

# E-BULLETIN

March 2020, Issue 57

Welcome to Issue 57 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

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## Impact of COVID-19 on NuLeAF meetings and work

Given the current situation, and in line with Government advice, NuLeAF has taken the decision to cancel all face-to-face NuLeAF meetings for the foreseeable future. We are exploring the potential to hold our Steering Group and RWPG meetings using video-conferencing, and we will be in touch to consult you on your views on this and which communication tools you have access to in due course.

We will continue to provide news and updates using our website, email and social media; and would encourage all members to contact us by phone or email if there is anything we can help with or advise on.

In the meantime, best wishes to everyone at the challenging time.

## Outcomes of NuLeAF Annual General Meeting

NuLeAF held its AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> March at the Central Library, Manchester. Cllr Matthew Riddle (South Gloucestershire Council) was re-elected as Chair, and Cllr Eddy Newman (Manchester City Council) and Cllr David Moore (Copeland Borough Council) were re-elected as Vice-Chairs. All candidates were unopposed.

The meeting considered a report on NuLeAF's membership of the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities, a collective of European local authorities with which NuLeAF has been involved for the past few years. Engagement with our counterparts on the continent has provided us with valuable insight into good practice in socio-economics, engagement and planning. It also provides links to aid the development of visits and exchanges, to enable UK local authorities to learn from and share information with others that host a decommissioning site or a potential GDF. The leadership of the group has recently been refreshed, and NuLeAF's Executive Director was elected to its board. The AGM agreed that NuLeAF should maintain its membership for 2020.

The AGM discussed the involvement of NuLeAF member authorities which currently do not provide financial support to the organisation, but who attend meetings and who benefit from advice provided by the secretariat. It was agreed that the Chair would write to these authorities asking that they consider moving to contributing membership. NuLeAF's contributing rates have not increased since 2009 and represent good value for money.

You can find all the reports presented to the AGM including the Annual Report and Finance Report in the document library on our website ([www.nuleaf.org.uk](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk)).

## Updating Site End States

NDA and the Site Licence Companies (SLCs) are undertaking a review of site-end states, which includes looking at the options for potential early release of land for other uses or interim uses of the site prior to final decommissioning. Work on site-end states was undertaken in 2006-7, but this has only provided NDA and the SLCs with some of the information they need. In the coming months NDA is looking to engage with local authorities around the sites to consider the potential for alternative land uses and NuLeAF will be working with them to set up a meeting for our members to feed in to this discussion. In the meantime, if there are any projects you are aware of which could benefit from access to land currently in NDA ownership, please contact Tony Smithers ([tony.smithers@nda.gov.uk](mailto:tony.smithers@nda.gov.uk), 01925 802646) for an initial discussion.

## Transport of Radioactive Materials

At the Steering Group meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March, NuLeAF members heard presentations on the transportation of radioactive materials from Phil Edge of NDA and Gavin Smith of ONR. The presentations can be found in the document library on our website here <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/steering-group-papers-minutes/steering-group-papers-2020>. Members heard that NDA has recently taken the decision to amalgamate its transport and logistic businesses: Direct Rail Services (DRS), International Nuclear Services and Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd (PNT). In addition to transporting radioactive materials around the UK, it uses its locomotives for commercial purposes.

ONR regulates the transport of radioactive materials, working to the standards set out in IAEA regulations. ONR does not direct consignors to use one method of transport over another, rather it is the responsibility of the waste consignor to demonstrate that the chosen method is appropriate and safe.

## NDA Accommodation Strategy

Tony Smithers of NDA gave an update on the development of NDA Accommodation Strategy which has now been passed by the NDA Board. The NuLeAF Steering Group heard that at present, NDA needs to build 107 new facilities to support decommissioning. In order to avoid increasing the footprint of sites, NDA is looking at moving non-essential functions off site to free space for decommissioning purposes. This will be a culture change for the industry as people move off sites into the surrounding area. In addition, NDA is looking at freeing up land for other purposes and would welcome discussions with local authorities about any projects they feel would fit this category. Please contact Tony Smithers – details above.

## Development of NDA Strategy 4 (2021-2026)

Kelly Anderson and Jacq Longrigg delivered presentations to the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting on the Public & Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) and People Strategy sections of the updated NDA Strategy which is currently in development. Their presentations are posted on NuLeAF's website. NuLeAF will be circulating the draft PSE Strategy to members shortly for their comments.

The People Strategy which will be supported by an HR Strategy comprises three themes:

- Right people, right place, right time;
- Creating a culture in which NDA staff can thrive; and
- How NDA works with stakeholders.

This Strategy has been developed in tandem with the Local Economic and Social Impact Strategy. NDA would welcome comment from local authorities on what they would like to see in the People Strategy ([jacqueline.longrigg@nda.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.longrigg@nda.gov.uk)).

## Other NDA Updates

NDA has published a mid-year Performance Report setting out the status of Group Key Targets and Business Plan Activities as at September 2019. You can find the report on their website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-mid-year-performance-report-2018-to-2019>.

The consultation on Local Economic and Social Impact Strategy has now closed. You can find NuLeAF's response to the consultation on our website. Thank you to all those local authorities who contributed to the response.

## The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process

Karen Wheeler CBE has now taken up her appointment as CEO of RWM Ltd, ahead of the retirement of Bruce McKirdy at the end of this month. NuLeAF's Chair and Executive Director have already met with Ms Wheeler and given her an overview of NuLeAF's work and previous engagement with RWM. We wish her well in her new job and look forward to continuing to support local authorities who wish to engage in the GDF siting process.

**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](mailto:philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk).**

## Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

We are moving the meeting of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group online and will publicise timings and further details in due course. The meeting will include a session with BEIS on the final guidance for on-site disposal of radioactive waste. Officers from NuLeAF member authorities wishing to participate should contact [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk).

## Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for the first half of 2020. 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
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Online, 10.00 – 13.00
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Steering Group	Tba
29 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Tba

Members wishing to attend any of the above meetings should contact the secretariat at [catherine.draper@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@suffolk.gov.uk)

## 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](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk)  
*E*: [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk)