

E-BULLETIN

June 2019, Issue 54



Welcome to Issue 54 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

- Election of NuLeAF Chair and Vice-Chairs;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- NDA Socio-economic Strategy and nuclear skills;
- Update on Submarine Dismantling Project;
- The BEAM project: social and nuclear research network;
- Other news;
- International engagement;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

New Chair and Vice-Chair for NuLeAF

At the EGM held on 12th June, Cllr Matthew Riddle of South Gloucestershire Council was elected unopposed to the position of Chair of NuLeAF, and Cllr David Moore of Copeland Borough Council as Vice-Chair. Cllr Eddy Newman of Manchester City Council will serve a second term as Vice-Chair (NFLA). NuLeAF wishes to thank former Cllr Brendan Sweeney and Cllr David Monk for their contributions over the past three years as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process

NuLeAF has published a revised Policy Statement on Geological Disposal¹. The Policy Statement reflects the range of views held by NuLeAF members and aims to guide future engagement on geological disposal of higher activity wastes at a national and local level. It also addresses the associated areas of long-term storage and near-surface disposal.

In conjunction with the updated Policy Statement, NuLeAF has also published Briefing Paper 19² which is intended to help members understand the views of CoRWM on the various aspects of geological disposal. A further Briefing Paper explaining the final policies for England and Wales will be published in the coming months.

Those of you attending the Local Government Association Conference in Bournemouth on 2nd – 4th July may wish to visit the RWM stand (P60). If you haven't already experienced the 3D fly through of the proposed geological disposal facility, do pop along to see them. NuLeAF's Executive Director, Phil Matthews, will also be on hand.

Today, 27th June, has seen the publication of two reports: the 8th annual report³ charting the progress that's been made in the Geological Disposal Programme between April 2017 and April 2019, and a report from 3KQ⁴, who provided independent facilitation for the consultation workshops held in 2018. These workshops were set up to help attending stakeholders build well informed submissions on the consultations. If you have any queries on the reports please contact GDFprogramme@beis.gov.uk

1 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PS3-Geological-Disposal-final.pdf>

2 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/BP19-final.pdf>

3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-geological-disposal-progress-report-april-2017-to-april-2019>

4 <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-with-communities-implementing-geological-disposal>

Any local authority wishing to have informal discussions or seeking further information on the Geological Disposal Facility siting process should contact the Executive Director, Philip Matthews on 07949 209126 or philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk.

NDA Socio-economic strategy and nuclear skills

NuLeAF has been assisting NDA in the development of their socio-economic strategy by organising a series of meetings between NDA and NuLeAF member authorities. Feedback from participants has been positive, and NDA is keen to keep the dialogue going as they prepare the draft strategy. Anyone wishing to discuss this important topic and the socio-economic impact of NDA's spend on their communities should contact Andy Harper andrew.harper@nda.gov.uk. Two further meetings are being organised to discuss skills: London on 25th July and in Cumbria on a date to be arranged. Please note these meetings will duplicate the presentation and discussion which will be given as part of the NDA Stakeholder Summit. Members wishing to participate in the meetings in London and Cumbria should contact catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk

NuLeAF presented a Socio-economic position paper to the June 2019 Steering Group meeting. The paper is intended to help inform NuLeAF and local authority engagement with NDA on their socio-economic strategy. Members were supportive of the paper, which will be finalised shortly once some final comments have been incorporated.

Submarine Dismantling Project

Following on from the item in E-bulletin 53⁵ we can now provide an update on this issue. NuLeAF had been concerned by information that MoD was considering reviewing the outcomes of its project⁶ to find a solution for the management of radioactive waste from the decommissioning of the UK's out of service nuclear powered submarines. However, it now appears that there has been a change of heart and MoD has stated that there will be no change and that all Intermediate Level Waste is destined for Capenhurst as originally planned.

