

## **LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING**

### **Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held online on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council (Chair)
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Sean Chaytor	Hull City Council (NFLA Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Blackburn	Leeds City Council
Cllr Eddy Newman	Manchester City Council
Cllr Mike Caswell	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council
Sara Hardy	Dorset County Council
Bethany Rance	East Suffolk Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Dave Illsley	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Sean Morris	Manchester City Council
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
John Burton	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	Nuleaf

#### *Observers*

Cllr Aled Morris Jones	Chair of SSG Chairs Forum
Simon Napper	RWM
Paul Hetherington	NDA
John McNamara	NDA

#### *Speakers*

Bill Hamilton	Magnox Ltd
Mike Brophy	RWM Ltd
Corhyn Parr	NDA

1.	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through protocols for running the meeting online.	
1.2	Apologies were received from: Cllr Marion Fitzgerald – Allerdale Borough Council, Rob Ward – Copeland Borough Council, Cllr David Southward & Rachel Whaley – Cumbria County Council, Cllr Craig Rivett & Lisa Chandler – East Suffolk Council, Cllr David Godfrey & Cllr David Wimble – Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Linda Townsend – Gloucestershire County Council, Lucy Atkinson – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Cllr Michelle Campbell – SCCORS.	
2.	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021.</b>	
2.1	The Minutes were approved as a true record and will be posted on the Nuleaf website.	CD
3.	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
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.	<b>UPDATE ON MAGNOX ACTIVITIES, BILL HAMILTON, MAGNOX LTD</b>	
4.1	The Chair welcomed Bill Hamilton to the meeting.	
4.2	<p>Mr Hamilton gave a presentation providing an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business progress;</li> <li>• Change of strategy from Care &amp; Maintenance to rolling decommissioning;</li> <li>• End state development; and</li> <li>• Lifetime plans.</li> </ul>	
4.2.1	<p>Key points were:</p> <p>NDA had continued to deliver on targets despite the pause caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. ILW targets had been met, and the asbestos removal programmes at Dungeness and Hinkley Point A completed, as had the removal of the off-site discharge pipeline at Harwell. NDA has made a commitment to smarter working practices across the business and providing additional working support for the mental health and wellbeing of the workforce.</p>	
4.2.2	Magnox would be closing its office on the Oldbury site and relocating to office space on the outskirts of Bristol. This will be a hub for Magnox, NDA and any other NDA related company	

	wishing to have a presence in the south-west. A similar hub will be developed at Harwell.
4.2.3	NDA's decommissioning strategy is moving away from Care & Maintenance to rolling decommissioning. Trawsfynydd will be the lead and learn site, but no site will be left behind and hazard reduction will continue across all sites. An optimum strategy will be developed for each site, but safety, security and environment protection will remain paramount.
4.2.4	The business case for rolling decommissioning is currently being developed prior to submission to the Magnox Executive. Once approved this will then go on to NDA and BEIS for sign off and agreement on funding.
4.2.5	The final outcome of this strategy will be that by 2110 Magnox sites in England and Wales will have safely managed, or disposed of, all waste, buildings will be demolished and land will be de-designated for future use.
4.2.6	The change in strategy will support the push for Net Zero Carbon by making land available for new green energy generation projects earlier than under Care & Maintenance. It will demonstrate that commercial nuclear power stations can be safely dismantled, and demonstrate exportable skills, experience and knowledge. The jobs and investment arising from the rolling decommissioning programme will be sustained across diverse regions of the country, thus supporting the Government's levelling up agenda. Value will be improved through a reduction in lifetime costs and synergies developed with the decommissioning of the AGR stations.
4.2.7	The detailed business plan should be signed off by the Magnox and NDA boards by autumn. The work programme will cost in the region of £20bn, so funding arrangements will need to be agreed with Treasury. Short term funding arrangements will be agreed in the next few months and work, and employment opportunities will be maintained across the sites. Short term workstreams include removal of high hazard waste for packaging and interim storage, asbestos stripping and asset management.
4.2.8	Work on the development of end-states will require a change in UK policy to support a more proportionate approach to regulation of sites during the final stages of decommissioning and clean up. The GRR guidance is being trialled at Trawsfynydd, Winfrith and Dounreay. Berkeley will be the first site to have its end state reviewed, with stakeholder engagement at appropriate points, including engagement prior to the need for statutory engagement. Lessons learnt will then be applied to the review of end states at other sites.
4.2.9	Existing lifetime plans were reviewed and 'repaired' in 2020-21. Budgeting and accountability have been improved through the

