

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

**Draft Minutes of the Steering Group held on 6th June 2018,
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 12 Bloomsbury Square, London**

Present:

Cllr Brendan Sweeny	Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr David Monk	Folkestone & Hythe District Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Sean Chaytor	Hull City Council
Cllr Peter Downing	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Chris Morgan	West Somerset Council
Richard Griffin	Allerdale Borough Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Dave Illsley	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Sean Morris	Manchester City Council
Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Jon Beckett	Stroud District Council
Clive Pink	Suffolk Coastal District Council
John Pitchford	Suffolk County Council
John Burton	Taunton Deane District Council
Philip Matthews	NuLeAF
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF

1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised the meeting that Cllr Eddy Newman was now the nominated representative from Manchester City Council and sought the meetings agreement that the secretariat should write to Cllr Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, thanking her for her engagement with NuLeAF. Agreed.	PM
1.2	Apologies were received from:, Cllr David Southward, Gillian Elliot, Richard Cryer & Rachel Whaley – Cumbria County Council, Linda Townsend – Gloucestershire County Council, Nia Swann Boden – Gwynedd County Council, Cllr Michael Green – Lancashire County Council, Cllr Eddy Newman – Manchester City Council, Lucy Atkinson – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Cllrs Jim McEleny & Michelle Campbell – SCCORS, Sarah Povall – Somerset County Council, Cllr Matthew Riddle – South Gloucestershire Council, Cllr Carwyn Jones & Dylan Williams – Ynys Mon County Council.	

2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st MARCH 2018	
2.1	3 rd bullet point of 4.2.1 to be amended to 'not all local authority areas...' and Action from 6.2 was omitted from the list. Subject to these amendments 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	3.3 There had been no further communication from NDA regarding the proposed meeting to discuss NDA's Transport Strategy proposals. It was agreed that NuLeAF should write again to NDA and say that this was an issue which was likely to be raised at the Stakeholder Summit in July.	PM
3.2	5.2 Volume of work had meant that an invitation to Stephen Holliday to attend a meeting had not been issued, and PM was unsure that he would be likely to attend if invited.	
3.3	RS noted that there had been members of the SSG Chairs group attending the March Steering Group meeting and thanked the Secretariat for inviting them to attend. PM said that he had written to the SSG Chair and Vice Chair offering to attend one of their meetings in return but had not received a response. DB said he would take this up with Cllr Mike Caswell.	DB
4	DISCUSSION ON NuLeAF POLICY ON DISPOSAL OF HIGHER ACTIVITY WASTE	
4.1.1	PM gave an overview to how NuLeAF's current policy (Policy Statement 3) on Higher Activity Wastes was developed. It is 10 years since this policy was agreed and it was timely to revisit, given that few current members had been involved in discussion at the time the Policy was agreed. It was also the case that the landscape had changed significantly in recent years, with the NDA looking at the option of near surface disposal, the Magnox accelerated decommissioning Programme being considered, the imminent publication of a Radioactive Waste Strategy, and the likely changes arising from work on Proportionate Regulatory Controls (PRC).	
4.1.2	DB highlighted that the AGR fleet of operating stations was approaching decommissioning and would also impact waste storage as the GDF will not be available to take their waste.	
4.1.3	With the current GDF siting process, NuLeAF's concerns regarding the recent consultation on Working with Communities were: the lack of clarity around the issues and terminology; the lack of recognition of those communities which currently host the waste; the lack of clarity on the local government veto; and the need for clarification and finessing the socio-economic benefits offered.	
4.1.4	Looking ahead, NuLeAF needs to ensure that local authorities are at the heart of the GDF siting process; that local authorities around the country are aware of the process, and not just those which currently host nuclear licensed sites. The siting	

	<p>process needs to be aligned with local government working; take into account the effects of devolution, Localism, reorganisation; and joint working. The process needs to be designed so it has the flexibility to work over the 20 year period it will take from launching the siting process to beginning construction.</p>	
4.2	The Chair opened up the meeting to comment and questions:	
4.2.1	It was commented that, based on Magnox’s change of approach to ILW storage and the importation of wastes from other sites, communities were concerned that the GDF would host waste from outside the UK. PM said that he was not aware that this had ever been considered, and it was agreed that Policy 3 should be amended to reflect that NuLeAF expected the GDF to be used solely for the disposal of UK wastes (recognising that there can be substitutions).	PM
4.2.2	Concerns were raised that the policy at present did not address what would happen should no host community come forward. UK Government needs to state what its policy in this scenario would be.	
4.2.3	It was highlighted that the current policy document was dated 2007, and it was good to review all Policy documents from time to time to ensure that the policy was live and current. The meeting agreed that NuLeAF should review all its policies not less than every five years.	PM/CD
4.2.4	Following discussion about retrievability of wastes it was agreed that the secretariat would prepare an Information Note on retrievability by the end of the year which would form an Appendix to Policy Statement 3.	PM
4.2.5	PM advised the meeting that at his meeting with BEIS earlier that day, he had been told that the current assumption in Government was that the Working with Communities policy would be finalised by 12 July 2018. It was not clear when the policy would be published or the Siting Process officially launched.	
4.2.6	The SG agreed that a further Information Note should be produced on the issue of resolution for the GDF siting process i.e. what happens if no community comes forward, and the impacts this has on the communities which currently host the waste; and issues which are becoming increasingly high risk because of the delay to the GDF. This also to be completed by the end of the year.	PM
4.2.7	A query was made about what would be the latest point in the design/construction of a GDF at which retrievability would be ruled out. PM said he would find out and report back.	PM
5	UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS	
5.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered:	

