

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held online on 8th December, 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 Marion Fitzgerald	Allerdale Borough Council
Cllr David Southward	Cumbria County Council
Cllr David Godfrey	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Cllr Tom Dyer	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Daniel McNally	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Mike Caswell	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Chris Morgan	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council
Rob Ward	Copeland Borough Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Bethany Rance	East Suffolk Council
Lisa Chandler	East Suffolk Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Linda Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County Council
Helen Smith	Hartlepool Borough Council
Andy Gutherson	Lincolnshire County Council
Richard Outram	Manchester City Council
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
John Burton	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	Nuleaf

Observers

Brendan Sweeney Former Chair of Nuleaf

Speakers

Bill Hamilton Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Director, Magnox

David Peattie CEO, NDA Group

Alastair Brown Senior Advisor, Nuclear Transport Solutions

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through protocols for running the meeting online. He noted that Cllr Richard Smith, former Chair of Nuleaf, was currently unwell with Covid-19 and asked the secretariat to send a card with best wishes from Nuleaf for a speedy recovery.	CD
1.2	Apologies were received from: Cllr Aled Morris Jones & Christian Branch – Isle of Anglesey County Council, Cllr David Blackburn – Leeds City Council, Cllr Eddy Newman – Manchester City Council, Cllr Michelle Campbell – SCCORS, Cllr Richard Smith – Suffolk County Council.	
2.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2021.	
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 ACTIVITIES AT MAGNOX, BILL HAMILTON, COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR	
4.1	The Chair welcomed Mr Hamilton to the meeting.	
4.2	Mr Hamilton gave a presentation which covered activities over the past year highlighting updates on safety, waste, site and reactor decommissioning, engineering and asset management. He then also looked forward to activities in the coming year on the same themes.	
4.3	Winfrith will see the Dragon reactor become one of the first reactors in the world to be segmented as part of decommissioning.	
4.4	Programmes of continuous decom are being developed at sites.	

4.5	The move away from Care and Maintenance to rolling decommissioning meets key elements of government policy, e.g. levelling up (sites are in remote areas), net zero (releasing land for other energy production usage) and developing the UK as a scientific powerhouse (research and development projects to support decommissioning).	
4.6	With the incorporation of the AGR stations and Dounreay, Magnox's scope will double. Safety, security and value for the UK taxpayer will remain core principles.	
4.7	The meeting opened up to questions	
4.8	Mr Hamilton clarified that the defuelling of the AGR stations will be supported by Nuclear Transport Solutions who will transport the spent fuel to Sellafield to store pending disposal in a geological disposal facility.	
4.9	In response to a question regarding the use of renewable energy to support decommissioning, Mr Hamilton said that some efforts were being made e.g. proposals for a solar farm to be installed on NDA land at Chapelcross were being considered and part of the deal was that NDA would be able to draw power from the farm, but this was not always possible or practicable. Offices were rented so the NDA was dependent on the landlord regarding choice of energy provider. Some decommissioning projects are very power hungry which made renewables impracticable.	
4.10	Mr Hamilton advised the meeting that the rebranding of Magnox would be carried out in close partnership with NDA, and that, beyond the recognition of the distinct characteristics of the Dounreay site, there was no intention to have a devolved structure to the new body that recognised regional clusters.	
4.11	A new Head of Strategic Communications will be appointed shortly and they will take on the Magnox socio-economic portfolio supported by two members of Bill's team. Magnox will also work closely with Jamie Reed, the newly appointed Director of Social Impact at NDA.	
4.12	Mr Hamilton felt that the addition of the AGR stations would not affect the SSGs where there was currently a station in decommissioning, but that where NDA/Magnox did not currently have a presence they would look to ensure that the LCLC met with NDA expectations of engagement.	
4.13	The Chair thanked Mr Hamilton to his presentation.	
5.	UPDATE ON FINANCIAL OUTCOME 2020-21	
5.1	PM took members through the accounts, noting that the lack of in-person meetings in 2020 had led to a surplus. The level of reserve funds meant that Nuleaf could operate for approximately one year if grant funding ceased. This was the	