three-year integrated planning cycle. Further updates are required to take account of the move to rolling decommissioning. The completed lifetime plans will be available in 2022.

4.3 The Chair thanked Mr Hamilton for his presentation and opened the meeting up to questions:

4.3.1 *Q: Can you give more information on what will be happening at Berkeley and when?*

A: Work has just begun on developing the end state work programme. No detail is available yet, and it is not possible to say how long it will take.

4.3.2 *Q: If a buyer were available for your old office site at Oldbury would you enter discussions?*

A: We would, and any approach should be made to the NDA Property Team.

4.3.3 *Q: Will ILW generated as a part of decommissioning be stored on site pending disposal rather than sent to Sellafield?*

A: All Higher Activity Wastes (HAW) will be packaged ready for disposal in the GDF. Some sites will have ILW stores and we will take a regional approach to storage. None will be sent to Sellafield.

4.3.4 *Q: Please engage with local authorities prior to demolition of buildings as a serviced site has re-use value.*

A: I will re-emphasise that with NDA Property Team.

4.3.5 *Q: The NDA Socio-economic Strategy was an interim approach subject to review following the Covid-19 pandemic. Are you able to provide an update on what current thinking is on the review?*

A: As you may be aware Andrew van der Lem is leaving NDA and a replacement has not yet been appointed. We do not yet understand what the impact of the move to a rolling programme will have on communities around the sites – we will carry out a social impact review and will share it once completed.

4.3.6 *Q: The Environment Agency is undertaking work at Winfrith on providing additional support for sustainability. Have you looked at following a similar approach?*

A: Magnox has developed a company-wide sustainability strategy which will sit at the heart of what we do. This may be a subject you'd like to invite us to present on at a future meeting.

4.3.7 *Q: Will the lifetime plans be released en-bloc, or in an order?*

A: Trawsfynydd will be first, but there is no plan for how following sites will be released, this is for discussion internally. We will need to create communication materials around the plans.

4.3 The Chair thanked Mr Hamilton for attending the meeting, and the meeting paused for a short break until 11.05.

<b>5.</b>	<b>FORMAT OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	
5.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which set out the advantages and disadvantages of in-person and online meetings. Three meeting format options were tabled for discussion. PM also noted that an annual gathering, potentially involving a dinner and a site visit, could be considered either as an extension of the NDA Stakeholder Summit or alongside a Steering Group meeting.	
5.2	Members discussed the options tabled and a fourth option was proposed for a single annual gathering and all other meetings online. This was not accepted.	
5.3	Several member authorities have yet to decide their policy on the return to work. Concerns were raised that it was too early to make a decision.	
5.4	The meeting agreed that the September meeting would be held online and the subject reviewed again at that meeting. The meeting paper would be updated to include the option of some members attending in-person meetings by remote means.	PM
<b>6.</b>	<b>UPDATE ON GDF SITING PROCESS</b>	
6.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which gave updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GDF siting process;</li> <li>• RWM;</li> <li>• CoRWM; and</li> <li>• International activities.</li> </ul>	
6.2	In response to a question PM undertook to find out when the Government would respond to the CoRWM paper.	PM
<b>7.</b>	<b>UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	
7.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and gave updates on: NDA, Strategy 4, BEIS activities, Sellafield, decommissioning of EDF stations, and Nuleaf Welsh member authorities group.	
7.2	PM advised the meeting that funding from NDA had now been confirmed and an additional £30,000 had been granted to support further work. This was good news and he thanked NDA. PM noted that that he had received very positive feedback from NDA, with staff across the organisation increasingly recognising the value of Nuleaf to the NDA mission. It was agreed that part of this enhanced settlement could be used to pay the increased GMF membership fee for 2021-22.	
7.3	Concerns were raised that there had been no engagement by EDF on their plans for decommissioning the AGR stations even	

