ynys Mon County Council |
| Andrea Hines | Allerdale Borough Council |
| Cath Little | Copeland Borough Council |
| Pat Graham | Copeland Borough Council |
| Nick Barron | Copeland Borough Council |
| Steve Smith | Copeland Borough Council |
| Gillian Elliott | Cumbria County Council |
| Charlotte Rushmere | Dorset County Council |
| Terry Burns | Essex County Council |
| Nia Carys Swann Boden | Gwynedd County Council |
| Sean Morris | Manchester City Council |
| Peter Day | Oxfordshire County Council |
| Doug Bamsey | Sedgemoor District Council |
| Katharine Harvey | Shepway District Council |
| Gareth Lloyd | Snowdonia National Park Authority |
| Paul Browning | Somerset County Council |
| Gillian Ellis-King | South Gloucestershire Council |
| Lisa Chandler | Suffolk Coastal District Council |
| James Cutting | Suffolk County Council |
| Annwen Morgan | Ynys Mon County Council |
| Philip Matthews | NuLeAF |
| Catherine Draper | NuLeAF |
| <i>Observers</i> | |
| Cllr Mark Dearey | Louth County Council, Co-Chair NFLA All Ireland Forum |
| Linda Townsend | Gloucestershire County Council |

| 1 | WELCOME AND APOLOGIES | ACTION |
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| 1.1 | The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the record attendance. He welcomed councillors and officers from Gwynedd and Anglesey who were attending for the first time. Two observers, from Gloucestershire County Council and the Republic of Ireland, were also present and he hoped they would find the meeting interesting. | |
| 1.2 | Apologies were received from: Cllr Alan Smith – Allerdale Borough Council, Cllr Michael Green – Lancashire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Cllr Matthew Riddle – South Gloucestershire Council, Clive Pink – Suffolk Coastal District Council | |
| 2 | MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY, 2017 | |
| 2.1 | The Minutes of the last meeting were held as a true and accurate record and would be posted on the NuLeAF website. | CD |
| 3 | MATTERS ARISING | |
| 3.1 | All actions were completed and the Executive Director provided updates on some items. | |
| 3.2 | <p>3.1 At the direction of the Steering Group, NuLeAF wrote to Kenny Douglas, Magnox MD regarding the mixed engagement experience of local authorities around the sites. Pip Hatt, Head of Communications had been in touch and wanted to offer two possible solutions to NuLeAF concerns, though resources meant they could only proceed with one choice. The suggestions were that</p> <p>a) a national meeting would be held once a year with either the Steering Group or the Radioactive Waste Planning Group; or</p> <p>b) Magnox would look at the engagement experience at each site and respond to issues where they arose.</p> <p>The meeting was asked for their views and it was agreed that the proposal for a national meeting, in a similar vein to the meeting with the Low Level Waste Repository and supply chain, would be the best solution. NuLeAF will go back to Magnox, and will draw up proposals for the meeting and bring back to the December Steering Group meeting.</p> | PM |
| 3.3 | 4.25 Following the last Steering Group meeting, NuLeAF wrote to Juliet Long of BEIS asking whether there would be wider public consultation on her review of radioactive waste policy and infrastructure. An email response had been received and would be circulated to the meeting participants for their information. At present the review was a piece of internal work for BEIS, but should ministers decide to take the matter further then wider consultation would take place. In answer to a question posed, JL also noted that there were no proposals to scrap the current classification of radioactive waste, but that in future waste management won't be dictated solely by the | PM |

