

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

**Minutes of the Steering Group held on 20th March 2019,
Leaf, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester**

Present:

Cllr Brendan Sweeney	Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr David Monk	Folkestone & Hythe District Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Eddy Newman	Manchester City Council (NFLA Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Moore	Copeland District Council
Cllr Michael Green	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Peter Downing	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Chris Morgan	West Somerset Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Sean Morris	Manchester City Council (morning session only)
Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Sion Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority
John Pitchford	Suffolk County Council
Paul Warmington	Suffolk County Council (afternoon session only)
John Burton	Taunton Deane District Council
Trefor Jones	Ynys Mon County Council
Philip Matthews	NuLeAF
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF

1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and round the table introductions were made.	
1.2	Apologies were received from:, Richard Griffin – Allerdale Borough Council, Cllr David Southward & Gillian Elliot – Cumbria County Council, Charlotte Rushmere & Mike Garrity – Dorset County Council, Tess Luetchford – Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Linda Townsend – Gloucestershire County Council, Nia Swann Boden – Gwynedd County Council, Nadine Daines – Maldon District Council, Peter Day – Oxfordshire County Council, Richard Conway – Purbeck District Council, Gillian Ellis-King – South Gloucestershire Council, Jon Beckett – Stroud District Council, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft & Lisa Chandler – Suffolk Coastal District Council, Cllr Carwyn Jones – Ynys Mon County Council.	
2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th DECEMBER 2018	
2.1	The date for the next meeting should be 20 th March 2019. Subject to this amendment the Minutes were approved as a true record and will be posted on the NuLeAF website.	CD

3	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	Item 4.3.10 – The Chair and Executive Director had met with Ann McCall of RWM to discuss the issue of business rates. The meeting had been positive, but no definite outcome had been reached. Further prompting on this topic would be required.	PM
3.2	A response had been received from Keith Duncan regarding the cost of a stop/start approach to decommissioning, and the lack of a funding figure against skills in the nuclear sector deal. This would be circulated.	CD
4	DISCUSSION ON NuLeAF POSITION ON SOCIO-ECONOMICS	
4.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The paper outlined proposals for developing a NuLeAF socio-economic position paper, setting out the main areas of interest for local authorities. The Steering Group was invited to express their views on whether the paper: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set out the context and key issues clearly; 2. Identified each of the elements of the overall socio-economic package that NDA should deliver; and 3. Focus on the correct areas within each element, or whether there should be other issues NuLeAF should press NDA on. 	
4.2	The meeting felt that generally the NDA was not delivering on its socio-economic commitments. There was little understanding in local authorities of the impacts of its socio-economic spend and what the specific outcomes are. There is no clarity on the strategy or criteria for awarding funding, and no opportunity to help shape the strategy locally.	
4.3	The meeting expressed frustration at the difficulty in communicating with NDA, either directly or through Magnox.	
4.4	Copeland Borough Council has written to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee giving support to some of its concerns and asking for more pressure to be put on NDA to deliver on its socio-economic commitments.	
4.5	The level of community benefit from decommissioning was felt to be small in comparison with other energy projects. An example was given of a wind farm project which pays community benefits of £600,000 per annum for 25 years to an area covering North Lancashire and South West Cumbria.	
4.6	It was felt that a list of what NDA has achieved through its socio-economic programme would help local authorities understand the situation better. It was agreed that NuLeAF would circulate further information on the outcomes of the NDA's socio-economic work to members and also raise the issue of reporting with the NDA.	PM
4.7	Comment was made that NDA/Magnox did not have the systems in place which provide the data to measure the impact of their work in the same way that EDF does. NDA/Magnox does not understand the local issues and the local impacts of their work.	

4.8	The Chair advised the meeting that UK Government was currently undertaking a consultation on social value. Whilst a response from NuLeAF may not be appropriate, individual authorities may wish to submit a response. NuLeAF will circulate a link.	CD
4.9	The Executive Director advised the meeting that NuLeAF is in discussions with NDA on a bespoke engagement event on this topic, and is also interested in preparing case studies on good, or poor, practice in nuclear decommissioning and other comparable areas.	
4.10	It was suggested that a table comparing the rates of community benefit from different types of energy production should be produced. Also, there needs to be work done to show what rates of community benefit are paid internationally for nuclear decommissioning and storage sites. It was suggested that the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF) may be an appropriate forum for some further research in this field.	PM
4.11	The meeting would like further information to be published on how NDA spends the 1% of its total annual budget on socio-economics, and if it is not spent, what happens to the unspent funds? It was agreed to write to NDA on this issue.	PM
4.12	It was suggested that NuLeAF should look at work being undertaken by the Scottish Government on a 'just transition' from fossil fuels. This was an interesting example and also relevant to the NDA given that it operates both north and south of the border.	
4.13	It was suggested that NuLeAF should push NDA and Magnox to engage with communities on lifetime plans, and the proposed paper could reflect this.	
4.14	PM will produce a revised paper which will come back to the Steering Group for approval.	PM
5	UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY (GDF) SITING PROCESS	
5.1	A report was circulated prior to the meeting which covered: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft NuLeAF Policy Statement on Geological Disposal for consideration; 2. GDF siting process; 3. Update on activities by RWM; 4. Update on GMF; and 5. Update on CoRWM. 	
5.2	The meeting discussed the proposed revision of Policy Statement 3 on the Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Waste, which had been drawn up following the publication of the new Working with Communities Policy. The original Policy Statement had been written and agreed in 2007, and it was timely for a review.	

