

**Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting, 25th January 2022,
10.00 – 12.30, online.**

Present:

Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Charlie Pope	Devon County Council
Sara Hardy	Dorset Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Linda Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County Council
Phil Watson	North Northamptonshire Council
Jo Marley	Sedgemoor District Council
Sion Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
John Burton	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	Nuleaf

Speakers:

Koulis Efkarpidis	NDA
Frank Wigley	NDA

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 PM welcome everyone to the meeting, noting it was the first meeting for Jonathan Cook from Copeland District Council.

2. Note of the meeting held on 3rd November 2021

2.1 The note of the meeting held on 3rd November 2021 was held to be a true and accurate record and would be posted on the Nuleaf website.

Action: CD

3. Matters arising

3.1 PM noted that he had not yet approached Anglesey County Council regarding their PPA agreement with Magnox, but would do so.

3.2 Nuleaf had circulated the on-site disposal guidance although it had not yet been published.

4. NDA strategic review of non-radioactive wastes inventories, Koulis Efkarpidis, NDA

4.1 PM welcome Koulis Efkarpidis to the meeting. KE gave a presentation on NDA's development of non-radioactive waste management inventories. Key points of the presentation were:

4.1.1 NDA's Strategy 4 contains an objective to reduce waste generation and optimise management practises for non-radioactive wastes at NDA sites. Consequently, NDA will undertake (depending and awaiting the findings and outcome of this piece of work) a strategic review of the way non-radioactive wastes are currently managed and whether plans for managing future waste arising are sufficiently robust and deliverable.

4.1.2 Non-radioactive wastes generated at NDA sites include demolition wastes, packaging, paper and food waste. As site decommissioning progresses the volume of waste will increase. Some demolition wastes will be hazardous e.g. asbestos, and it will also include redundant machinery. NDA seeks to ensure it has non-radioactive waste management plans in place which will support and facilitate site decommissioning.

4.1.3 NDA will first build a better understanding of the current non-radioactive waste management programme/inventories including waste arisings, routing and arrangements for each NDA group organisation. It will then seek to better understand future arisings and finally develop plans for the management of all non-radioactive wastes.

4.1.4 The timeline of the work comprises six phases: 1) establishing a working group, 2) defining an aspirational future state, 3) developing Conventional Waste Management Plans (CWMPs), 4) analysis, 5) action planning and 6) outcome sharing.

4.1.5 CWMPs were received from the waste producers at the end of 2021. The team will review these and analyse the findings carrying out a SWOT analysis. The intention is to produce an action plan for improvement by April 2022 which will be shared across the NDA estate.

4.2 The meeting opened up to questions:

4.2.1 Q: When do you expect the peak in the generation of decommissioning wastes to occur?

A: The peak is roughly expected to take place within the next decade.

4.2.2 Q: What impact with the acquisition of the EDF sites have on your plans?

A: The EDF sites will be incorporated into the management plans at a future date. We are in discussions with EDF and recognise that there is a need to share the same mindset and approaches to waste management.

4.2.3 Q: What impact will NDA's Net Zero Carbon targets have on the waste management programme?

A: We are looking at things like the use of infrastructure, e.g. trains, and vehicle movements and how these can be used to mitigate carbon generation.

4.2.4 Q: Nuleaf's members are waste planning authorities and your waste management plans have the potential to impact on their Waste and Minerals Plans. What engagement will you undertake?

A: Once we are clearer on the waste inventory we will carry out local engagement.

4.3 PM thanked KE for attending the meeting. KE indicated that he would be happy to return with further updates or to answer queries directly from Nuleaf members.

5. Proposals for in-person meeting

5.1 A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting setting out proposals for the format of future RWPG meetings.

5.2 Members noted that there was still discussion within councils about the return to work, and not all had considered returning to external meetings. Carbon footprint

and financial costs were also considerations in making a decision about meeting in-person.

5.3 It was agreed that the group would meet once per year in a central location, probably London. It was felt that it was too early to specify which meeting would be held in-person and that would be revisited at a future meeting.

6. Update on the GDF siting process

6.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been provided in advance of the meeting.

6.2 JC advised the meeting that at present the two Community Partnerships were considering who else would be invited to represent the community on the Partnership. The upcoming survey of the inshore waters would be the most visible activity to date. RWM had been carrying out engagement with the local community and particularly with the local fishing community, funds were available to support those affected by the work. The survey results are expected later this year.

7. Update on developments in radioactive waste management

7.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He noted that the consultation on the revision of the UK Radioactive Waste Policy had been further delayed and was now expected in March, or more likely, May of this year.

7.2 A query was made regarding the status of the on-site disposal guidance. CD advised that Penny Dunbabin had said the guidance was to be used even though it could not be published. If members were unclear it was suggested they approach Penny for clarification.

