

Meeting: NuLeAF EGM, 21st March 2018
Agenda Item: 9
Subject: Work programme 2018-19
Author: Philip Matthews
Purpose: To give an overview of tasks and activities for the coming year



1. Introduction

Set out below is a summary draft work programme for 2018/19. This includes our ongoing commitments to organise meetings and support members and also a range of other activities identified through an analysis of the forward work programme of the UK and Welsh Government, NDA, SLCs and regulators and discussions with NDA and RWM.

We would welcome members views on the proposed work which has been grouped under three headings – our core support for members and our engagement on their behalf with RWM and NDA. Once finalised, a detailed Service Plan will be produced including performance measures (in terms of Outputs and Outcomes) and reporting processes.

2. Work programme for 2018-19

i. Core support for NuLeAF members

1	Continue to engage with NDA, Sellafield, Magnox, the regulators and host Local Authorities on site restoration, interim and end states and Intermediate Level Waste treatment/Fuel Element Debris storage.
2	Continue to assist member authorities as appropriate to ensure that effective engagement arrangements exist with Sellafield, SLCs and NDA, to ensure appropriate socio-economic support for communities.
3	Engage further in dialogue with EDF Energy to discuss their plans for decommissioning and the role that host communities and local authorities could play.

4	Monitor other relevant national and local policy development; report on engagement opportunities to members. Prepare and submit NuLeAF comments as appropriate.
5	Continue to support the interests of member authorities impacted by Spent Nuclear Fuel and radioactive waste storage and disposal issues as a consequence of new nuclear build, and to continue to liaise with the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group as appropriate.
6	Monitor implementation of recommendations arising from Fukushima accident. Consider other safety and security issues relevant to radioactive waste management and decommissioning, where these have implications for local authorities.
7	Continue to monitor work on the Submarine Dismantling Project as the project moves into the delivery phase. Report issues and progress to NuLeAF Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group.
8	Hold Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group meetings throughout the year, inviting speakers and submitting papers on topics of interest to the membership.
9	In consultation with members, respond to appropriate consultations by government and other bodies.
10	As appropriate, prepare briefing papers to inform the membership on topics of interest, and to provide a resource to members.
11.	Publish our newsletter and e-bulletin and continue to operate our highly successful Twitter feed and LinkedIn group which offer regular updates to our members and stakeholders on the GDF process, and the work of RWM, BEIS and NDA.

ii. Work programme with RWM

Ongoing	
<i>Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group</i>	
1	Offer RWM opportunities to engage directly with our members through our Steering Group and RWPG. Our meetings provide a readily available forum for discussion and a sounding board that RWM can use as and when required, for example in the testing of materials.
<i>Communication and engagement</i>	
2	Disseminate information, via our social media and communications, on the progress with the GDF siting process and the relevant work of the NDA, RWM and Government. We will also prepare articles and information for the RWM e-bulletin and blog as requested.
3	Maintain a site on the LGA's Knowledge Hub, the UK's largest platform for Elected Members and staff to share knowledge, discuss issues and develop initiatives, with 180,000 members. This provides a range of information on the GDF siting process and the wider issues around nuclear decommissioning and waste management.
4	Draft an article on the launch of the GDF siting process for Local Government First, the main magazine of the LGA with a readership of many thousands.

