

Note of the online meeting of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group, 10.00 – 12.30, 28th January 2021.

Present:

Rob Ward	Copeland Borough Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Lisa Chandler	East Suffolk Council
Beth Rance	East Suffolk Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Katharine Harvey	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County Council
Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Sion Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
John Burton	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	Nuleaf
Cllr Michelle Campbell	SCCORS

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 PM welcomed members to the meeting which followed on from a meeting with UKAEA and NDA to discuss the siting programme for a prototype fusion reactor.

2. Note of the last meeting

2.1 The Note of the meeting held on 12th October, 2020 was approved as a true record and will be posted on the NuLeAF website.

Action: CD

3. Matters arising

3.1 All matters were either in-hand or had been dealt with.

3.2 PM advised the meeting that there would be a discussion with NDA on social value and socio-economics and the next steps in post-Covid recovery at the Steering Group meeting on 10th March, with Neil Smith and Hazel Blears from NDA attending. Davide Stronati, who had recently been appointed as Director of Sustainability would also be joining the meeting to introduce himself and give a brief overview of his work plans.

4. Update on GDF siting process

4.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Key points were:

- A second GDF working group had been set up involving Allerdale Borough Council.
- PM encouraged members to register for the newsletter from the Copeland Working Group and to look at the virtual exhibition.
- RWM is undertaking a research project drilling boreholes in the three types of rock suitable for hosting a geological disposal facility.
- The European Repository Development Network had been established by a number of countries which have a small inventory of waste suitable for geological disposal. They will work collaboratively and look at the feasibility of developing shared repositories.

5. Update on developments in radioactive waste management

5.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Key points were:

- Davide Stronati, the newly appointed Director of Sustainability at NDA was keen to engage with Nuleaf members. The Sustainability Report, which Nuleaf had reviewed and commented on its draft form, was expected to be published in the new few weeks.
- Nuleaf had submitted its response to the NDA draft Business Plan. PM thanked members for their contributions.
- Changes to the structure of the NDA Group had been announced, with the creation of a single transport and single waste division.
- The long-awaited Energy White Paper had finally been published.
- Nuleaf had arranged a meeting with EDF to discuss their plans for decommissioning the AGR fleet on 17th February.

6. Local site updates

Copeland: The Copeland Working Group was active and work was now underway on how to engage with communities, how members of the siting partnership will be identified, and how areas for siting investigations will be identified. There is liaison with officers at Allerdale Borough Council to pass on points of learning, and there is one common interested party across both the working groups. Engagement with EDF in the Moorside Clean Energy Consortium has picked up. The council is also engaging with UK SMR and UKAEA on their respective projects. A single site for the latter will be nominated shortly.

Cumbria: An application for land clearance for future development of the Lightly Shielded Store 1 at Sellafield has been received. The application for the store itself is due at a later date.

East Suffolk: Sizewell A was engaging with ESC regarding a couple of small applications for decommissioning works. Consent had been given in 2019 for the relocation of some facilities by Sizewell B which were currently on land which was required for Sizewell C. However, land was now being used at Sizewell A, which meant that the land within the boundaries of the AONB was no longer required. The application for Sizewell C would go to examination around April.

Gloucestershire: Magnox had been in touch to obtain pre-application advice regarding the future applications. This augured well for future engagement. The council was interested in the potential to host UKAEA's fusion project.

Sedgemoor: Hinkley Point B reactors will go online again in June 2021 and shutdown prior to decommissioning of the station in July 2022. The three local authorities have been talking to NDA about the potential for siting the UKAEA fusion reactor. There has also been some dialogue across the A, B and C sites about land use as a whole.

Snowdonia National Park: Horizon has announced that it will not be taking its application for new nuclear at Wylfa site any further. £1.8 million of upgrades are being undertaken at Trawsfynydd. The site is part of a wider Enterprise Zone, set up by the Welsh Government, and discussions continue with local further education establishments about skills. Bringing the local railway back in to service to transport materials in and out of the site is also being considered. Work is beginning on assessing the potential economic benefits (potentially £1bn p.a.) of siting an SMR at Trawsfynydd. Demolition of the pond complex is expected to begin in 2024 and planning applications will be submitted in 2021 or 2022.

A development company is being created to help exploit the economic benefits of small modular reactors and associated technologies on site, including the potential for a medical research reactor, to provide a secure and sustainable supply of medical

radioisotopes for Wales, the UK and Europe. (Added post meeting in response to a query).

Somerset West & Taunton: EDF has announced that the first reactor at Hinkley Point C will not now generate until summer 2026. The delay is due to the impact of Covid-19 on working.

South Gloucestershire: The draft Local Plan is currently open for consultation and comments would be welcomed. A programme of demolition and construction of small buildings is proposed, and hopefully there will be similar pre-application engagement by Magnox as there has been with the county council.

All others reported no updates for their area.

7. Date of next meeting

7.1 The next meeting will be held online on 21st April 2021, 10.00 – 12.30.

8. Any other business

8.1 Nuleaf engagement with new technologies and NNLAG. PM asked for the meetings views on how Nuleaf engaged with new technologies given the recent meetings with Rolls Royce and UKAEA which had been well attended. He wished to avoid treading on the toes of NNLAG, which many Nuleaf members also belonged to. The nuclear landscape has changed much since Nuleaf was set up in 2003.

8.1.1 Members commented that the current approach was welcome. These topics did relate to decommissioning and the reuse of NDA sites. It is important that the opportunity to understand NDA's thinking on these topics is understood, and Nuleaf enables members to do that. It is also important that NNLAG is involved in relevant discussions. Hopefully Nuleaf will be able to take a similar approach to engaging with EDF on the decommissioning of the AGR fleet.

8.2 There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.55.

Action List

Item	Action	By	Outcome
2.1	Post agreed Note of the Meeting held 12 th October on Nuleaf website	CD	Done