	<p>maximum level he felt that Nuleaf should hold and was consistent with the reserve policies of other public and third sector bodies. He proposed that some of the funds should be used to commission work which would be of benefit to members, and this was addressed in the paper for Item 9 on the agenda.</p>	
5.2	<p>Following discussion, it was agreed that a note explaining the level of reserves and that they included a redundancy contingency fund should be attached to the accounts.</p>	PM/CD
6.	GMF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	
6.1	<p>PM advised the meeting that the GMF network had grown over the last 18 months and been reinvigorated by a new secretariat. It provided Nuleaf with valuable links to comparative local authorities in Europe, which was of benefit to Nuleaf's engagement with RWM and BEIS.</p>	
6.2	<p>Cllr David Southward and Cllr David Moore spoke in support of renewing the membership for a further year.</p>	
6.3	<p>Cllr Sean Chaytor proposed that the membership was renewed and Cllr David Moore seconded the proposal. There were no objections or abstentions.</p>	PM/CD
7.	NULEAF MEMBER SURVEY	
7.1	<p>Nuleaf organises a biennial survey of a sample of its members. A paper outlining the questions posed and feedback received was circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	
7.2	<p>PM noted that members were welcome to provide feedback on Nuleaf activities at any time.</p>	
7.3	<p>Cllr David Moore highlighted the benefit of the Nuleaf e-bulletin, which he circulated to his council members to inform them of the work Nuleaf carried out. The Chair said he would encourage other members to do the same.</p>	
8.	OUTLINE OF PROPOSED NEW WORK AREAS	
8.1	<p>Following discussions at previous Steering Group meetings it had been agreed that a paper should be submitted to this meeting outlining proposals for Nuleaf to extend its work remit to cover emergency planning and Net Zero in its relation to radioactive waste management.</p>	
8.2	<p>The secretariat submitted proposals that an annual online meeting be held to discuss emergency planning issues and that meetings on Net Zero would be held when deemed appropriate.</p>	
8.3	<p>Members felt that there was considerable benefit in the proposed annual meeting on emergency planning and felt that this meeting should also look at the recovery phase after an incident. It was noted that there was no facility for elected</p>	

8.4	<p>members to engage in emergency planning through the LGA. Off-site plans for fusion reactor sites may also be considered.</p> <p>The Chair proposed that the Steering Group adopt the recommendations made in the paper, namely that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Nuleaf engages in (a) nuclear Emergency Planning and (b) regional energy and net zero plans in line with the proposals in this paper. 2. That a change to the constitution is tabled at the March 2022 Steering Group meeting to underpin the proposed extension of remit of the organisation. A possible amendment is proposed in this paper. <p>The motion was seconded by Cllr Moore and agreed unanimously.</p>	PM
9.	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
9.1	PM highlighted certain reports within the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which provide updates on: the NDA Group, UK Government, decommissioning of AGR Stations, fusion siting process, Welsh news, ONR, international news, and Nuleaf. Key points addressed were:	
9.2	It was agreed that a revised version of the response to the consultation on the regulatory framework for fusion reactors would be circulated prior to the deadline for submission. The deadline for comments on the current draft would now be COB on Monday 13 th December, to enable a new draft to be circulated and agreed prior to the deadline.	PM
9.3	It was noted that paragraph 2 on page 5 of the draft Briefing Paper 10 should refer to Sizewell C, not Hinkley Point C, and that the paragraph referring to site selection on page 9 should be amended to reflect the short list of sites.	PM
9.4	The Steering Group agreed that, subject to the above amendments, the Briefing Papers should be published and posted on Nuleaf's website.	CD
9.5	The Steering Group agreed to commission a project on socio-economics benefits from nuclear licensed sites in decommissioning in and around Europe, including the UK. A small sub-group would be formed to draft the scope of the project, and the work placed in the last quarter of FY2021-22. Nuleaf secretariat will convene a meeting to discuss the scope in January 2022.	PM/CD
10.	UPDATE ON GDF SITING PROCESS	
10.1	PM took members through the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which covered: the Geological Disposal	