	<p>though an announcement was due shortly. Nuleaf has invited EDF to give an update at the next Steering Group meeting, should an announcement have been made, and a standalone meeting will take place towards the end of the year, following engagement by EDF with local authorities around their sites. It was noted that an announcement on the future of Dungeness B station was expected at the June meeting of their Site Stakeholder Group. Members were concerned that the impact of decommissioning AGR stations on NDA's work programme was not understood.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>NULEAF: RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN THE POLICY LANDSCAPE</b>	
8.1	<p>PM introduced the paper that had been requested by the previous meeting of the Steering Group and had been circulated prior to the meeting. The paper set out the changing policy environment and Nuleaf's current constitutional position regarding engagement in issues related to new nuclear. The views of a number of Nuleaf members who were also involved with NNLAG had been sought in preparing the paper. A response to the paper by the NFLA authorities had also been circulated. PM stressed that at this point he was only seeking views on whether any of the changes proposed merited further investigation. Any change in our constitution would have to be submitted to the AGM in March 2022 and require the approval of two-thirds of contributing members before being accepted.</p>	
8.2	<p>Key points to note were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuleaf is one of three local authority groups engaged with nuclear issues, the others being NFLA and NNLAG. There was a significant overlap between Nuleaf's membership and that of the other two groups.</li> <li>• Since its founding nearly two decades ago, there have been significant policy changes. The 2020 Energy White Paper envisaged large scale expansion of renewables and energy storage, but also at least a doubling of nuclear capacity. The NDA and other parties were already engaging with local authorities around proposals for SMRs and a fusion reactor.</li> <li>• There was no unanimity in the views expressed by those consulted in producing the paper. In drafting the paper PM sought to present all options in a neutral and balanced way and reflect all shades of opinion that were expressed.</li> </ul>	
8.3	<p>The meeting opened up to comment:</p> <p>Cllr Newman spoke in support of Option 1 (no change). Manchester City Council was a founder member of Nuleaf. Nuleaf members, whether pro or anti-nuclear, share a common</p>	

- goal of dealing with the legacy wastes in a safe and environmentally sound manner for our constituents and for future generations. Manchester City Council would query whether funding from NDA should be used for supporting new nuclear activities. We would not wish to see a major restructuring of Nuleaf and hope that the organisation can continue on the consensual approach it currently takes.
- 8.4 The Chair said that he had reviewed the papers carefully and had come to the conclusion that Option 1 was his preferred option, and that we should look within the current constitution for how Nuleaf's work could be developed.
- 8.5 Cllr Moore told the meeting that he was a member of both Nuleaf and NNLAG. He felt there was a need for the organisations to be better integrated and that should be done through the secretariats. NDA is putting its assets forward for new green energy projects which include SMRs and AMRs. These may also be located at industrial sites outside the existing nuclear estate. He thought that there was benefit to be had from improved co-ordination and working between the two groups, and NNLAG required more secretariat support.
- 8.6 Cllr Blackburn advised the meeting that he supported Cllr Newman's views. At present there were common areas of interests amongst Nuleaf's member authorities, if it changed so the emphasis was too pro, or too anti, that would be lost.
- 8.7 Cllr Chaytor agreed with Cllrs Newman and Blackburn. Nuleaf's name sets its terms – Nuclear **Legacy** Advisory Forum. It is important that local authorities are in a position to deal with the impact of that legacy for the benefit of ourselves and also future generations. If NNLAG has secretariat problems they should raise this with LGA, and they should be able to put their view forward independently. He believed that something would be lost if the secretariats were merged.
- 8.8 An officer commented that NDA were putting in submissions to local authority consultations on Local Plans regarding the legacy of NDA sites and that included re-use. The emphasis was on the commercial value of the sites. Local authorities are not only dealing with applications relating to the waste arisings from the sites, but also with the social aspects arising from new uses. Nuleaf has promoted the master-plan approach. Considering a Venn diagram view of the situation, there is a crossover between the activities of NNLAG and Nuleaf which offers the opportunity for joint working.
- 8.9 The meeting moved to vote on the options presented in the paper.  
Cllr Chaytor proposed adoption of Option 1 (no change), which was seconded by Cllr Newman.

