

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held at Cannington Court, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, and online, 15th June 2022, 15.30 – 17.30

Present:

Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr Mike Caswell	Sedgemoor District Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Marion Fitzgerald	Allerdale Borough Council (online)
Cllr Craig Rivett	East Suffolk Council
Cllr David Wimble	Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Cllr David Blackburn	Leeds City Council
Cllr Eddy Newman	Manchester City Council (online)
Cllr Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Carwyn Jones	Ynys Mon County Council
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council
Bethany Rance	East Suffolk Council
Naomi Goold	East Suffolk Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Linda Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County Council
Nia Swann Bowden	Gwynedd County Council (online)
Richard Outram	Manchester City Council
Jo Manley	Sedgemoor District Council
Alex Smith	Sedgemoor District Council
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
John Burton	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Angharad Crump	Ynys Mon County Council
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	Nuleaf

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that this was the first in-person meeting Nuleaf had held in almost two and a half years. He advised the meeting that Sean Chaytor had not been re-elected to Hull City Council at the May elections and so was no longer Vice-Chair (NFLA). A new Vice-Chair would be nominated in due course. The meeting directed the secretariat to send a card to Sean Chaytor thanking him for his contributions to the work of Nuleaf	CD
1.2	Apologies were received from: Cllr Joseph Ghayouba – Copeland Borough Council, Cllr David Southward and Rachel Whaley – Cumbria County Council, Charlotte Rushmere – Maldon District Council, Gillian Ellis-King – South Gloucestershire Council, Cllr Chris Morgan – Somerset West & Taunton Council, Cllr Richard Smith – Suffolk County Council.	
2.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th MARCH 2022.	
2.1	The Minutes were approved as a true record and will be posted on the Nuleaf website.	CD
3.	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	A response to the letter sent to NWS regarding the confusion caused by the timing of the rebranding of RWM and LLWR had not yet been received, though the receipt of the letter had been acknowledged.	PM/CD
3.2	A response had been received from BEIS and a meeting promised with a senior civil servant to discuss the issues raised.	
3.3	No response had been received from Neil Smith or Jamie Reed regarding the publication of Hazel Blear’s report. Nuleaf to chase again and escalate if necessary.	
4.	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
4.1	PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which provided updates on the NDA group and regulator activities, decommissioning of the AGR stations, and international news. Key points to note were:	
4.2	The engagement of NDA with Cwmni Egin in the development of new nuclear opportunities at Trawsfynydd signals a change in NDA engagement with new nuclear which has the potential to impact other sites around the country.	

<p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p> <p>4.8</p> <p>4.9</p>	<p>NDA is looking to extend the reach of its stakeholder engagement. One of the ways it hopes to do this is through a greater use of social media, including by Site Stakeholder Groups.</p> <p>The Chair had given a presentation to an online forum of international nuclear regulators. Whilst the meeting had been predominantly dominated by technical discussions, it was good to remind the regulators of the regulatory role of local government, and the impact their work had on the communities around the sites.</p> <p>MC confirmed that, following some speculation that the operational life of Hinkley Point B may be extended, the plant would cease generating on 1st August 2022.</p> <p>Reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel at Sellafield had ceased, and there were currently no plans to build a new plant. Sellafield now moved to a wholly clean-up and remediation focus phase of operation. Waste will now be stored pending disposal in the geological disposal facility. The Chair noted that this change would result in the loss of a significant number of highly paid jobs in the area.</p> <p>Although MOD had indicated that it may transfer the Vulcan reactors to NDA for decommissioning, this was by no means certain and would not take place for sometime.</p> <p>The Chair advised the meeting that Copeland Borough Council had a Memorandum of Understanding with NDA, Sellafield and Rolls Royce to bring a first of a kind Small Modular Reactor to the Sellafield site. This would take over from an existing gas steam generation plant.</p> <p>RO advised the meeting that NFLA had worked with NDA to establish two new NGO fora as there were areas of NDA's work in which NGOs were not engaged. The groups hope to launch at the NDA Stakeholder Summit in September.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>UPDATE ON GDF SITING PROCESS</p>	
<p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting which provided updates on: the geological disposal facility siting process, activities at Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) and CoRWM, international and Nuleaf member engagement. Key points were:</p> <p>Three Community Partnership had now been established today, and the Working Group in Lincolnshire had announced that it was moving to the Community Partnership phase.</p> <p>There had been protest in West Cumbria about the proposed seismic surveys off the shore of Copeland. It was noted that these were in fact sonar surveys, and the same as those used in the off-shore windfarm industry and in oil and gas.</p>	

