

## **Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 10.30 – 12.00, online.**

### *Present:*

Heather Morrison	Copeland Borough Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County Council
Charlotte Rushmere	Maldon District Council
Richard Outram	Manchester City Council
Alex Smith	Sedgemoor District Council
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

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

1.1 PM welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting it was the first meeting for Alex Smith from Sedgemoor District Council.

1.2 Apologies were received from: Beth Rance, East Suffolk Council; Linda Marsh, Folkestone & Hythe District Council; Phil Watson, North Northamptonshire Council; Jo Manley, Sedgemoor District Council.

### **2. Note of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

2.1 The meeting note was amended to reflect the Essex site update was a comment and not for the record, subsequent to that the note of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 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 confirmed that Nuleaf had sent condolences to Lisa Chandler's family and colleagues, and a donation had been made to their chosen charity.

### **4. Plans for Emergency Planning Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

4.1 PM gave an overview of the proposals to hold a meeting on Emergency Planning, and a paper with an outline was circulated prior to the meeting.

4.2 PM confirmed that he had already spoken to ONR and they had agreed to attend. Nuleaf would also approach the LGA Emergency Planning group. Nuleaf would email the wider membership asking for appropriate contacts within Emergency Planning Teams and asking for suggestions for other external bodies to approach.

***Action: CD/PM***

### **5. Update on the GDF siting process**

5.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been provided in advance of the meeting. Key points from the paper were:

- The process for applying for community investment funds in the Copeland and Allerdale Community Partnerships was now open; and the first grants had been paid out in Mid-Copeland.
- Further communities may enter the siting process after the May local elections.

5.2 Following the announcement by the UK government of an increase in the number of proposed new nuclear power stations, concerns were noted as to whether the proposed GDF would be sufficient to deal with the waste from the expanded portfolio. PM advised that the new build stations were designed to produce less waste than the Magnox stations. He understood that the increased number proposed would in fact only produce a further 10% Higher Activity Waste (HAW). RO noted that Claire Corkhill of CoRWM had implied that a second GDF facility may be needed, however PM advised that the current policy did not specify the number of GDFs, so there was already scope for a second to be built, should this be required. He also noted that the BEIS target for the number of new stations to be approved in this and the next parliament was much more cautionary than that espoused by the new strategy. RO said he would send Nuleaf the NFLA press release on this topic, and PM advised that he would be drafting a new Briefing Paper in due course and would welcome NFLA input.

5.3 RO asked if PM was aware of any written material on the Community Right of Withdrawal. PM advised that the policy left the form the test of public support to be defined by the community itself. It did not specify as methods of engagement may have changed by the time the test is undertaken. Different countries have adopted different methodologies, and there may be value in asking NWS to commission a paper looking at this.

**Action: PM**

## **6. Update on developments in radioactive waste management**

6.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Key points from the paper were:

- It has been suggested that Magnox will take over responsibility for decommissioning the former MOD Vulcan site (it has already been agreed that Magnox will now oversee decommissioning at Dounreay);
- At a recent meeting, EA had noted that their view is that landfill is not a sustainable long-term waste management solution for low level nuclear wastes. However, NDA and the nuclear industry have concerns about the cost implications and practicality of changing approach at present;
- Consultation on the revised UK radioactive waste policy is now more likely to be launched during the summer rather than immediately after the local elections.

6.2 RO asked if Nuleaf had any information on the proposal for an incinerator at Springfields facility in Lancashire, and HM asked for further information about the proposal for waste disposal at Port Clarence on Teesside. PM said that he would provide updates on these at the next RWPG meeting.

**Action: PM**

## **7. Local site updates**

**Somerset West & Taunton:** EDF is looking to increase the workforce onsite to 8600, a significant increase on the 5600 permitted by the DCO as the work programme is behind schedule. Although legal advice is that the DCO doesn't require material amendment to permit the increase in workforce, the underpinning environmental statements are based on the lower number. The affected councils believe that there will be an impact on the locality and the environment and are seeking to revisit the S106 agreement on the Site Preparation Works to help fund mitigation. EDF has also decided that it wishes to build a Dry Fuel Store rather than the Wet Fuel Store which was approved under the DCO. The new store will be significantly larger so will have an impact on the site. A Scoping Opinion has been

submitted to the Secretary of State. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the three sites to share waste stores as each site generated waste requiring different storage needs.