- 5.2.1 Because of the broad spectrum of views held by NuLeAF member authorities, it was suggested that the last paragraph of section 10 of the draft should be strengthened to reflect this.
- 5.2.2 It was felt that the wording of bullet point 4 of section 10 should be amended as local authorities may be drawn into the siting process as a result of community actions rather than instigate engagement.
- 5.2.3 Concerns were raised that the first bullet point contradicted the last. It was acknowledged that it was difficult to find the correct wording which expressed the range of views held by NuLeAF members, whilst also setting out NuLeAF's underlying position.
- 5.2.4 It was felt that there should be more emphasis on the impact of transport both for the host community and those which are currently hosting the wastes prior to disposal, and those on the transport route to the final repository.
- 5.2.5 It was suggested that NuLeAF should wait until CoRWM published its response to the Site Evaluation consultation before finalising the Policy Statement in order that, if appropriate, this may be reflected in the final document.
- 5.2.6 Concerns were raised that the paper was predominated by statements from CoRWM. CoRWM is a government advisory body, but there are other views on this topic. It was suggested that the paper should be more reflective of the views of NuLeAF.
- 5.2.7 Recommendation 5 of CoRWM's 2006 recommendations had included possibility that other solutions may arise and this should be kept under review. This aspect should be highlighted in the Policy Statement.
- 5.2.8 Bullet point 5 should also reflect the desire of those communities currently hosting HAW to be involved in the GDF siting process as they will be affected by its success or failure. It should also recognise the indefinite storage period for ILW.
- 5.2.9 The Executive Director will redraft the Policy Statement to incorporate the comments above. An updated Briefing Paper on Geological Disposal will also be prepared.
- 5.3 The Chair noted that BEIS were keen for NuLeAF to maintain its international engagement. GMF was reviewing its format and activities, and whilst it was good that NuLeAF was involved, resources limit its capacity to take on a larger role. It was agreed that should NuLeAF be approached to either take on a more significant role within GMF, the Steering Group would need to give its approval.

6	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
6.1	A report was circulated prior to the meeting which covered: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feedback from NDA Theme Overview Group (TOGs) and associated meetings; 2. Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP); 3. Update on activities at BEIS; 4. Update on activities at NDA; 5. BEAM; and 6. Update on activities at the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR). 	
6.2	MoD creates more radioactive waste than just through the dismantling of submarines, and concerns were raised over the poor track record of MoD in engaging with communities, though it was acknowledged that the engagement process carried out earlier for the SDP had been good. The meeting was surprised that given the amount of time, effort and money put into the original SDP that MoD should now feel it necessary to review the process. It was felt that NuLeAF should pressure MoD into improving their engagement. NuLeAF would also contact Plymouth City Council for their views on the situation.	PM
7	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
7.1	The next meeting will be held at 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ on 12 th June 2019, 11.00 – 3.00. This will include an EGM for the purposes of electing NuLeAF officers and reviewing the audited accounts for FY2018-19.	
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
8.1	The Chair commented that he felt it was necessary to keep the pressure on government/EDF regarding the decommissioning of the AGR fleet. This should, perhaps, be the subject of a dedicated meeting in the coming year.	
9	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR SKILLS AND REVIEW OF NDA SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY, JACQ LONGRIGG, HEAD OF SKILLS AND TALENT, NDA	
9.1	The Chair welcomed Jacq Longrigg (JL) to the meeting.	
9.2	JL introduced herself, giving an overview of her role and background.	
9.3	Key points from JL's presentation are:	
9.3.1	NDA is creating a new People and Places socio-economic strategy. The focus is now on the NDA Group, driving collaboration, simplification and standardisation across the NDA estate. NDA is looking to improve value for money and to increase the benefit to communities. The new strategy will be finalised by January 2020.	

