

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	<p>Cllr Riddle welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through protocols for running the meeting online. Cllr Aled Morris Jones gave a brief overview of his role as Chair of SSG Chairs Forum.</p> <p>Apologies were received from: Cllr Marion Fitzgerald & Richard Griffin – Allerdale Borough Council, Linda Townsend – Gloucestershire County Council, Cllr Sean Chaytor – Hull City Council, Cllr David Blackburn – Leeds City Council, Kevin Broughton – Oxfordshire County Council, Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Jon Beckett – Stroud District Council.</p>	
2.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2020	
2.1	The Minutes were approved as a true record and will be posted on the NuLeAF website.	CD
3.	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	All other matters arising had been addressed or were in hand. Comments were noted on the action list at the end of the Minutes.	
4.	UPDATE ON MAGNOX WORK PROGRAMME, BILL HAMILTON, MAGNOX	
4.1	The Chair welcomed Bill Hamilton (BH) to the meeting.	
4.2	BH gave a presentation on activities at Magnox over the last year, and future work. Key points were:	
4.2.1	Magnox became a subsidiary of NDA just over a year ago.	
4.2.2	Work was paused during local down, and because of the Covid-19 pandemic, not all targets will be met. However, Magnox was able to keep all its staff employed: none were furloughed or laid off.	
4.2.3	Project and finance teams are currently working to update site Life Time Plans (LTPs).	
4.2.4	Safety is still Magnox’s overriding priority. There was no increase in incidents either following the transition to subsidiary or during the pandemic.	
4.2.5	Magnox is working to make its workplace culture supportive of all. It is recruiting a shadow board to give a strategic voice to its diverse workforce.	

4.2.6	Trawsfynydd has been selected as the lead site for accelerated reactor decommissioning. The new decommissioning strategy for the 10 Magnox sites is moving away from blanket Care & Maintenance for all sites to a more bespoke approach with site-specific decommissioning strategies.
4.2.7	Nigel Houlton has been appointed as Future Missions Director and announcements will be made in the next 6 – 12 months about new missions for Magnox.
4.2.8	Magnox is developing the overarching business case to submit to government to support the bid for funding to accelerate reactor decommissioning. The aim is to submit this in spring 2021 and stakeholder engagement will follow in late spring and summer.
4.2.9	Magnox is looking at clustering the decommissioning of reactors on a regional basis. This will enable skills learnt from the decommissioning of one site to be taken to another.
4.2.10	Magnox held a virtual supply chain event to highlight opportunities. Over 300 companies attended. Magnox is looking to encourage participation by smaller companies and also those who have not previously engaged in the nuclear industry.
4.2.11	Magnox released £300,000 of emergency funding to help support local authorities in their work with the local community during the Covid-19 pandemic. £25,000 was made available to each authority around a Magnox site. The majority of funding was used to provide support to foodbanks and for PPE equipment.
	Members of the Steering Group thanked BH for the support they had received, which had been much appreciated.
4.3	The meeting opened up to questions
4.3.1	<p><i>Q: Will Magnox undertake the accelerated reactor decommissioning projects itself, or will it contract out. Duplication of roles and responsibilities needs to be avoided.</i></p> <p>A: We are at an early stage of engagement with the supply chain and decisions have not yet been made. There is still work to be done at Trawsfynydd before we start on site clearance work and this gives us time to work out what the best commercial structure will be.</p>
4.3.2	<p><i>Q: When you gave an update to the meeting in December in 2019, 'Back to Bioshield' was predominant, but it's not a term I've heard much used since.</i></p> <p>A: This remains one option for site decommissioning.</p>
4.3.3	<p><i>Q: What has happened to the SSG Stakeholder Charter? NDA say this is for Magnox to take forward.</i></p>

	A: I will discuss this with John McNamara.	BH
4.3.4	<p><i>Q: Would you accelerate more than one site if you received a funding settlement which enabled you to do so?</i></p> <p>A: We have decided that Trawsfynydd is the lead site and there are no plans to accelerate any other site.</p>	
4.3.5	<p><i>Q: Nuleaf had a positive conversation with Frank Wigley at NDA about the need for NDA/Magnox to work more closely with planning authorities At that meeting it was noted that Nuleaf and planners require adequate resources to support the Magnox/NDA mission.</i></p> <p>A: Magnox recognises that planning applications will need to be submitted to support decommissioning at Trawsfynydd and that we will need to engage with the local authority and community.</p>	
4.3.6	<p><i>Q: The bulk of larger funding awards seem to go to certain areas. We understand that NDA is looking at a partnership approach across the NDA estate. Do you seek out funding opportunities or wait for them to come to you?</i></p> <p>A: At present projects tend to come to us, but we are looking at reaching out. We will be working more closely with NDA, and where Magnox does not have the funding available to support a project we are working to release funds from the NDA.</p>	
4.3.7	<p><i>Q: Will the business case for funding to support the accelerated decommissioning programme include a sequence of sites, and will there be an opportunity for engagement before the business case is submitted?</i></p> <p>A: There is an indication of timescales and sequencing in my presentation, but this is indicative as the project is live and things may change due to a change in circumstances. Stakeholder engagement will take place after the business case has been approved by government.</p>	
4.3.8	<p><i>Q: Will you be working to identify the skills which will be needed to support decommissioning over the next 5, 10 or 15 years?</i></p> <p>A: NDA and Magnox are working together to carry out a skills audit.</p>	
4.3.9	<p><i>Q: What criteria will be used to ascertain the order sites will be decommissioned within a region?</i></p> <p>A: A series of criteria were set out and discussed at a workshop we held in November 2018. These same criteria will be used to order the decommissioning of sites in a region.</p>	
4.3.10	<p><i>Q: You have the opportunity to help communities, both locally and at a wider level, recover economically from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Are you able to say to government 'give us the money' and we can help keep unemployment down by accelerating work?</i></p>	