Pre-Launch of Siting Process	
<i>Stakeholder engagement and support for local government ahead of launch of siting process</i>	
5	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work with RWM and BEIS to help disseminate information through DCN, CCN, ADEPT and SOLACE • Maintain regular dialogue with key officials within the LGA and explore the scope for engagement with relevant LGA Boards and other fora • Assist RWM in defining the routes to engagement with elected members, officers, other public and private bodies in individual communities; and ensuring that the messaging used is appropriate and clear • Provide advice to enable RWM to knowledgeably undertake its direct engagement activities with any individual local authorities by providing summary briefings prior to meetings taking place.
6	Raise awareness of the presence of RWM at the LGA Conference 2018 amongst NuLeAF members. We can also offer wider support to RWM in seeking meetings with individual local authorities and will be available to help support the RWM stand.
<i>Testing of Materials</i>	
7	With a Steering Group and expert planners group (RWPG) that meet regularly, NuLeAF offers a bespoke resource for the testing of RWM resources and materials as they develop. Based on our current understanding, in 2018/19 there may be opportunities for our members to advise on the planned Prospectus and Community Guidance along with briefing materials RWM is planning to prepare for communities considering entering the siting process.
8	Local government has a unique insight and understanding of the financial issues around community investment and local economic development. NuLeAF proposes to hold a workshop on these issues, for example the implications of the GDF for business rates or for local community revenues if the planned repository is located off-shore.
<i>Support for the Welsh siting process</i>	
9	NuLeAF participated in a Welsh Government meeting on the GDF siting process in early 2017 and will submit responses to the planned Welsh consultations on the GDF framework. NuLeAF will continue to work with RWM, the Welsh Government, Welsh LGA and our Welsh local authority members to encourage participation in future engagement events and to support any Welsh authority entering the process.
<i>Support for RWM organisational readiness</i>	
10	<p>In the current financial year NuLeAF's Executive Director has participated in RWM's organisational readiness review and met regularly with RWM and BEIS to advise on the GDF siting process. In 2018/19 it is proposed that NuLeAF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with RWM regional managers and frontline staff to brief them and discuss local government structures, means of operation and approaches to engagement. In advance of the meeting NuLeAF will prepare a short briefing on local authorities; • continue to meet regularly and to liaise with others in RWM, including the GDF Siting and Engagement Director and Chief Policy Advisor, as appropriate; and • continue to assist RWM in drafting communication materials on the GDF by providing direct feedback or hosting meetings between RWM and NuLeAF members.

Siting Process Launch	
<i>Launch Event</i>	
11	If requested by RWM, NuLeAF can host an event at a Steering Group or RWPG meeting to mark the launch of the siting process; or can assist RWM or BEIS in any plans they have for a stand-alone launch event. We will also participate in the webinar that RWM is considering as part of the GDF launch.
12	While it now looks unlikely that the official launch of the GDF siting process will coincide with the 2018 LGA conference, NuLeAF can work with RWM to organise an event at the 2018 LGA conference to raise awareness of the GDF siting process in the lead up to launch.
Post-Launch of Siting Process	
<i>Support for RWM and for local authorities entering the GDF siting process</i>	
13	NuLeAF will act as contact point for local authorities, supporting them, advising them on particular issues that arise, and feeding back concerns to RWM.
14	<p>There is scope for NuLeAF to support the siting process through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting on individual siting partnerships. NuLeAF sat on the West Cumbrian MRWS partnership and could fulfil this role on those partnerships established as part of the new process. This would provide an independent local government voice and also enable learning, insights and advice to be shared between local siting partnerships • Assisting RWM's regional managers to respond to queries and information requests from local authorities • Acting as a 'challenger' and 'critical friend' for RWM • Supporting ongoing communications through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitoring the local government press to ensure accurate reporting of GDF policy developments and a balanced representation of the costs and benefits of geological disposal and responding as necessary ○ Assisting in the production of other information materials including a 'corrections and clarifications' service to quickly rebut misinformation or misunderstandings about geological disposal ○ Using our Knowledge Hub, LinkedIn and Twitter feed to promote a balanced view and forum for debate. As an independent voice, separate from the developer or Government, NuLeAF's communications are more likely to be trusted by local authorities and communities. We therefore have scope to debate issues on social media and challenge inaccuracies in reporting of GDF issues in an effective and credible way. • Exploring with RWM and relevant local authorities the potential for hosting an 'annual gathering' of GDF communities in which they could share experiences and engage with RWM and Government • Undertaking, either directly or through commissioning a third party, an independent annual review of the siting process from a local government perspective.