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| 3.4 | <p>classification of the waste and other properties will be taken in to consideration.</p> <p>5.32 NuLeAF had written to the Secretary of State asking for information on the inquiry being held into the Magnox PBO competition. A response had been received from Richard Harrington MP, Minister for Energy and Industry, and limited information on the inquiry had been published on the BEIS website shortly afterwards.</p> | |
| 4 | DISCUSSION WITH DAVID PEATTIE, CEO OF NDA | |
| 4.1 | The Chair welcomed David Peattie, the new CEO of NDA, and Bill Hamilton, Head of Stakeholder Engagement to the meeting. | |
| 4.2 | David Peattie spoke briefly on his aspirations: he said that under his leadership NDA would be 'opening the doors and windows'. He wanted to improve engagement with everyone who has a legitimate interest in what NDA does. He sees his job as leading the clean-up of the UK's legacy nuclear waste. | |
| 4.3 | The meeting opened up to questions: | |
| 4.3.1 | <p><i>Q: DP was asked for his views on the role local government can play in helping NDA deliver its mission.</i></p> <p>A: One of the key tasks for NDA is identifying a location for a Geological Disposal Facility, and there is an important role in this for local councils. It is obviously controversial, but it has the opportunity to bring jobs and investment into a community. We welcome the involvement of NuLeAF in helping us take this forward.</p> | |
| 4.3.2 | <p><i>Q: Given that your sites are generally located in isolated communities, and are often the largest employer in the area, when the site closes communities face a significant loss of employment opportunities. This situation is mirrored across Europe. Local authorities are preparing 15 year plans, and in this time period, these sites will change drastically, and we need to prepare to deal with the economic impact of that. Can the NDA pressure SLCs to work with us on that?</i></p> <p>A: NDA has a property division, and they will work to maximise opportunities as the clean-up programme continues, giving land back to communities for their benefit.</p> | |
| 4.3.3 | <p><i>Q: We welcome your statement about openness, but at time it feels that communication from NDA is one way. Local government is an important stakeholder, it has a leadership role, it is democratically elected and we would like you to trust us and engage with us, through NuLeAF.</i></p> <p>A: Thank you for the feedback. This is very much on my agenda. With social media and other communication tools we have the technology to share our thinking. I look forward to working with you to improve that connectivity.</p> | |
| 4.3.4 | <p><i>Q: I'd like to hear your thoughts on engagement with Ireland, where there is antipathy from the population towards nuclear.</i></p> | |

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| | <p>A: Sellafield is the biggest legacy challenge. We hope to improve our engagement so we understand your concerns. The problem is one which has to be dealt with, and the team at Sellafield is often criticised for not getting the job done quickly enough, and yet they are doing extraordinary things at the edge of technology. We need to communicate this better so people understand the issues.</p> | |
| 4.3.5 | <p><i>Q: It's important that the openness you are offering goes down to site levels, which we have found from experience can be quite insular, and varies from site to site.</i></p> <p>A: Standardisation is an important part of my agenda.</p> | |
| 4.4 | <p>The importance of NuLeAF to local authorities, who do not have the expertise to deal with nuclear legacy issues was highlighted to Mr Peattie. NuLeAF enable local authorities to develop their policies and deal with the planning applications which will come forward as the decommissioning process progresses.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his hope that Mr Peattie would attend NuLeAF meetings again in the future and Mr Peattie acknowledged that he would be happy to attend.</p> | |
| 5 | NuLeAF ENGAGEMENT WITH EUROPEAN LOCAL NETWORK FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE DIALOGUE (ENWD) | |
| 5.1 | <p>PM gave a brief overview of NuLeAF's engagement with ENWD thus far. The question of NuLeAF joining the group had been raised at the last Steering Group who directed the secretariat to present a more detailed proposal at this meeting (paper had been circulated prior to meeting). The Chair and PM had met with the General Secretary of ENWD/GMF to discuss how the group works, and what membership would offer NuLeAF. PM had also discussed the proposed membership with BEIS and RWM. BEIS had indicated it was interested in exploring how the UK could engage with international communities post Brexit, and this may offer a route. RWM were interested in how information could be shared internationally. The Chair expressed his support for NuLeAF becoming members (cost <i>circa</i> £1,000 per annum) and exploring further what opportunities membership of the group would offer.</p> | |
| 5.2 | <p>Views were sought from the meeting. Members were generally supportive and welcomed the opportunity to have engagement across Europe, but highlighted the need to be wary, as previous experience had shown that the aspirations of similar organisations were not matched by the service and value delivered. They could also be very bureaucratic and membership might entail a considerable amount of travel. Concerns were expressed about the possibility of NuLeAF taking on the secretariat as this could overburden existing staff.</p> | |
| 5.3 | <p>The meeting agreed that NuLeAF should join ENWD for one year, and then review whether membership provided value.</p> | PM |