8.10	<p>The vote was three for, four against.</p> <p>Cllr Moore proposed moving towards Option 2 (combined secretariat), seconded by Cllr Smith.</p> <p>The vote was four for, three against.</p> <p>The Chair directed the secretariat to return to the September meeting with a paper outlining further details on the feasibility and desirability of moving to a combined secretariat.</p>	PM
9.	<b>NULEAF SERVICE PLAN 2021-22</b>	
9.1	A copy of the draft Service Plan had been circulated to those attending prior to the meeting. Any comments would be welcomed.	
10.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
10.1	The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held on Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 10.00 – 15.00 online.	
11.	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	There being no other business the meeting paused for lunch at 12.37 to resume at 13.15.	
12	<b>SOCIAL-IMPACT AND THE GDF SITING PROCESS, MIKE BROPHY, RWM LTD</b>	
9.1	The Chair welcomed Mike Brophy to the meeting.	
9.2	Mr Brophy provided an update on the Social Impact Strategy for RWM. There is a growing movement to ensure all organisations provide social value in delivering their work. Staff have been recruited to support the community investment for the two areas where Working Groups have been established in case they move to Community Partnerships. They have worked in community related positions in their local area prior to joining RWM.	
9.2.1	Government policy for public bodies is for a minimum of 10% weighting for social value in tender assessments. RWM has implemented this in its procurement practices.	
9.2.2	The Social Impact Strategy will support objectives for attracting and retaining communities to the GDF siting process. Planners and regulators will expect there to be evidence of social value in the process. The economic, employment and investment opportunities generated by engagement in the GDF siting process are expected to be transformational for the community.	
9.2.3	RWM will work with a community to develop its vision for the future. Given that the project will run for 100+ years, there is the opportunity to develop long term goals and aspirations.	

