

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group held on 21st March 2018,
Leaf, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester

Present:

Cllr Brendan Sweeny	Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr David Monk	Shepway District Council (Deputy Chair)
Cllr David Southward	Cumbria County Council
Cllr Sean Chaytor	Hull City Council
Cllr Michael Green	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Richard Griffin	Allerdale Borough Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council
Richard Cryer	Cumbria County Council
Gillian Elliott	Cumbria County Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
John Wright	Leicestershire County Council
Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Dave Illsley	Shepway District Council
Gareth Lloyd	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
John Pitchford	Suffolk County Council
John Burton	Taunton Deane District Council
Trefor Jones	Ynys Mon County Council
Philip Matthews	NuLeAF
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF

Observers:

Cllr Aled Morris Jones	Chair of SSG Chairs' Forum
Cllr Mike Caswell	Deputy Chair of SSG Chairs' Forum

1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Trefor Jones, Ynys Mon County Council; John Wright, Leicestershire County Council; John Burton, Taunton Deane District Council; and Richard Cryer and Rachel Whaley of Cumbria County Council were attending for the first time. He welcomed Cllrs Aled Morris Jones and Mike Caswell who were attending the meeting as observers on behalf of the Site Stakeholder Group Chairs' Forum.	
1.2	Apologies were received from:, Charlotte Rushmere & Mike Garrity – Dorset County Council, Lesley Stenhouse – Essex County Council, Linda Townsend – Gloucestershire County	

	Council, Nia Swann Boden – Gwynedd County Council, Cllr David Blackburn – Leeds City Council, Cllr Grace Fletcher-Hackwood & Sean Morris – Manchester City Council, Lucy Atkinson – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Phil Watson – Northamptonshire County Council, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Cllr Peter Downing – Sedgemoor District Council, Cllr Richard Smith – Suffolk County Council, Clive Pink & Lisa Chandler – Suffolk Coastal District Council	
2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 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	The majority of actions were completed or addressed within the meeting papers.	
3.2	Publication of the draft guidance for site end states had been delayed. PM was waiting to hear what the timeframe would be.	
3.3	The secretariat had written to NDA regarding the review of NDA Transport Strategy and seeking the opportunity to provide input. Although a formal response had not yet been received, it was understood that NDA would be offering to attend a meeting to hear members' views and concerns.	
4	UPDATE ON THE GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS	
4.1	PM introduced the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and which covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultations on the GDF framework; • an update on the activities of CoRWM; • the statement made by Tim Knowles, former Chair of the MRWS Partnership; • updates on the activities of RWM; and • publication of an international overview of geological disposal. 	
4.2	Draft responses to the UK government consultations on working with communities and the National Policy Statement on geological disposal infrastructure, and the Welsh government consultation on working with potential host communities had been circulated prior to all NuLeAF members some weeks before the meeting. PM sought members' comments on the draft documents.	
4.2.1	Points for consideration in reviewing the draft responses raised during discussion were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the response needs to reflect that there are different views amongst NuLeAF member authorities regarding at which level, if any, a veto should reside; • the process needs to accommodate the potential for changes in the political landscape; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not all local authority areas follow the 'district/county' formula; there needs to be greater clarity on the definition of community; it is important that momentum and progress on the process is seen; example/s of the partnership agreement would provide clarity over the scope, role and responsibilities of the partnership; information on the 'dis-benefits' of hosting a GDF should be included; greater reassurance on funding statements is required; there needs to be clarity on whether a packaging facility is included in the headworks; 	
4.3	<p>A question was raised as to whether NuLeAF did or would support any other solution to the disposal of higher activity waste other than by a geological disposal facility. PM intended to cover this in the afternoon session at the workshop. However, in the end, lack of time did not permit this, and the topic will be revisited at the next Steering Group meeting.</p>	PM
4.5	<p>Comment was made that the sites where the waste intended for disposal to the GDF is currently stored are becoming, by default, long term storage sites, and some form of community benefit should be forthcoming. NuLeAF will engage with NDA/RWM on this.</p>	PM
5	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
5.1	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> feedback from NDA meetings; report published by Public Accounts Committee on the Magnox Parent Body Organisation contract process; and update on Brexit. 	
5.2	<p>NFLA members are concerned that NDA is not publishing its Radioactive Waste strategy for consultation more widely.</p>	
5.2	<p>Concerns were raised as to whether the actions which will be taken to redress the management issues following the failure of the Magnox PBO competition will be sufficient. Stephen Holliday, who was preparing a report for government had presented to SSG Chairs' Forum, and it was suggested that NuLeAF should seek an opportunity for him to attend a forthcoming meeting. The NuLeAF secretariat should also write asking what opportunity there will be to comment on proposals before they are finalised.</p>	PM
6	MAGNOX DECOMMISSIONING – UPDATE FROM LOCAL SITES	
6.1	<p>The meeting discussed what progress had been made in NDA's engagement with local authorities on their proposals to accelerate decommissioning at Magnox sites. Engagement had</p>	