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| 6 | PROPOSAL FOR NuLeAF MINI-WORKSHOP ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS AS PART OF DECEMBER STEERING GROUP MEETING | |
| 6.1 | PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining the proposed to the SG that a short workshop on the Geological Disposal Facility siting process be held as part of the December meeting. | |
| 6.2 | The SG agreed to the proposal with the caveat that the start time be at 11.00, not 10.30 as in the proposal. | PM |
| 7 | UPDATE ON THE GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS | |
| 7.1 | PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the GDF framework; • Staff changes at RWM • Publication of the generic GDF safety case; and • Update on geological issues. | |
| 7.2 | BEIS had confirmed that they were still working towards opening consultations on communities and land-use planning in late October. It is expected that the Welsh Government will consult on the community aspects in parallel. | |
| 7.3 | PM advised the meeting that he was hoping to meet Ann McCall, the new GDF Siting and Engagement Director, in the near future to discuss future work and RWM funding for NuLeAF. | |
| 7.4 | The meeting agreed that the secretariat should invite Ann McCall to attend a Steering Group meeting. | PM |
| 7.5 | The Chair alerted meeting members to a free app developed by the British Geological Society which shows information on geology in the UK. | |
| 8 | UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT | |
| 8.1 | PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from Theme Overview Group (TOG) meetings; • Update on inquiry into Magnox PBO contract termination; • Sellafield update; • BEIS and Brexit update; and • NDA stakeholder summit and SSG review. | |
| 8.2 | The proposition of continuous decommissioning of reactors at Magnox sites was being considered. This would keep the skilled workforce on site. It was work in progress and PM would update the meeting when further information was available. | |

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| 8.3 | PM and the Chair had attended, by invitation, the first meeting of the Euratom Exit Industry Forum organised BEIS. Both had spoken to Richard Harrington MP, Minister for Energy and Industrial Strategy, and felt it was important to establish a good relationship with him as his portfolio had significant relevance to NuLeAF. The Chair asked the meeting to keep NuLeAF informed of any issues they wished raised at future meetings of the group. | |
| 8.4 | In response to a question about the capability of the regulators to cope with the workload after Brexit, PM said that ONR had a team of seven working on plans for ONR to take over regulatory functions currently covered by Euratom. It was also not clear exactly what the UK's future relationship with Euratom might be as BIES had not ruled out some form of future relationship. | |
| 8.5 | With regard to the change of approach in the review of SSGs, comment was made that this was symptomatic of NDA's habit of deciding what outcome it wished for, announcing proposals, and then having to change their proposals when they were criticised. It was suggested that Paul Vallance, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at NDA, should be invited to attend a future meeting to hear NuLeAF's concerns. | PM |
| 9 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | |
| 9.1 | The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6 th December, 11.00 – 16.00 at Coram Campus, London. | |
| 10 | ANY OTHER BUSINESS | |
| 10.1 | There being none, the meeting closed at 10.25 a.m. | |

ACTION LIST

| 18th September, 2017 | | | |
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| ITEM | ACTION | BY | OUTCOME |
| 2.1 | Post minutes on the website | CD | Done |
| 3.2 | Contact Magnox re choice of national meeting | PM | Email sent 26 Sept |
| 3.2 | Draft a proposal for an annual meeting with Magnox for December SG meeting | PM | Done |
| 3.3 | Circulate email from Juliet Long re review of radioactive waste infrastructure and policy | CD | Sent 26 Sept |
| 5.3 | Arrange membership of ENWD | PM | Query and follow-up emails sent to ENWD re payment. |
| 6.2 | Arrange GDF workshop | PM | Postponed to 24 th January |
| 7.4 | Invite Ann McCall to attend future SG meeting | PM | Added to speakers list |
| 8.5 | Invite Paul Vallance to attend future SG meeting | PM | Added to speakers list |