Participation in ENWD/GMF and international engagement

15	NuLeAF has, for a one-year trial, joined the GMF (Group of European Municipalities with nuclear Facilities), which includes those local authorities across the continent with nuclear facilities. Of particular interest is the ENWD (European Local Network of Radioactive Waste Dialogue). NuLeAF membership of the GMF/ENWD enables local authorities involved in the UK siting process to participate in meetings and share experiences and understanding with their counterparts from elsewhere in Europe. It also has potential for the organisation of local government led visits to GDF developments outside the UK. These will be very useful in helping local government understand the issues around the concept of 'community', the means of engaging the local population, and their questions around community investment, engineering and geology. NuLeAF could co-ordinate and help organise and support overseas site visits.
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iii. Work programme with NDA 2018-19

Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group

1	Offer NDA opportunities to engage directly with our members through our Steering Group and RWPG. Our meetings provide a readily available forum for discussion and a sounding board that NDA, Magnox and LLWR can use as and when required, for example in the development of strategies or guidance or the evolving plans for the clean-up of individual NDA sites.
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Support for the delivery of Strategy III

2	NuLeAF is an active member of the NDA's Theme Overview Groups (TOGs) on Integrated Waste Management, Site Decommissioning and Remediation and Critical Enablers; we also liaise with the Nuclear Materials/Spent Nuclear Fuels TOG and report on that group's work to our members. We will continue to advise and support NDA in delivering Strategy III, providing a voice for local government and reporting and updating local authorities on key issues. We will also attend and share information on other NDA meetings as required.
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Development of a Radioactive Waste Strategy

3	NuLeAF has long advocated greater integration in radioactive waste strategy and policy. We therefore welcome the production of an integrated radioactive waste strategy, covering HAW and LLW. This work has potential implications for planning, economic development and for communities. We will continue to engage with NDA to address certain concerns or issues that may arise – and work with BEIS on their review of radioactive waste policy and infrastructure. Our Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG) will provide advice on these issues and we will respond in detail to all relevant consultations.
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Support for ongoing work on Proportionate Regulatory Controls (PRC)

4	NuLeAF worked closely with BEIS, the NDA and the environment agencies to advise on proposed reforms to institutional controls on nuclear licensed sites. Of particular value in this has been the role of our Radioactive Waste Planning Group, which provides an expert forum for discussion of the planning implications of changes to controls, and an advisory group on the technical challenges of, for
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	example, using Section 106 agreements to control sites after the license has been surrendered. Work on the PRC will develop over coming years, and the role of the RWPG will continue to be crucial. Also of interest to our members are the 'Lead and Learn' sites. Local authorities will be involved in the work underway at Trawsfynydd, Winfrith and Dounreay and there will be much learning to share. We will continue to work with NDA, BEIS and regulators, providing advice and building capacity as required. We also plan to organise a local authority visit to one of the 'Lead and Learn' sites in 2018/19.
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<i>Support for NDA work on Socio-economics and skills</i>	
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| 5 | NDA is required to ensure its work impacts positively on the socio-economic condition of communities. This is supported by the Energy Act 2004 and the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, under which all public authorities must have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being. This year also saw the publication of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy with a commitment to a Nuclear Sector Deal which will seek to capitalise on the UK's expertise in decommissioning technology and skills. NDA is developing site specific socio-economic strategies and wishes to ensure the future availability of workers with all necessary skills to deliver the NDA mission and help maintain sustainable communities. Local authorities have an important role to play through their involvement in education and skills and in supporting local economic development. NuLeAF provides a forum for NDA to speak with Council leaders and senior officers. |
| 6 | In 2018/19 we propose to host a discussion with NDA on the skills needs of nuclear communities and how councils can assist NDA in skills development. As noted below, we will also use our international contacts to develop plans for an international meeting on nuclear decommissioning. |
| 7 | Successful engagement on socio-economics also requires that NDA presentations and information materials are developed with a full appreciation of the policy framework for local government and the timescales and methods used by councils in making decisions. It will also necessitate the use of appropriate language and terminology and make links to other work. NuLeAF can offer guidance on this. |
| 8 | NuLeAF can engage the wider local government network on nuclear decommissioning, for example LGA Boards, ADEPT (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transportation), the County Council and District Council Networks and the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). |

<i>NDA stakeholder engagement review</i>	
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| 9 | NDA has undertaken a review of stakeholder engagement and NuLeAF has been involved throughout this process. A clear message from NuLeAF members is that there is a need for more and better direct engagement between NDA, SLCs and the planning and economic development functions of councils and their political leadership. NuLeAF's Steering Group and RWPG provide bespoke forums for such engagement and NuLeAF will continue to work with NDA to utilise these to maximum benefit. An early example of this has been the recent meetings around the Magnox Decommissioning Strategy, which have been informative and of benefit to both NDA and councils. |
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Support for NDA's Stakeholder Summit 2018