5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on GDF siting process NuLeAF presentation to CoRWM; and Update on RWM. <p>PM advised the meeting that since submitting the responses to the Working with Communities and NPS consultations, NuLeAF had had an ongoing dialogue with BEIS on local government issues.</p>	
5.3	<p>The SG asked if, given the early finalisation date of the Working with Communities policy, there would be any other opportunity to engage with government. PM advised the meeting that BEIS had offered to meet with NuLeAF members to hear their concerns. The SG agreed that they should take up BEIS' offer and directed the secretariat to arrange the meeting.</p>	PM/CD
5.4	<p>PM clarified that it was possible for the siting process to be launched before the Parliamentary scrutiny of the NPS is completed.</p>	
5.5	<p>PM advised the meeting that a draft response to the call for evidence on the NPS by the BEIS Committee would be circulated later that week for comment.</p>	
6	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
6.1	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports back on NDA Theme Overview Group (TOG) meetings; NDA Stakeholder Summit; Report from GMF meeting in Belgium, 10th & 11th April; NDA, SLC and BEIS round-up; Update on Brexit; and Meeting with SCCORS. 	
6.2	<p>Following discussion, the Steering Group agreed that the secretariat should invite NDA to give a presentation on their skills strategy at an appropriate time.</p>	PM
6.3	<p>NuLeAF will write to NDA advising them of topics that members would like to hear addressed at the NDA Stakeholder Summit.</p>	PM
6.4	<p>Concerns were raised that NDA was not engaging with local communities. Local authorities were being asked to change their Local Plans to support NDA proposals, without community engagement. It was agreed that this should be raised with David Peattie at the Stakeholder Summit meeting.</p>	PM
7	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
7.1	<p>The next meeting will be held at Leaf, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester, 11.00 – 3.00</p>	
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	

8.1	In response to a question about the state of play with NDA's proposal to accelerate decommissioning of Magnox reactors CD to forward email from Tim Bond to DB.	CD
9	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH MAGNOX ON THEIR WORK PROGRAMME	
9.1	The Chair welcomed Andrew New, Paul Heath and Pip Hatt to the meeting.	
9.2	AN gave an overview of Magnox's work programme. The Parent Body Organisation contract with Cavendish Fluor terminates in August 2019, and there is a programme of work covering the period. Following the change in management model, the work programme will continue, but there is the potential for change. There is a set of 49 milestones which should be delivered by the time the management model changes.	
9.2.1	In response to a question from the meeting, AN clarified that of the 49 milestones, 17 have been delivered to date. The priority in delivering the milestones is reviewed regularly to accommodate changing scenarios. Magnox has found that some of the assumptions made when the milestones were set were incorrect, but this is usual in a project environment.	
9.3	Now that sites have been defueled (except Wylfa) Magnox is working in an environment where the nuclear hazard is significantly reduced. Hazards are more industrial in their nature.	
9.5	A new Executive will be established to take over when the current PBO contract ends. It will present challenges in that they will not have worked together before, and this transition period will be focused on over the next 15 months.	
9.6	PH spoke about forthcoming planning applications which are based on lifetime plans for the sites. The plans run for in excess of 100 years and take sites beyond final site clearance. The plans are detailed in the near-term, but less so over the later time period. Details will be added as works get closer.	
9.6.1	In response to a question about publication of plans, Magnox said this rests with NDA. Magnox undertook to ask NDA if there was another form of publication which could be released so information can be shared.	Magnox
9.6.2	The Chair said it was critical for a local authority to know the end state of a site, and the timing for it to be released from nuclear site licensing. It is something the NDA should be discussing with the local community, and NDA should not think it can make these decisions in isolation.	
9.6.3	AN said he was happy to take this back to the NDA Executive quarterly meeting.	Magnox