The Public Accounts Committee has published its report⁷ on the progress, or perhaps more accurately, lack of progress being made on the project. One of the recommendations the Committee makes is that the MoD should work with BEIS and HM Treasury in order to gain access to the ring-fenced funds for civil nuclear decommissioning, and Plymouth MP, Luke Pollard, is asking for responsibility for decommissioning the submarines to be transferred to NDA. NuLeAF will continue to monitor progress with the SDP and raise local government concerns.

BEAM: social and nuclear research network

Professor Richard Taylor of the University of Manchester spoke to NuLeAF Steering Group at its meeting on 12th June about the work of BEAM⁸. The project "brings together the nuclear sciences and social research to investigate interactions within the nuclear industry and how it engages and integrates with the communities that surround it." Current areas of work

5 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Ebulletin-March-2019.pdf>

6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/submarine-dismantling-project>

7 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmpubacc/2041/204102.htm>

8 <http://www.mub.eps.manchester.ac.uk/thebeam/>

include 'Community, vulnerability and well-being in Trawsfynydd'⁹ and 'Adoption of novel technologies for nuclear decommissioning'¹⁰. Professor Taylor would welcome the opportunity to speak to local authority representatives about the impact of nuclear decommissioning being undertaken in their area and has given us permission to publish his email address: richard.taylor-4@manchester.ac.uk

International engagement

NuLeAF's Executive Director was invited by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to act as one of two external advisers for a major report they are preparing on key lessons in local engagement on radioactive waste management and geological disposal. The report draws on the learning from two large gatherings the Agency hosted in 2017 and 2018. There were around 90 people from across the world at the last gathering, including NuLeAF's Chair and Director along with representatives of Copeland and Sedgemoor local authorities.

The Director spent four days in Vienna in June as part of a small team tasked with finalising the report, which is expected to be published in 2021. IAEA funded his participation and have indicated that there may be further scope for engagement of NuLeAF and local authorities in future.

The Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF) hosted a site visit to the Bure underground research facility in France on the 12th June. The site has been developed to inform France's plans for a geological disposal facility (GDF) for the nation's radioactive waste. The visit coincided with a NuLeAF Steering Group, but Cllr David Wimble of Folkestone and Hythe District Council was able to attend. GMF is planning a further site visit to the Olkiluoto GDF facility in Finland in October 2019, and NuLeAF will circulate details of this trip when available.

And in other news...

Sky Atlantic's mini-series – Chernobyl – has generated a lot of interest in that terrible event. Dr Claire Corkhill of Sheffield University has written about the science and the human aspects of the clean-up of the world's worst nuclear disaster¹¹.

The Low Level Waste Repository has published the latest edition of its newsletter¹² – On the Level. The newsletter focuses on the conclusion of the legacy plutonium contaminated materials programme.

Magnox¹³, Sellafield¹⁴ and LLWR¹⁵ have all published Joint Waste Management Plans. These documents "identify projects and activities to support the embedding and implementation of the Strategy and good practice within these organisations ... [and] also provide a 5-year forecast of waste arisings.

9 <http://www.mub.eps.manchester.ac.uk/thebeam/2019/01/29/community-vulnerability-and-wellbeing-in-trawsfynydd/>

10 <http://www.mub.eps.manchester.ac.uk/thebeam/2018/01/10/adoption-of-novel-technologies-for-nuclear-decommissioning/>

11 <https://nda.blog.gov.uk/2019/06/07/chernobyl-drama-sparks-huge-interest-in-nuclear-so-lets-talk-about-it/>

12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/on-the-level-issue-20-june-2019>

13 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/magnox-joint-waste-management-plan>

14 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sellafield-ltd-joint-waste-management-plan>

15 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/low-level-waste-repository-joint-waste-management-plan>

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
9 th July	Members meeting with David Peattie and Ann McCall at NDA Stakeholder Summit	Coleg Menai, Llangefni
3 rd September 2019	Steering Group	Leaf, 113 Portland Street, Manchester
24 th October 2019	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	18 Smith Square, London
11 th December 2019	Steering Group	Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 12 Bloomsbury Square, London

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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