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| 10 | NuLeAF worked closely with NDA to encourage local authority attendance at the 2017 Stakeholder Summit in Cumbria, and to manage accommodation and catering needs. This contributed significantly to the event, with representatives of almost every local authority that hosts an NDA site present, compared to only a very limited number at the comparable event the year before. In 2018/19 NDA propose a similar event, to be held at South Gloucestershire and Stroud College in July. Again, NuLeAF will encourage participation from local authorities and manage their transport and accommodation needs. We can also assist in the organisation of a visit to an NDA site if appropriate. |
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International meeting of local authorities

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| 11 | In 2017, NuLeAF joined the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF), a pan European network of local authorities that host nuclear sites. The GMF also supports a network of councils interested in geological disposal, the ENWD. The GMF has agreed to work with NuLeAF and NDA to organise a gathering of European municipalities as part of the NDA Stakeholder Summit. This will enable NDA to showcase its work in decommissioning and socio-economics, and facilitate an international dialogue on nuclear legacy issues, of benefit to all involved. It will also promote the UK's expertise in nuclear technologies in line with the aspirations of the recent Industrial Strategy. |
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Work with Magnox

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| 12 | Over recent years NuLeAF has regularly raised with Magnox the varying experiences of NuLeAF members in engaging at a local level. Some local authorities have called for more effective interaction between Magnox and host planning authorities in relation to planning proposals (prior notifications, planning applications and variations) for nuclear licensed sites as they are cleaned up and prepared for next planned use. More widely, some NuLeAF members have felt there is a lack of clarity as to how individual planning applications fit with Magnox's overall Lifetime Plan for each site or how they are linked to national strategy. NuLeAF has been in discussion with Magnox to address these issues. In response it has been agreed that an annual meeting is held, involving NuLeAF members and senior Magnox staff. The first such meeting is planned for summer 2018. The format is likely to be based on 'round table' discussions around a pre-agreed agenda. There could also be scope for presentations on specific areas of interest – for example a presentation by NuLeAF to Magnox on the current framework for land use and waste planning to build Magnox understanding of how they can effectively engage in the planning cycle; or an overview from Magnox on their strategy and plans for individual sites. |
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Low Level Waste Management

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| 13 | Over recent years NuLeAF has been working closely with LLWR and the supply chain to address the concerns of some councils regarding engagement on LLW. This has been successful. We now host an annual meeting with LLWR, NDA and the supply chain to provide a forum for discussion on forward plans for LLW management. We also use our Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG) to discuss requirements under the Duty to Co-operate |
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Communication and engagement

14	NuLeAF has a critical role in building the capacity and understanding of nuclear decommissioning among local authorities. This helps councils to engage effectively with NDA, RWM and Government and is thus very useful to the industry. We will continue to prepare briefings and information materials along with our newsletter and e-bulletin, and to operate our highly successful Twitter feed and LinkedIn group. These provide regular updates to our members and stakeholders on the work of NDA, BEIS and RWM.
15	We have established a site on the LGA's Knowledge Hub, the UK's largest platform for Elected Members and staff to share knowledge, discuss issues and develop initiatives, with 180,000 members. This provides a range of information on the GDF siting process and issues around nuclear decommissioning and waste management.
16	As an LGA body, NuLeAF is able to place articles in Local Government First, the main magazine of the LGA with a readership of many thousands.

Local authority plans

17	Previously, many local authorities with NDA sites or related facilities in their area did not have clear policies on radioactive waste in their local plans or waste plans. Through the work of NuLeAF and our RWPG this has changed, with benefits for communities and the industry. NuLeAF will continue to monitor and report on radioactive waste policies in local plans, and to respond to consultations and advise local authorities as appropriate.
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Consultation responses

18	NuLeAF will continue to develop detailed and considered responses to all relevant consultations from the UK and Welsh Government, NDA, RWM and others.
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Other work

19	NuLeAF has prepared a briefing for members on SMRs and their possible impact on plans for NDA sites and on the radioactive waste inventory. We will continue to engage on this issue as proposals develop.
20	With some EDF stations nearing the end of their operational life, NuLeAF has hosted an initial dialogue between members and EDF. We will build on this in 2018/19.