5.4	PM had met with the Head of Communications for NWS to discuss the areas in which they would like to engage Nuleaf members in the coming months such as near-surface disposal (NSD) and the management of non-radioactive wastes. PM clarified that NWS are interested in discussing the practical issues around these topics. It is not yet clear whether NSD will be subject to the NSIP or TCPA process, or whether there will be a single site.	
5.5	RO expressed an interest in Nuleaf looking at the forms of test of public support used internationally in a GDF siting process.	PM
5.6	The secretariat will circulate information regarding upcoming online meetings/workshops.	CD
6.	UPDATE AND LOOK AHEAD AT NULEAF ACTIVITIES	
6.1	PM gave a short presentation looking at Nuleaf activities over the past year and also looking ahead.	
6.2	The meeting considered the amendments to the Service Plan, which had been presented in draft form at the previous meeting, and agreed that they should be adopted.	
6.3	Further small amendments to wording were proposed by Cllr Matthew Riddle and these were also agreed.	
6.4	The secretariat will update the Service Plan to incorporate the agreed amendments and a final copy will be posted on the website.	PM/CD
7.	CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS AND THE IMPACT ON NULEAF	
7.1	The Chair (Cllr David Moore) gave an overview of the outcome of the local elections in Cumbria and Somerset. In Cumbria, two new unitary authorities would come into effect from 1 st April 2023, and elections to the shadow authority had been held in May 2022. The Labour Party had won a majority of seats for the new Cumberland Council, and as a result Cllr Moore may cease to be the appointed representative to Nuleaf w.e.f. 1 st April. This would mean that Nuleaf would need a new Chair. Cllr Moore had invited Cllr Joseph Ghayouba, currently a Copeland Borough Councillor and appointed as representative to Nuleaf by the new council to shadow him at meetings until April 2023.	
7.2	Cllr Caswell, Nuleaf's Vice-Chair advised the meeting that he attended the meetings as a member of Sedgemoor District Council, which would cease to exist on 1 st April 2023. Although elected to the new Somerset unitary authority, he was not part of the ruling party and was therefore unlikely to be appointed as the new council's representative to Nuleaf.	

7.3	It was noted that there were no restrictions on the number of members from one authority who could attend meetings. The restriction was one vote per authority, and this would be at the discretion of the member authority.	
7.4	It was agreed that a paper looking at the issues should be submitted to the September Steering Group meeting.	PM
7.5	It was noted that both the Chair and Vice-Chair may not be able to stand for a further term come April 2023.	
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
8.1	The date of the next meeting had yet to be confirmed and would be circulated shortly.	CD
9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9.1	There being no further business the meeting concluded at 17.20	

ACTION LIST

<i>15th June 2022</i>			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
1.1	Send card to Sean Chaytor	CD	Action complete
2.1	Post Minutes from the meeting on 9 th March on Nuleaf website.	CD	Action complete
3.3	Chase Neil Smith and Jamie Reed again re Hazel Blears report. Escalate if necessary	PM/CD	Neil Smith has now left the NDA. Email sent to Jamie Reed 25 th July. No response.
5.5	Look at forms of test of public support used internationally	PM	On Action List
5.6	Circulate information on workshops.	CD	Action complete
6.4	Incorporate amendments into the Service Plan and post on website	PM/CD	Action complete
7.4	Submit paper to September SG on issue of more than one member attending meetings.	PM	Paper tabled at todays meeting.
8.1	Circulate date of next meeting	CD	Action complete
<i>9th March 2022</i>			
8.7.2	Advise if the Hazel Blears report to NDA is in the public domain	JR	