**Suffolk:** The Secretary of State has moved the date for a decision on Sizewell C back to 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Somerset:** The council is undergoing reorganisation with the district and county councils becoming a single unitary in 2023 and elections for the shadow authority on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022. A number of work programmes are being undertaken with district councils and one is looking at radwaste management activities. We hope discussions with EDF will continue through Nuleaf.

**Northamptonshire:** The examination for the Augean extension DCO application is in progress. Hearings were held in late March which did not raise many issues to discuss. They are due to close by August and then the Inspector will prepare report for the Secretary of State.

**Cumbria:** The council has approved permission for a lightly shielded store (LLS1) with support building and associated infrastructure (4/21/9005 – granted 14 April 2022). In respect of local government reorganisation, officers from the relevant authorities are meeting to discuss implications for nuclear matters and to make sure everything is in place that needs to be when the new authorities form in April 2023 – ‘day 1 readiness’. The work is being led by Copeland Borough Council.

**Maldon:** A meeting had been held with Chris Heffer at BEIS, and he was interested in the council’s views on Bradwell B. There is an opportunity to integrate this site with the A station site and look at the deployment of SMR technology.

**South Gloucestershire:** Oldbury has been shortlisted as a site to host the new fusion reactor. A decision is expected later this year. Magnox has advised that it has targets for demolition that may bring forward dates for demolishing buildings such as the Oldbury Technical Centre. South Gloucestershire Council is encouraging the exploration of potential for reuse of buildings that are no longer needed and outside land needed for decommissioning, and questioned whether other sites are bringing forward demolition of buildings that may have potential reuse? Reuse or modification being a potentially more sustainable option of reuse or modification and reuse before wholesale demolition.

The NDA owned 15ha lagoon to the south of the Magnox station (the other side to the nominated NNB site) is the subject of a longstanding planning condition for restoration that should have been complied with some years ago. The Council therefore welcomes the NDA Business Plan (included as a Sustainability Case Study) commitment to develop a strategic solution for restoration to wetland habitat suitable for overwintering birds associated with the internationally designated Severn

Estuary, as this aligns with the emerging Local Plan and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

**Copeland:** Local elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May will result in formation of shadow cabinet and authority for the new Cumberland Council. Work on the Local plan is progressing. Post Covid work on the Sellafield site is increasing and construction of new interim stores and ancillary infrastructure is taking place, and pre-application discussions for further works are taking place. The Mid Copeland Community Partnership is planning a further series of engagement events.

**Essex:** A low volume of ILW is coming in to the store from Dungeness, but nothing from Sizewell A.

**Gloucestershire:** A planning application is expected in 2023 for a temporary waste store.

All other councils attending had no updates to provide.

## 8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held 10.00 – 12.30, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022, online.

## 9. Any other business

The meeting briefly discussed whether either the July or November meeting should be held in person. It was felt that the July meeting fell too close to the June Steering Group meeting which was being held in person, and the November meeting too close to the NDA Stakeholder Summit. It was agreed to revisit this at the November RWPG to see if members wanted to hold the January meeting in person or to have all meetings online in 2022/23.

## Action List

25 <sup>th</sup> January 2022			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
2.1	Post note of the 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 meeting on Nuleaf website	CD	Done
4.2	Email members asking for contact in Emergency Planning Team and	CD/PM	Done

	suggestions for other participants in Emergency Planning Meeting		
5.3	Contact NWS re commissioning project on forms of test of public support globally	PM	
6.2	Provide updates on proposal for incinerator at Springfields and waste facility at Port Clarence to next RWPG	PM	Verbal update to be given to meeting on 21 <sup>st</sup> July.