

Welcome to Issue 52 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

- Outcomes from NuLeAF Steering Group meeting 5th December 2018;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- NDA update;
- International engagement
- CoRWM update;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Outcomes from NuLeAF Steering Group, 5th December 2018

Transport: As highlighted in the last issue, 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. Following a request from NuLeAF, NDA has now provided further information on the development of its transport and logistics strategy: it is in early stages and NDA hopes to be able to engage with stakeholders in the first half of 2019.

Sellafield Ltd has developed a Transport and Movement Plan that covers the movement of people and goods, the provision of transport services as well as the movement of radioactive, non-radioactive and bulk material, plant and equipment. This was shared with both Copeland and Cumbria County Councils in August and their comments incorporated in October. Sellafield Ltd will continue to meet with the local Councils, Highways England and local stakeholders to monitor and review progress against specific targets, measures and outcomes and discuss the cumulative impact of the proposals with them. This plan will be reviewed annually and updated as plans develop.

NuLeAF will notify members when the opportunity to engage with NDA arises, but should any council have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Socio-economics: presentations¹ and discussions on nuclear decommissioning industry socio-economic impacts and opportunities were heard at the Steering Group meeting. Members raised concerns about the lack of a joined-up approach across government, making it difficult for communities and their representatives to identify opportunities. It was also felt that not enough recognition was given to identifying interim uses for sites in the Care & Maintenance phase, and that the stop-start approach to decommissioning was hugely costly and risked losing skills and knowledge which would be hard to regain. The UK Government needed to clarify its position on the decommissioning of the AGR fleet, which with the issues at Hunterston, may begin sooner than anticipated.

Members also raised the issue of community benefits for long term storage of radioactive waste and the need for a clear and consistent NDA approach. In response, NDA stressed

1 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/steering-group-papers-minutes/steering-group-papers-2018>

that their approach is based on providing an overall package to host communities. NuLeAF's Director will meet NDA in January to discuss this issue further.

NuLeAF will be producing a Briefing Paper on the socio-economic impacts of decommissioning in 2019 which will be available on the website.

Whilst addressing the topic of socio-economic skills, we have invited NDA to speak on skills at our next Steering Group being held in Manchester on the 20th March. May we also draw your attention to the updated **Strategic Skills Plan**² produced by the Nuclear Skills Strategy Group, and a **nuclear skills conference**³ taking place also in Manchester on 21st March.

Engagement with European municipalities: In 2017, the NuLeAF Steering Group agreed that the organisation should take out one year's trial membership of the Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF)⁴. Over the past year, NuLeAF's Chair and Executive Director have participated in a site visit to Dessel (the underground laboratory HADES⁵) and invited GMF members to join NuLeAF at the NDA Stakeholder Summit in Gloucestershire. They also attended the AGM in Vienna in the margins of the IAEA technical meeting (see below). Membership of the GMF has proved beneficial in increasing understanding of decommissioning and radioactive waste management in other countries and building relationships with overseas partners. NuLeAF members have therefore agreed to continue membership of the GMF for a further year.

All the papers for the Steering Group meeting can be found on the NuLeAF website⁶.

The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process

Political events have delayed the publication of the Working with Communities Policy. NuLeAF will alert members as soon as a date is announced and 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

NDA held a workshop on 28th November to seek stakeholder input to their thinking on the potential to move to **continuous decommissioning for Magnox reactors**. This would see a significant shift away from the current approach to decommissioning of a site being put into a period of Care & Maintenance for up to 80 years. NDA thinking is at an early stage, and NDA shared its views on the criteria by which each site would be considered. The change in approach is of significant interest to local authorities and the communities around nuclear licensed sites as it has the potential to impact on when sites will become available for alternate uses, and on the local workforce and businesses which support them. NuLeAF will continue to engage with NDA on this topic and highlight opportunities for further input to members.

2 <https://www.nssguk.com/resources/nssg-publications/>

3 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nuclear-skills-2019-conference-registration-50681104548>

4 <http://www.gmfeurope.org/home>

5 <https://www.sckcen.be/en/Research/Infrastructure/HADES>

6 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/steering-group-papers-minutes/steering-group-papers-2018>

NDA is currently consulting on its **Business Plan 2019-2022**⁷. NuLeAF will prepare a draft response which it will circulate amongst members for comment before submission. The closing date for the consultation is 4pm on 4th February 2019.

A major decommissioning milestone has been reached with **Bradwell A site** becoming the first site to go into the **Care and Maintenance** phase of decommissioning in the UK⁸. NDA has also produced a publication covering the 60-year history of the site⁹.

The reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel has ceased at the **Thorp reprocessing plant** at Sellafield, leaving only the Magnox Reprocessing Plant operational¹⁰. This is a major milestone in moving Sellafield to a site focussed solely on decommissioning and waste management.

International engagement

In November, NuLeAF members, Cllr David Moore of Copeland Borough Council, and Doug Bamsey of Sedgemoor District Council were invited to speak to an IAEA Technical Meeting – *Learning from the Experience of Local Communities of Stakeholder Involvement in Radioactive Waste Management Programmes*¹¹, held in Vienna. NuLeAF's Chair, Cllr Brendan Sweeney, and Executive Director Philip Matthews also attended. There were 95 delegates from 25 member states and 1 international organisation. IAEA recognise that radioactive waste management is a social as well as a technical problem and have welcomed the opportunity to understand the situation in a diverse range of countries. NuLeAF's Director has been invited to join a small advisory group taking this work forward, and a final report will be published in due course.

RWM produced an overview of international approach to GDF siting process in 2017¹² and you can find a synopsis of the approach taken to geological disposal in other countries on the NuLeAF website¹³.

CoRWM

CoRWM, the non-departmental advisory body to government on matters of higher activity radioactive waste has recently published a number of position papers on: Geological disposal of radioactive waste – safety requirements, Selecting a GDF site based on the best geology, Transport considerations for radioactive materials, and Support for disposal rather than indefinite storage. A further paper on retrievability is expected to be published shortly.

You can also read CoRWM's response to the NDA consultation on radioactive waste management strategy – all these papers are available on CoRWM's website¹⁴.

7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-business-plan-2019-to-2022>

8 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-first-for-the-nuclear-industry>

9 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bradwell-nuclear-site-celebrating-60-years-at-the-heart-of-the-community>

10 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-of-reprocessing-at-thorp-signals-new-era-for-sellafield>

11 <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/mayors-councilors-and-operators-discuss-hosting-radioactive-waste-sites>

12 <https://rwm.nda.gov.uk/publication/geological-disposal-overview-of-international-siting-processes-2017/>

13 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/our-work/siting-a-geological-disposal-facility/international-approaches-to-managing-high-level-wastes>

14 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=committee-on-radioactive-waste-management>

Seasonal greetings

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please note that the NuLeAF office will be closed from Monday 24th December 2018 to Wednesday January 2nd 2019.



Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for early 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
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

At the request of members, NuLeAF is currently reviewing its meeting timetable for 2019 and an updated version will be circulated early in 2019.

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, 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/company/nuleaf). 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
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