

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 5 th December 2018
Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Discussion on membership of the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF) and the European local Network of Radioactive Waste Dialogue (ENWD).
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Purpose:	To update members on NuLeAF membership of GMF/ENWD and propose that we maintain membership for 2019/20.

Introduction:

At the September 2017 Steering Group meeting members agreed to the following:

1. Approve NuLeAF membership of the ENWD for the next year. The cost of this is c£1,000 and this single payment provides membership of the network for all NuLeAF member local authorities. NuLeAF has the funds within this years' financial settlement to make this payment.
2. Support continued discussions with ENWD, RWM, NDA and BEIS to determine whether there is scope for NuLeAF to play an enhanced role in the network in future years. Any proposal for an enhanced role will require that adequate funding is provided, in addition to that needed to fulfil NuLeAF's existing responsibilities. No decision on this will be taken without further discussion and approval by Steering Group.

This paper provides an update on NuLeAF's involvement with GMF/ENWD over the last year and proposes that we maintain our membership for the coming year.

Recommendation:

That NuLeAF renews our membership of the GMF in 2019/20. At the end of next year, members will again be consulted on whether they wish to continue to be part of the network.

Background information

More information on the GMF can be found on their website¹ and their Twitter feed @gmf_europe.

¹ <http://www.gmf-europe.org/>

1. The GMF

The Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF) is a Europe wide network of local authorities that host current or decommissioned nuclear sites.

Members include municipalities from Spain, Hungary, Sweden, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Russia has recently indicated that it will affiliate.

The GMF hosts the European local Network on radioactive Waste Dialogue (ENWD) which involves members who are currently or plan to develop a repository for radioactive waste.

The administration and secretariat functions for the GMF/ENWD are provided by AMAC, which is the Spanish equivalent to NuLeAF. The General Secretary of GMF is Mariano Vila D'abadal, who is also the Director of AMAC; and the President is Roland Palmquist, the former Mayor of Barseback in Sweden.

The GMF/ENWD organises a number of meetings and site visits every year and a range of other support to members. NuLeAF's membership fee entitles any NuLeAF member local authority to attend GMF meetings.

2. Review of membership

Over the last year NuLeAF's Chair and/or Executive Director have participated in a number of GMF meetings. These were:

- A meeting in Madrid to discuss Spanish decommissioning policy and the approach to community benefits and engagement with local government.
- A meeting in Belgium. This involved discussions with the European Commission and Parliament intended to strengthen contact between Europe and local government; and a site visit to Dessel to view the long-term research project on geological disposal in clay.
- A meeting as part of the NDA Stakeholder Summit in Berkeley, where NuLeAF was able to play host to European colleagues.
- A meeting held as part of the recent IAEA event in Vienna.

These have been productive. The key benefits of membership have been:

- Understanding the engagement and funding that councils in other nations receive. This will prove useful in arguing for enhanced support within the UK.
- Improved knowledge of decommissioning, waste storage and GDF processes in other countries.
- Building direct contacts with individual municipalities and thus opening up the scope for information exchanges or site visits. This presents opportunities for NuLeAF to support visits by individual UK authorities to communities that are further advanced in terms of GDF siting.

- Raising international awareness of decommissioning within the UK. Both BEIS and the NDA were supportive of the invitation to European colleagues to participate in the NDA Stakeholder Summit.

Looking forward, 2019 will be a year of change in the GMF. Both the General Secretary and President have indicated they will step down in the new year, and the network will meet to decide on how best to develop in future. NuLeAF has been asked to play a significant role in this process.

3. Conclusions and recommendation

In conclusion, membership to date has proved useful. There is scope to help shape the future direction of the network and to further build relationships with European colleagues. The ability, through membership, to support future exchanges between individual local authorities and to promote site visits for those communities entering the GDF siting process, could form part of future work if members are interested.

It is therefore proposed that NuLeAF renews GDF membership for 2019/20. The cost of this would again be around £1,000, with this being met from within NuLeAF's core budget. At the end of next year a further review will be undertaken, and members again consulted on whether they wish to maintain involvement in the network.