6.2	proved intermittent with some local authorities receiving a presentation, and others not. The meeting agreed that the secretariat should write to NDA to ask for clarity on the timetable and engagement proposals.	PM
7	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
7.1	The next meeting will be held at 18 Smith Square (Local Government House), London, 11.00 – 3.00 on 6 th June, and will incorporate the AGM.	
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
8.1	PM advised the meeting that NDA had now confirmed that it would be holding another Stakeholder Summit, this time at Stroud and South Gloucestershire College, Berkeley Campus on 10 th and 11 th July.	
8.2	PM proposed that NuLeAF should write to MHCLG asking them to prepare guidance on in-situ disposal and planning. The meeting agreed that this would be beneficial.	PM
8.3	MHCLG is currently consulting on a draft revision of the National Planning Policy Framework which closes on 10 th May. The meeting agreed that the NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group should consider the need for including guidance on radioactive waste in the Framework and respond to the consultation accordingly.	PM
9	EGM: DRAFT NuLeAF WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19	
9.1	A draft work programme for 2018-19 had been circulated prior to the meeting and PM sought comments from the members.	
9.2	Comments made were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there was no reference to accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors and this error would be rectified; • the list of activities could be prioritised; • it was unclear where in-situ disposal sat in the work programme; • NuLeAF should promote engagement between member authorities; • NuLeAF should look further at emergency planning and associated issues including transport; 	
9.3	Comment was made that the wording of RWM 14 ‘...rebut misinformation and misunderstandings...’ could lead to a risk that NuLeAF might challenge legitimate alternative viewpoints.	
9.4	PM advised that the work programme would be amended to reflect the comments made.	PM
9.5	The Chair suggested that NuLeAF should approach LGA about setting up an emergency planning SIG to take that area of work forward.	PM

9.6	It was felt that it was important that NuLeAF drive the agenda, rather than always be in the position of responding to what NDA is doing.	PM
9.7	A proposal was made that NuLeAF should write to the leadership of LGA, highlighting the work it does, and asking for the opportunity to have a presence at LGA conference alongside other SIGs, should they wish to attend. A reception where current members could invite colleagues to learn about NuLeAF was also proposed.	

ACTION LIST

21st March, 2018			
ITEM	ACTION	BY	OUTCOME
2.1	Post minutes on the website	CD	Done
4.3	Consider NuLeAF's policy on disposal of higher activity waste at meeting on 6 th June	PM	Item 4 on agenda
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.
6.2	Write to Magnox asking for update on accelerated decommissioning	PM	Tim Bond gave update after RWPG meeting on 9 May
8.2	Write to MHCLG asking them to write guidance on in-situ disposal and planning.	PM	Letter sent
8.3	RWPG to consider responding to MHCLG consultation on revised National Planning Policy Framework, and request guidance on radioactive waste issues be included	PM	Response submitted.
9.4	Amend work programme to reflect comments	PM	Done
9.5	Write to LGA about need for emergency planning SIG	PM	To be done
9.7	Write to LGA leadership highlighting work of NuLeAF and asking for opportunity for SIGs to promote their work at LGA conference	PM	To be done