4.4	<p>A: There is a strong reason for funding us as we can play a positive role in helping rebuild the UK economy, especially in deprived areas. Doing nothing to our sites is actually very expensive because of the condition which they are in. Therefore, it is sensible to use that money to accelerate decommissioning.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Bill Hamilton for his presentation and looked forward to future opportunities to engage with Magnox.</p>	
5.	GMF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	
5.1	The Executive Director highlighted the engagement Nuleaf had undertaken with the GMF group, and the benefits membership of the group gave Nuleaf, particularly in reference to engagement with GDF siting processes internationally.	
5.2	The Steering Group agreed that Nuleaf should continue its membership for a further year.	
6.	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
6.1	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDA meeting reports; • NDA update; • Strategy 4 update; • BEIS Update; • Magnox Update; • ONR Update; • Planning news; and • Nuleaf materials and website refresh. 	
6.2	A question was raised regarding whether there had been any further engagement by Rolls Royce with local authorities regarding their SMR programme. Nuleaf will contact Rolls Royce for an update.	CD
6.3	Members expressed their concern about the lack of planning expertise within One NDA. While the conversation with Frank Wigley at NDA had been encouraging there was still a long way to go.	
6.4	The meeting welcomed the appointment of Hazel Blears, but felt that her 12 month contract might not be sufficient to gather all the information required and prepare her report. It was hoped that she would be awarded a contract extension to ensure the job was completed fully.	

7.	UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS	
7.1	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Siting Process; • RWM Update; • CoRWM update; and • International Update. 	
7.2	<p>Cllr Moore (Copeland Borough Council) clarified that the Copeland Working Group had written to Cumbria County Council inviting them to join, but as yet no response had been received.</p>	
7.3	<p>Simon Napper (RWM) gave a brief update on RWM activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RWM is in discussions with Allerdale and other interested parties around the country and they are hopeful that other Working Groups will form in the new year, though some may not start until after local elections on May 6th. • The initial evaluation reports were produced at the request of the Copeland Working Group, and are at a very high level. It is then the role of the Working Group to decide if, based on that information, there is a potential search area. • The regulators have asked RWM to demonstrate that they will be able to cap the exploratory boreholes. Starting in January 2021 RWM will be undertaking a practical demonstration that they can close a borehole in each of the three rock types which are suitable for locating a Geological Disposal Facility. 	
8.	NULEAF SERVICE PLAN 2020-21	
8.1	<p>An abbreviated version of the Service Plan 2020-21 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Executive Director asked if there were any comments or questions. There being none, the Chair asked for a show of hands to indicate acceptance of the proposed Service Plan. The Service Plan was unanimously accepted and a copy of the full Service Plan will be posted on the Nuleaf website.</p>	CD
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	<p>The next meeting will be held on 10th March 2021. Nuleaf secretariat will advise members of the format of the meeting as soon as practicable.</p>	

10.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10.1	Nuleaf had for some time been trying to set up a meeting with BEIS, EDF and NDA to discuss the decommissioning of the AGR power stations. However, this was constantly being postponed as the UK Government announcement regarding who will undertake the decommissioning has yet to be made. Given that EDF is already engaging with local authorities such as Somerset West & Taunton Council on decommissioning matters, the Executive Director asked members if they would like Nuleaf to arrange a meeting with EDF, even in the absence of a policy decision.	
10.2	Following supportive comments from members, the Steering Group agreed that this would be beneficial and asked that the secretariat make the necessary arrangements.	PM/CD
10.3	Nuleaf had been contacted by UKAEA regarding its search for a site for a new fusion reactor. A member authority who had also been approached contacted Nuleaf as they felt that it would be valuable to members to meet with UKAEA. It was understood that the opportunity to nominate sites was open until March 2021.	
10.4	The Steering Group agreed that it would be useful to hear directly from UKAEA and asked the secretariat to set up an online meeting.	PM/CD
	The meeting closed at 12.42	

ACTION LIST

<i>9th December 2020</i>			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
2.1	Post minutes of September meeting on website	CD	Done
4	Circulate slides from Bill Hamilton's presentation	CD	Done
4.3.3	Contact John McNamara re SSG Charter	BH	
6.2	Get update from Rolls Royce on their engagement programme	CD	Rolls Royce are attending the SG meeting on 10 th March
8.1	Post Service Plan on website	CD	Done
10.2	Arrange meeting with EDF to discuss their proposals for decommissioning the AGR fleet.	PM/CD	Meeting with members was scheduled to take place on 17 th February. However, as commercial arrangements have not yet been agreed between BEIS and EDF this meeting has been postponed. Nuleaf secretariat met with EDF Comms and Planner and John McNamara of NDA to discuss future engagement.
10.4	Arrange meeting with UKAEA to discuss their proposals for the siting of a fusion reactor.	PM/CD	Meeting took place on 28 th January 2021.