10.2	Facility (GDF) siting process, updates on RWM and CoRWM, and international updates. Cllr Fitzgerald advised that the Allerdale Borough Council had agreed to exclude the Solway coast from the potential search area for a GDF site. She also noted that there was a motion to the Executive which would meet on 8 th December, asking for Allerdale Borough Council to withdraw from its decision to join the Working Group/Community Partnership.	
10.3	Cllr Moore advised the meeting that the Mid-Copeland Community Partnership had begun seeking bids for the £1M community fund. The South Copeland Community Partnership would be formed during the week following this meeting.	
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
11.1	The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held on 9 th March 2022, online.	
12	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
12.1	At the last meeting of the Steering Group it was agreed that Nuleaf would hold an in-person meeting once a year, involving an overnight stay and possible site visit. Members were asked their views on the appropriate timing of this meeting in light of current Covid-19 restrictions and the NDA Stakeholder Summit which will be held in person in September 2022.	
12.2	It was agreed that the June meeting of the Steering Group would be the most appropriate time to meet.	
12.3	Hinkley Point, Winfrith, Trawsfynydd and Dungeness were all proposed as potential sites of interest.	
12.4	It was agreed that the Nuleaf secretariat would further research the feasibility of undertaking a site visit to the proposed locations and report back to the March meeting.	CD
13.	UPDATE ON NDA ACTIVITIES FROM DAVID PEATTIE, CEO, NDA GROUP	
13.1	The Chair welcomed Mr Peattie to the meeting.	
13.2	Mr Peattie thanked the Chair for the invitation to speak to the meeting. NDA recognised the value of engaging with Nuleaf and the importance of engaging with local community representatives.	
13.3	Mr Peattie outlined the changes to the structure of the NDA group. Dounreay and LLWR PBO agreements had ended and they were now subsidiaries of NDA. The new structure comprised what were referred to as the four pillars: Sellafield, Decommissioning (Magnox & Dounreay), Nuclear Transport Solutions and Nuclear Waste Services. NDA Group boards had been reduced from 10 to 5, one for each pillar and one	

- overarching board. This had resulted in a saving of £0.5M in directors fees. A Group Leadership Team had been established which included NDA Corporate Centre directors, the CEOs of each of the four pillar businesses, plus the CEO of Dounreay.
- 13.5 Nuclear Transport Solutions had been established following the amalgamation of International Nuclear Services and Direct Rail Services. It provides world leading nuclear transport services. It also provided non-nuclear services with 19 non-nuclear train movements for every nuclear movement.
- 13.6 Dounreay will progressively come under the Magnox structure. Magnox will ultimately be rebranded to reflect this and the later addition of the AGR stations. This will enable learning to be shared across sites. It was hoped that more could be said on Lifetime Plans in early 2022.
- 13.7 Nuclear Waste Services will be formed in early 2022 and comprise LLWR Ltd and RWM Ltd along with some NDA staff. The Integrated Waste Management Programme was launched in autumn 2020 and covers the full waste lifecycle.
- 13.8 NDA recognises the importance its staff play in the local communities. Stations have provided intergenerational employment. The latest project to receive NDA funding is the New Romney Business Hub which opened on 7th December. One of NDA's beacon projects in 2022 will be on social value and will build on the work carried out by Hazel Blears. NDA has also recently appointed Jamie Reed as Director of Social-Economics.
- 13.9 NDA is looking to integrate sustainability into the way it decommissions sites. This will be another beacon project in 2022 and will be championed by Sustainability Director Davide Stronati. NDA is proud to have recently achieved 100% recycling on the Oceanic Pintail vessel. The NDA Sustainability Policy will be published in the coming months.
- 13.10 NDA published its draft Business Plan 2022-25 for consultation on 6th December. Comments from Nuleaf members would be welcome. The funding settlement from Treasury, while not being everything that NDA asked for will enable them to continue decommissioning.
- 13.11 Mr Peattie expressed his appreciation of the support Nuleaf gives to NDA, and that the group recognised that communities cannot be taken for granted. He looked forward to continuing the strong working relationship.
- The meeting opened up to questions.
- 13.12 In response to a question about the frequency of funding from Treasury, Mr Peattie advised that until this year funding applications had had to be made annually. They had now been given a three year settlement. NDA is grateful for the support