9.2.4	Although a community may not be selected for the site of a GDF, investment made could be used to benefit to a community in other ways.	
9.3	The meeting opened up to questions:	
9.3.1	<p><i>Q: Will there be compensation for owners of land over the site of the GDF?</i></p> <p>A: RWM is required by the policy to put in a property value protection scheme. This could be broad in scope and include not just residential property owners, but also landowners and businesses. RWM is currently looking at a range of existing schemes, and the Community Partnership will have input to the final design and scope of the scheme.</p>	
9.3.2	<p><i>Q: Could some of the significant additional investment be made available ahead of construction of the GDF?</i></p> <p>A: Whilst policy states that significant additional investment begins when constructions starts there could be room for negotiation, for example if private sector monies were also invested.</p>	
9.3.3	<p><i>Q: Could the engagement by RWM staff with schools and other educational bodies be replicated throughout NDA?</i></p> <p>A: Yes, although one of the things coming out of the procurement requirement for social value is that many companies are offering to engage with local schools and colleges which could be harnessed across the NDA estate.</p>	
9.3.4	<p><i>Q: How do you ensure that your procurement processes maximise the ability of local businesses and SMEs to win work, given that many feel they are at a disadvantage when competing with larger organisations?</i></p> <p>A: RWM is working on this with our procurement team. Larger suppliers can help smaller companies with mentoring, or with extending the supply chain.</p>	
9.3.5	Mr Brophy advised the meeting that the Government has set up a Social Value Portal which includes a measurement framework. He will send a link to Nuleaf for circulation.	MB/CD
9.4	The Chair thanked Mr Brophy for his presentation.	
10.	<b>INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT, CORHYN PARR, NDA</b>	
10.1	The Chair welcomed Corhyn Parr to the meeting.	
10.2	<p>Ms Parr gave a presentation on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the creation of a single waste division within the NDA group;</li> <li>• NDA's Integrated Waste Management (IWM) programme; and</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near-Surface Disposal (NSD) of radioactive waste.</li> </ul>
10.2.1	NDA expects the creation of a single waste division to optimise its waste systems and improve understanding of its inventory and characterisation of waste. Work on packaging will produce a reduced variety of standardised containers, which will simplify handling and storage/disposal. It will create a national and international centre of expertise in waste treatment, storage and disposal, and will deliver major infrastructure projects and manage the disposal operations on behalf of the NDA group.
10.2.2	NDA will bring together LLWR Ltd and RWM Ltd into this new waste division which will be launched on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022. NDA has been carrying out engagement on branding. Accounting for RWM and LLWR will remain separate but the Executive and Boards will be brought together, though prior to 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022, both boards will continue to operate.
10.2.3	NDA is looking at the potential for Near Surface Disposal (NSD) at its sites. This programme will take up to a year to complete and there will be the usual programme of engagement. Consultation on the policy changes required to support NSD will take place later this summer.
10.2.4	There are three NSD workstreams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Looking at making best use of the LLWR site for both at-surface and/or at-depth disposal concepts.</li> <li>2. Assessing at-surface NSD concept, looking at variable to consider in relation to the potential location.</li> <li>3. RWM is support NDA in developing credible options for at-depth NSD disposal concept.</li> </ol>
10.3	The meeting opened up to question:
10.3.1	<p><i>Q: Could you please clarify the situation regarding the individual boards for RWM and LLWR.</i></p> <p>A: We will keep the individual boards whilst we have the separate statutory entities.</p>
10.3.2	<p><i>Q: The creation of a single waste division would seem to offer the opportunity to develop a coherent approach to community benefits that includes storage and disposal on site. In-situ disposal will save the NDA £100s of millions, but it leaves a radioactive legacy for the community, and interim storage can last more than a lifetime.</i></p> <p>A: This is something I will take away and we could look at as the programme is in the early stages of development.</p>
10.3.3	<p><i>Q: The recent CoRWM paper on the policy and regulatory issues for a GDF highlighted a range of concerns over NSD and the need for Government and NDA to provide clarity on policy and effective engagement with communities. Can you comment on that?</i></p>

	<p>A. We recognise the need to explain clearly the approach to NSD but are limited in what we can do until BEIS publishes its new policy.</p>	
10.3.4	<p>Cllr Moore noted that Copeland Borough Council had expressed concerns to NDA over the timing of these proposals, especially in relation to the work on the GDF siting process. He noted that the disposal of waste in a Near Surface Disposal Facility did not have community support at LLWR, and that local authorities had limited resources and could struggle to deal with multiple applications or consultations.</p> <p>Ms Parr advised that the consultation on UK Radioactive Waste Policy should have taken place in December 2020, but unfortunately have been delayed. NDA won't be in a position to consult on NSD for a number of years as it looks at the options available.</p>	
10.4	<p>The Chair thanked Ms Parr for joining the meeting and her presentation and looked forward to receiving updates as developments were made.</p>	
10.5	<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 15.15.</p>	

## ACTION LIST

<i>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021</i>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
2.1	Post minutes of March meeting on website.	CD	Done.
5.4	Revisit meeting format options at September meeting, and include option for a limited number of people to attend remotely.	PM	Issue addressed under Item 8 at September meeting.
6.2	Ascertain when Government will respond to CoRWM paper and advise Sean Morris	PM	No formal response anticipated. Sean advised of response.
8.10	Prepare paper for September Steering Group on feasibility and desirability of combined secretariat for Nuleaf and NNLAG.	PM	Issue addressed under Item 4 at September meeting.
9.3.5	Circulate link to Social Value Portal	MB/CD	Link included in E-bulletin circulated on 8 <sup>th</sup> June.