9.3.2	<p>The new socio-economic strategy has three elements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NDA is committed to a small set of corporate targets which will drive behaviours across the group and increase the impact of NDA spend. 2. A series of funded programmes to help NDA achieve the targets. These will mostly be adaptations of existing programmes. 3. Clear and meaningful links to relevant central and local government strategies will be developed.
9.3.3	<p>A document for consultation will be produced in September 2019 and there will be associated stakeholder engagement. NDA would like local authorities to feed in to the consultation through NuLeAF. There will be robust consultation engagement at both a national and local level.</p>
9.3.4	<p>The focus of NDA's skills strategy is shifting away from employees to focus on the wider community.</p>
9.3.5	<p>NDA People Strategy, this will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moving from industrial relations to employee relations, • pension reform, • equality diversity and inclusion, • skills, mobility and transferability, • early careers, capability and capacity.
9.3.6	<p>The NDA people strategy is group wide, and NDA has a People Strategy Board and all the group organisations are required to attend meetings. Functional targets are set for the group.</p>
9.3.7	<p>Equality, diversity and inclusion: this area is led by Anne Jenkins and will cover sector deal targets.</p>
9.3.8	<p>NDA and Sellafield have launched the Northwest Nuclear Community Apprenticeship scheme. It focuses on the supply chain as well as the nuclear industry. The first 8 apprentices have just joined the scheme. NDA would like to share the outcomes from the scheme with local authorities, and would like to spread the scheme wider, subject to funding.</p>
9.3.9	<p>Excellent work on dealing with bullying and harassment at work, and mental health issues has been done at Dounreay. Part of the ED&I work</p>
9.3.10	<p>JL recognised that NDA needs to think about skills and socio-economics in the longer term, and not just in the three-year funding cycle. This is reflected in the revised strategy and the work being undertaken looking at the short, medium and long term needs of the group</p>
9.3.11	<p>JL is working with EDF, AWE and other employers in the nuclear industry to share and collaborate on workforce requirements and skills. This falls within the mobility and transferability section of the strategy. At present there are examples of issues with the transferability of skills and qualifications and this needs to be addressed. A skills audit has been carried out across the NDA group.</p>

9.3.12	<p>Early careers addresses exciting the next generation of potential employees into engaging with the industry. NDA is looking at digital materials and tools which will support equality of opportunity for schools and students. NDA currently engages at university level, but engagement with FE and HE needs to be developed.</p> <p>Comments from the meeting included:</p>	
9.4	<p>The Chair asked if NDA were engaged with the consultation by central government on social value. JL confirmed that that they were.</p>	
9.4.1	<p>Concerns were expressed that while the proposals sounded good, there was a lack of evidence about how it will be delivered locally. Was there engagement with LEPs? JL responded that there were now greater levels of scrutiny and greater requirement for the socio-economic strategy to fit in with local plans but also greater levels of work on a local level with LEPs. She felt that there would be the right for local communities to challenge what NDA was doing. JL would be working with the new Stakeholder Relations Manager to support the Nuclear Sector Skills Group more locally focused and would welcome the opportunity to come and speak to local authorities in their area.</p>	
9.4.2	<p>The Chair was keen that NDA should consider ways in which it could assist Cared for Children into jobs. JL recognised that NDA had a track record of taking on the brightest students for junior roles because they were committed to the long game. However, she recognised that this was an area they needed to address, and the ED&I strategy would support this.</p>	
9.4.3	<p>In response to a question, JL confirmed that NDA were looking beyond the NDA group to also consider the needs of the supply chain.</p>	
9.4.4	<p>The point was made that the difficulty with the recognition of skills and qualifications does not only apply to jobs within the nuclear industry, but also between different energy sectors. The skills required can be the same, but sectors do not recognise each other's qualifications.</p>	
9.4.5	<p>Concerns were raised that whereas once Magnox had invested in skills locally, that was no longer the case. JL thought that this would change once Magnox transferred back to NDA.</p>	
9.5	<p>JL suggested that local authorities could bring examples of issues to the NDA Stakeholder Summit in July.</p>	PM
9.6	<p>The Chair suggested that RWM should use the examples given by JL as part of their engagement at the LGA Conference.</p>	
9.7	<p>The Chair thanked JL for her presentation and the meeting closed at 14.55.</p>	

ACTION LIST

20th March 2019			
2.1	Amend minutes and post on website	CD	Done 21 st March.
3.1	Seek further response from RWM regarding business rates	PM	This issue will be raised with RWM in ongoing discussions on socio-economics.
3.2	Circulate response from Keith Duncan, BEIS	CD	Done 21 st March
4.6	Write to NDA regarding reporting on socio-economic activity	PM	Letter sent 22 nd May. Awaiting response.
4.8	Circulate link to consultation on social value	CD	Done 24 th March
4.10	Liaise with GMF re international comparison of community benefits	PM	Ongoing
4.11	Write to NDA regarding unspent socio-economic funds	PM	Letter sent 22 nd May. Awaiting response
4.14	Prepare revised paper on socio-economics and take to June SG	PM	Done
6.2	Write to MoD regarding engagement with local communities	PM	It has now been indicated that, following pressure from NuLeAF and others, there will be no revision of plans for the SDP.
9.5	Take examples of socio-economic issues to NDA Stakeholder Summit	PM	Noted. Will raise issues at the Summit.
12th September, 2018			
9.10	Provide feedback to NDA/NuLeAF on what topics local authorities wish to see covered in combined outcomes report.	All	Awaiting clarification from NDA and will then consult members.
6th June, 2018			
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	Will be included in GDF Briefing paper – in preparation.
4.2.6	Produce paper on impact of not finding host community for GDF	PM	Will be included in GDF Briefing Paper – in preparation
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	Will be included in GDF Briefing Paper – in preparation
9.13	Raise issue of need for Magnox to communicate with sites receiving Magnox waste.	PM	To be done.