8. Update on NDA Town and Country Planning Working Group, Frank Wigley, NDA

8.1 PM welcomed Frank Wigley to the meeting to provide an informal update on the development of the NDA Town and Country Planning Working Group.

8.2 FW said that the newly formed group had been set up to bring together Town & Country Planning specialists within NDA. Once the group had established itself within NDA the intention is to broaden the membership and bring in specialists from

the nuclear industry and subsequently from other groups, such as Nuleaf. One of the aims of the group is to establish a link between specialists within the NDA to generate more consistent working across the NDA estate.

8.2.1 The Working Group will provide mentorship for early career professionals within the NDA. It will also enable members across the NDA Group businesses to support each other when responding to representations.

8.2.2 The Working Group first met on 8th November 2021 and comprised a delegate from each NDA Group business, with also some practitioners providing T&CP support, and also non-technical staff such as John McNamara so stakeholder issues might be considered. PM also attended the meeting and raised the concerns Nuleaf has flagged up regarding NDA and planning issues. These aligned with issues the Working Group had identified, namely:

- Permitted development rights
- Planning Performance Agreements
- Sustainability – definitions and measures
- Masterplanning / planning frameworks

8.2.3 The next meeting will take place in early March and will seek to identify who else the Working Group should engage with, and how it can interact with Nuleaf. Input on the latter would be welcomed.

8.2.4 The Working Group will consider what can be done under existing permitted development rights, and whether another mechanism could be used to facilitate decommissioning activities. It will also look at how Planning Performance Agreements are used across the estate and whether they can be used to facilitate earlier engagement.

8.2.5 The Working Group is working with the NDA Beacon Project on sustainability to identify what it means to the NDA and how that can be used to interface with local plans.

8.2.6 At the March meeting of the Working Group it will consider the impact of what it does and when and how it will engage with stakeholders to communicate its work programme.

8.2.7 FW advised the meeting that Juliet Long, formerly of the Environment Agency, had been appointed as chief strategist for the remediation programme. She is keen that there is closer working with local planners, and facilitation of engagement with the local community.

8.3. The meeting opened up to questions:

8.3.1 A Nuleaf member observed that it would surely be better if there was early engagement by the Working Group with local authority representatives. They were keen to avoid decisions being made without the input of local authority planners. FW advised that he understood the concern, and it was for this reason NDA stakeholder engagement staff were involved in the group at this stage.

8.3.2 *Q: Do you envisage the Working Group setting up sub-groups to take specific work areas, such as sustainability, forward?*

A: It is too early to say, but this is something the group will consider. Budget allocation will be an influencing factor.

8.3.3 *Q: Regarding the sustainability aspect of the work, consideration needs to be given as to how it links in with Local Plans. Activity is already taking place on sites which is not accommodated in Local Plans because the plan process timeline is too long. Engagement at local level needs to be considered.*

A: NDA is developing a more strategic approach to its land usage. Demands can conflict with sustainability, and we are looking to use the NDA value framework to help make decisions. NDA needs to understand what the community wants, and how this fits with the local authority's plans and needs.

8.4 FW advised that the agenda for the meeting in March was being drawn up and he would welcome input on the agenda from Nuleaf.

8.5 PM thanked FW for joining the meeting and looked forward to working on these issues in the future.

9. Local site updates

Somerset West & Taunton: There were no updates on activity at Hinkley Point A. It was still expected that generation would cease at the B station no later than June 2022. C station is increasing its workforce to 8500 on site at any one time, from the 5500 agreed under DCO. The local authority is endeavouring to negotiate packages to mitigate the impact of the additional workforce.

Suffolk: The report from the Planning Inspectorate on the Sizewell C hearing has been delayed until 25th February 2022.

Somerset: The Council will form part of two new unitaries and various work programmes are underway to facilitate the transition. It will be necessary to get new members up to speed.

Northamptonshire: The DCO for the extension to the King’s Cliffe landfill site, which accepts low level radioactive waste, has reached the submission stage. A final decision is anticipated in 2023. The community fund received £37,000 in 2020-21, this can be spent on projects in the local area, including revenue costs. The payment of £5 per tonne of LLW disposed will also apply to the extension.

Dorset: Pre-application information for the full decommissioning of the site is awaited. A small number of applications for demolitions had come in on an ad-hoc basis. Magnox are considering holding stakeholder workshops, probably sometime later this year.

Cumbria: Copeland District Council is consulting on their Local Plan, the consultation ends 21st February 2022. Cumbria County Council will be publishing a decision on whether it will be carrying out a review on its Minerals and Waste Plan.

East Suffolk: The meeting heard with sadness of the sudden death of Lisa Chandler who had represented East Suffolk at the meeting for many years.

All other councils attending had no updates to provide.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held 10.00 – 12.30, 28th April 2022, online.

11. Any other business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.20

Action List

25 th January 2022			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
2.1	Post note of the 3 rd November 2021 meeting on Nuleaf website	CD	Done