	of the regulators who stress the need for the decommissioning process to progress. NDA also does generate an income of £800M per annum.	
13.13	With regard to government funding for new nuclear projects, Mr Peattie confirmed that NDA was neutral on new nuclear, but that as part of government NDA had to support government policy and would have to make land available if it was required to do so.	
13.14	Mr Peattie said that he hoped that the acquisition of the AGR stations would lead to economies of scale in the decommissioning process.	
13.15	Mr Peattie commented that should an NDA site be chosen to host either the STEP fusion reactor or SMRs, there should be limited impact on the decommissioning of the main station as the land required was smaller than for conventional gigawatt projects.	
13.16	The Chair thanked Mr Peattie for attending the meeting and recognised the importance of someone of Mr Peattie standing with NDA group addressing a Nuleaf meeting. He congratulated Mr Peattie on what he had already achieved during his time with NDA.	
14.	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON NDA LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY, ALASTAIR BROWN, SENIOR ADVISOR, NUCLEAR TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS	
14.1	The Chair welcomed Mr Brown to the meeting.	
14.2	Mr Brown advised the meeting that in 2021 NDA had created the Integrated Transport Programme (ITP), an estate wide programme, to establish a coordinated approach to transport across the NDA group, to pool knowledge and experience and with the aim of having a more sustainable and cost effective transport system which meets the needs of the NDA as a whole for its future mission.	
14.3	The benefits of the ITP would include reduced lifetime costs providing benefit for the taxpayer, and progress towards achieving net zero by reducing CO ₂ emissions.	
14.4	A blueprint to establish the programme within the NDA group had been accepted. Next step would be to develop a demand model to understand current and future transport needs. A Land Transport decision framework would be developed and introduced to support decision making. A Transport Package Strategy would be prepared to ensure resilience in the supply of transport packaging for the duration of the NDA mission.	
14.5	Work on mode of transport had identified benefits and disbenefits of rail versus road transport.	

14.6	A problem had been identified in that railheads were primarily designed to facilitate the movement of a small number of fuel flasks at any one time. Any future requirement will be for efficient movement of a large number of packages in a single load to the GDF. A review of what investment is needed to make railheads suitable for waste transport to the GDF needs, and whether there are additional benefits to making this investment early e.g. better movement of bulk decommissioning wastes.	
14.7	The second year of the LTP will see developments in land transport and the package strategy. Capability and skills strategy will be developed and data gathering for the road strategy will be undertaken. A review of infrastructure and investment requirements will be carried out and proposals development to improve emergency response. The meeting opened up to questions:	
14.8	In response to a question Mr Brown said that each NDA group business had its own transport plan, with the exception for Low-Level and Very Low Level Waste which is managed by LLWR Ltd.	
14.9	In relation to a specific query regarding transport of waste to the ILW store at Bradwell, Mr Brown said he would look into this issue.	
14.10	Mr Brown confirmed that NDA was beginning to see some effects of the shortage of HGV drivers, but they were able to make appropriate arrangements and transport of waste was being carried out.	
14.11	In respect of the West Cumbrian coast rail line, MR Brown said they were in discussion with Network Rail and the Cumbrian LEP on the scheme to upgrade the line. Should the proposal for the reopening of a mine in West Cumbria not go ahead, he understood that the upgrade would be more limited.	
14.12	In relation to areas entering the GDF siting process where there is no existing rail infrastructure for the proposed site, Nuclear Transport Solutions will be engaging with RWM. Mr Brown confirmed that the generic GDF design assumption is that there will need to be rail provision to any site hosting a GDF. Mr Brown undertook to engage further with Lincolnshire County Council on this topic.	
14.13	The Chair thanked Mr Brown for his presentation and wished all present a pleasant Christmas. The meeting closed at 14.52.	

ACTION LIST

<i>15th September 2021</i>			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
1.1	Send card to Cllr Richard Smith wishing a speedy recovery	CD	Sent 12 th December 2021
2.1	Post minutes from September meeting on website	CD	Done
5.2	Include explanation of reserve figures on accounts	CD	Papers amended accordingly
6.3	Renew GMF membership for 2022	CD	Done
8.4	Organise meeting to look at Emergency Planning issues in 2022	PM/CD	Provisionally plan to hold this w.c. 10 th October
8.4	Table amendment to constitution to cover emergency planning and net zero at March 2022 AGM.	PM	Paper prepared for submission
9.2	Circulate revised consultation response on fusion consultation.	PM	Circulated 20 th December.
9.3	Amend Briefing Paper 10, page 5, para 2 from HPC to SZC, and page 9 to reflect revised shortlist of sites.	PM	Done
9.4	Publish revised Briefing Papers on Nuleaf website.	CD	Done
9.5	Work with sub-group to frame consultation outline regarding socio-economic offering in UK and abroad	PM/CD	Draft tender drawn up. Hope to go out to tender in March 2022.
12.4	Prepare proposals for site visit as part of June Steering Group. Potential sites are Hinkley ABC, Winfrith, Trawsfynydd and Dungeness.	CD	Proposals are in preparation for a visit to Hinkley Point A and B sites, combined with meeting and dinner.