9.7	AN said he expected that the change of management model would lead to less changes being made in ways of working.	
9.8	In response to a question AN said that Magnox were in contact with BEIS regarding timing of new build at sites.	
9.9	Concept design process is underway for an overbuilding at Sizewell which will allow FED vaults to be opened. FED will be stored at Bradwell.	
9.10	Active decommissioning work at Bradwell will cease at the end of this year. Staff will be brought in from Sizewell or Dungeness to operate the ILW store as required.	
9.10.1	TB pointed out that they had been led to believe that there would be no activity on site once it went into Care & Maintenance, and now he was being told that it would be opened to accept waste packages as necessary. Magnox needed to be clear in their communications.	
9.11	PH said she was aware that Magnox had a lot of stakeholders in common with BEIS, NDA and RWM, and that it was not always clear to the stakeholders who made a decision on what issue. Magnox does not have a direct route into BEIS and relies on NDA for all correspondence with central government.	
9.12	PH said that Magnox's primary route for engagement with communities was through SSGs, and they are directed to use this route by NDA. Magnox has limited communication resources and must use them to the best of its ability.	
9.12.1	Members of the meeting pointed out that engagement with SSGs should not be viewed as a substitute for meaningful engagement with local authorities. Not all SSGs passed information on to appropriate staff, or had people with the requisite expertise to deal with the issues competently. Elected members attending were viewed as attending in a personal capacity, and the SSGs are seen as interest groups. Local authorities are a statutory regulator and should be engaged with appropriately in this capacity.	
9.12.2	PH undertook to feed back this back to Magnox.	
9.12.3	The meeting agreed that this issue should be raised with David Peattie at the NDA Stakeholder Summit.	PM
9.13	The issue of communication with the receiving sites for waste generated by Magnox was raised. PH said this was another area which should be raised with NDA.	PM
9.14	In response to a query about engagement with local communities over in-situ disposal, PH said that there had been discussion about a national narrative, but she had not yet seen details.	
9.14.1	Members felt it was important that Magnox engaged with the local community on this topic so that expectations were managed, and misunderstandings avoided.	

9.15	The Chair thanked Magnox for attending and for their constructive engagement.	
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ACTION LIST

6th June, 2018			
1.1	Write to Cllr Grace Fletcher-Hackwood	PM	Done
2.1	Amend minutes and post on website	CD	Done
3.1	Write to NDA re raising topic of Transport Strategy at Stakeholder Summit	PM	Letter sent 9 Aug. Advised workstream is on hold until 2019.
3.3	Follow up with Mike Caswell re meeting	DB	Email sent 21 June and MC said he would follow this up with Aled Morris Jones.
4.2.1	Include reference to GDF being for UK wastes only (inc substitutions) in revised PS3	PM	In hand
4.2.3	Review all Policy Statements at least once every five years	PM/ CD	On-going
4.2.4	Produce information paper on the case for and against retrievability	PM	To be produced by the end of 2018
4.2.6	Produce paper on impact of not finding host community for GDF	PM	To be produced by the end of 2018
4.2.7	Find out what is the latest point in the construction phase of a GDF you need to decide if waste can be retrieved	PM	In hand
5.3	Set up meeting with BEIS to discuss WWC policy prior to 12 July	PM	PM has met with BEIS officials to discuss WWC and the NPS on 3 occasions since the close of the consultations. Most recent occasion was on the 8 th August.
6.2	Invite NDA to give presentation on skills strategy	PM	Request sent to Jacq Longrigg for meeting to discuss NDA skills and possibility of presentation but meeting has not yet been finalised.
6.3	Write to NDA with a list of topics for discussion at NDA Stakeholder Summit	PM	Done
6.4	Raise issue of how NDA engages with local authorities with David Peattie at Summit	PM	PM not at meeting as giving evidence to Parliament. Issue

			raised by those present.
8.1	Send Tim Bond's email to Doug Bamsey	CD	Done 7 June
9.6.1	Ask NDA about sharing information on lifetime plans.	Magnox	
9.6.3	Raise issue of engagement with local authorities of site end states with NDA Executive	Magnox	
9.12.2	Feedback to Magnox need for proper engagement on technical issues with local authorities in their capacity as statutory regulator.	Magnox	
9.12.3	Raise issue of Magnox's engagement with local authorities with David Peattie.	PM	PM not at meeting as giving evidence to Parliament. Issue raised by those present.
9.13	Raise issue of need for Magnox to communicate with sites receiving Magnox waste.	PM	To be done
21st March, 2018			
ITEM	ACTION	BY	OUTCOME
4.5	Engage with NDA/RWM over sites where waste is currently stored receiving community benefit	PM	Ongoing
5.2	Invite Stephen Holliday to attend a future meeting	PM	Held over as meetings have had to prioritise other presentations
5.2	Write to NDA asking if there will be an opportunity to comment on proposals for the review of NDA management structure before they are finalised	PM	Letter sent. No response received to date.
8.2	Write to MHCLG asking them to write guidance on in-situ disposal and planning.	PM	Letter sent
9.5	Write to LGA about need for emergency planning SIG	PM	Letter sent
9.7	Write to LGA leadership highlighting work of NuLeAF and asking for opportunity for SIGs to promote their work at LGA conference	PM	Letter sent