

Welcome to Issue 51 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in Manchester on 12th September 2018 and other items:

- Outcomes from NuLeAF Steering Group meeting 12th September 2018;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- NDA update;
- CoRWM;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Outcomes from NuLeAF Steering Group, 12th September 2018

NuLeAF members have been concerned for some time about the lack of clear direction on transport issues at NDA, both relating to the workforce, and the movement of radioactive waste and other materials from sites around the country. At the request of the NuLeAF Steering Group the secretariat wrote to NDA to ask for an update on its development of a Transport Strategy. A response had been received to the effect that this workstream was now on hold until 2019. NuLeAF members expressed their disappointment at this as it fails to recognise the importance of this issue and the impact it has on local communities. NuLeAF will write again, asking NDA to explain the lack of urgency in progressing this workstream and for a more detailed timetable for progress.

NuLeAF recently wrote to Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of LGA highlighting the importance to the wider LGA of NuLeAF's work, particularly given the recent launch of the Nuclear Sector Deal and the forthcoming launch of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process. NuLeAF requested an opportunity to engage with the relevant LGA Board to engage on decommissioning issues. A positive response has been received and NuLeAF looks forward to meeting LGA leaders and management in due course.

A meeting was held with Magnox representatives on 6th June to discuss their work programme and to offer an opportunity to have face to face dialogue on issues which have concerned NuLeAF members. Arising from the meeting, Magnox undertook to take away and report back on three issues: publication of lifetime plans, the need for Magnox to engage on site end states, and the need for Magnox to engage with local authorities in their role as statutory regulators. A response has been received and has been circulated.

The NuLeAF Steering Group received a presentation and held discussions with Dr Anna Clark & Dr James McKinney, Head of the Site Remediation and Decommissioning and Integrated Work Management at NDA respectively. The theme was how their two workstreams interacted and the impact they had on NDA sites. Key issues raised by members in discussion included the need for: NDA to work closely with EDF and new nuclear operators on decommissioning; explain better its current work on in-situ disposal and to clarify that this option does not mitigate the need for a GDF; and to explain how the wide range of current work on radioactive waste management will impact on the lifetime plans for each site. NuLeAF members look forward to further discussions with Drs Clark and McKinney on this theme, and working with them to ensure the best possible outcomes for local communities.

The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process

NuLeAF members met with Dr Stephen Brown of RWM to discuss the draft prospectus prepared to provide information on the GDF siting process for local community decision makers. Whilst it was generally felt that the prospectus was pitched at the right level, members felt further information should be included including on the dis-benefits of GDF siting and the extent of the financial package on offer at every stage of the process (including clarity on the issue of business rates and direct local authority funding). More widely it was felt that RWM and Government will need to provide more clarity on the definition of a community and explain better how the communities and planning aspects of the siting process will work together given that the GDF siting process might be launched before the publication of the National Policy Statement.

NuLeAF understands that it is still government's aspiration to publish the finalised Working with Communities policy and launch the siting process before the end of the year. 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.**

NDA update

There have been a number of NDA news items recently:

The NDA has signed a cooperation agreement with Japan Atomic Energy Agency, which is Japan's nuclear research and development institute and is responsible for radioactive waste management and decommissioning. This will allow the two parties to share expertise and knowledge. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nda-signs-cooperation-arrangement-with-jaea>

Safety performance at Sellafield has been recognised with nine awards at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents annual awards. There were also awards for contractors working on the Sellafield site. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nuclear-companies-honoured-for-safety-at-sellafield>

More awards for NDA subsidiaries as their transport body, Direct Rail Services (DRS) gained four awards in one week. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/four-awards-in-one-week-for-direct-rail-services>

For those of you who have visited Sellafield, or live nearby, the Windscale Pile One chimney will be a familiar landmark on the skyline. But not for much longer, as work progresses on taking the chimney down one piece at a time. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/giant-crane-to-help-bring-historic-chimney-down>

There is still time to comment on the consultation on NDA radioactive waste management strategy. The consultation closes on 31st October 2018. NuLeAF has circulated a draft response amongst its members, and the finalised response will be posted on NuLeAF's website once submitted.

CoRWM

CoRWM (Committee on Radioactive Waste Management) is the advisory body to government on the management of higher activity waste. It has published its annual report for 2017-18 which looks at the work it has carried out in its role scrutinising the Geological Disposal Facility siting process and looks ahead to activities in the coming year. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management-corm-14th-annual-report-2017-to-2018>

Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for 2018 and 2019. 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 October, 2018	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	18 Smith Square, London
5 th December, 2018	Steering Group	12 Bloomsbury Square, London
30 th January 2019	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	18 Smith Square, London
20 th March 2019	Steering Group and AGM	Leaf, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester

Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work

Nuclear waste and legacy issues are major concerns for local authorities across the country. Critical issues include management 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 current and future 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/groups/). 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. Our Twitter account alerts members to 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
E: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk