

Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting, 8th November 2022, 10.00 – 12.30, online.

Present:

Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Charlie Pope	Devon County Council
Eleanor Godesar	Dorset County Council
Naomi Goold	East Suffolk Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Charlotte Rushmere	Essex County Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County 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
Ross Walker	Suffolk County Council (NIGLQ-P only)
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	Nuleaf

Speakers

Martin Walkingshaw	Chief Operating Officer, Nuclear Waste Services
Guy Esnouf	Communications and Stakeholder Relations Director, Nuclear Waste Services

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 PM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Bethany Rance, East Suffolk Council and Heather Morrison, Copeland Borough Council.

2. Note of the meeting held on 21st July 2022

2.1 The meeting note was held to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 21st July 2022 and would be posted on the Nuleaf website.

Action: CD

3. Matters arising

3.1 All matters arising were completed and noted in the action list.

4. Presentation by Martin Walkingshaw, Chief Operating Officer, and Guy Esnouf, Communications and Stakeholder Relations Director, Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)

4.1 PM welcomed Martin Walkingshaw and Guy Esnouf to the meeting.

4.2 Key points from the presentation (slides are posted on Nuleaf's website) were:

- The simplified structure for NDA envisioned by David Peattie was now in place.
- NWS is evolving its vision and mission, the latter being to create a one stop shop for nuclear waste management and disposal in the UK.
- The next 3-5 years could see a metal recycling facility built by the supply chain, but this would only be possible if there was sufficient demand to make it operationally profitable and if it was seen as an optimal solution. The preference would be for a private developer to establish such a facility.
- NWS is looking at more integrated transport solutions as this is more cost effective. Rail will always be the first choice, where possible.
- Improvements to waste characterisation continue. Failure to do this in the past had resulted in missed opportunities to apply the waste hierarchy.
- NWS is applying the thinking used by LLWR Ltd to drive down disposal volumes across the spectrum of wastes.
- Ten by 2030 is a programme of key milestones for NWS. This will see a gradual ramping up of NWS' capability.
- A 17th consecutive RoSPA Gold Award was won this year, reflecting the good safety record for the Low-Level Waste Repository (LLWR).
- Borehole sealing experiments have been carried out successfully at Rosemanowes in Cornwall.
- There has been strong national publicity for the UK Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process and international GDF facilities.

- A report on the jobs and skills likely to be generated by the construction and operation of a GDF was published in September.
- LLWR is on target or ahead on its operational metrics.

The meeting opened up to questions:

4.3 Q: How will the local government reorganisation in Cumbria affect the Community Partnerships?

A: Community Partnerships are based on ward boundaries, and some of these will change on 1st April when Cumberland Council comes into effect, so there will be some change to the areas covered by the Community Partnerships.

4.4 Q: What will happen to the Copeland Community Fund which was set up under a Section 106 Agreement with Copeland Borough Council.

A: The Fund will transfer to Cumberland Council. NWS expects monies from the Fund to spent in the area as at present.

4.5 Q: In your presentation you gave a date of 2026 for a decision to be made by the Secretary of State on moving ahead to the next stage of the GDF. Will this deadline apply to any other local authorities entering the GDF siting process between now and then?

A: Our plan calls for the Secretary of State to take a decision in 2026 on which two communities will move to the next phase of the GDF siting process. We have one or two communities who are considering entering the process, but this deadline will apply to them also. At some point we will cease to take new entrants to the process. Preparatory work on the borehole phase will take place in 2023-24.

4.6 Q: Do you have any sense of how much waste will be removed from the GDF inventory with the application of the waste hierarchy to HAW?

A: It is too soon to say. Treatment will be a limiting factor due to the radiological levels of the waste. Better characterisation of the waste will be more likely to provide benefits.

4.7 Q: With the development of waste strategies for each site, what is the relationship between NWS and the proposals to dispose of VLLW on-site?

A: Waste strategy is developed at NDA level, and James McKinney is the strategic authority for waste at NDA. NWS has a seat at the table and ensure sites are informed of our plans and are aware of what we are doing. At an operational level we have an Integrated Waste Management Team which includes a member of each group, so Magnox are part of the discussions. NWS' Customer Relations Team work with the sites: they can't direct what sites do, but they can challenge where they think it necessary to do so. The legal responsibility lies with the Site Licensee. It is also important that sites recognise the commitment required in producing an Environmental Safety Case to support on-site disposal.

4.8: *Q: Following on from the above, how will you ensure best practice is followed, and avoid each site doing its own thing?*

A: We need to ensure that sites have all the information to avoid decisions being made in a local context. We are giving similar presentation to what you've seen today to the other NDA group members. If you identify any areas of concern, please get in touch.

4.9 PM thanked Mr Walkingshaw and Mr Esnouf for attending the meeting.

5. Update on developments in radioactive waste management

5.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated in advance.

5.2 It was noted that there had been factual inaccuracies about the entry on Oldbury site in the NDA Economic Impact Report for Magnox sites published recently, and members were encouraged to check the entries relevant to their sites. Concerns were noted that the Magnox report only considered the economic impact of sites and did not look at social value and other issues, also that the baseline used was 2018 rather than when the sites ceased generation.

Action: PM to feed these comments and any others from member authorities back to NDA

5.3 The UKAEA had selected West Burton as the site for its STEP project. Some radioactive waste will be generated in the operation of the project and as this is not a nuclear licensed site the community reaction to this will be interesting to note.

6. Update on the GDF siting process

6.1 PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. In response to a query he clarified that no anti-GDF groups had joined the West Cumbria Community Partnerships to date.

7. Local site updates

Somerset West & Taunton: EDF are in talks with Magnox regarding shared use of the waste storage facility on the A site. The planning permission for the store has a condition attached which limits the use to A station waste only, so to facilitate co-storage Magnox will need to make a planning application to take B station waste. The co-ordinated approach to waste management is welcomed.

Somerset: A previous application to import pond skips for treatment and storage to Hinkley Point A had been refused at Planning Committee, however reference was made by Magnox at a recent Site Stakeholder Group meeting to having capacity for skip storage at the HPA ILW store. There has been no direct communication from Magnox to Somerset County Council on this, so developments are awaited.

Suffolk: A planning application has been submitted for the Sizewell A site to receive waste from Bradwell. The waste arises from the periodic checks made on Bradwell site now that it is in Care & Maintenance, and so no longer as the ability to treat and store the waste itself. The waste should not exceed the volume of 5 light goods vehicles per annum. Suffolk's Local Plan contains a policy for managing waste from sister stations. Essex County Council asked that Suffolk send them details of the consultation on this application.

Essex: Following the Nuleaf meeting to discuss the NDA Economic Impact Reports, officers from Essex and Maldon councils are keen to discuss options for support with Jamie Reed, NDA. Waste is still being imported in to Bradwell's ILW store.

East Suffolk: The council has been consulted on the planning application to import waste from Bradwell to Sizewell A for storage. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) request has been received in respect of demolition of the turbine halls at Sizewell A.

Dorset: A management plan is being prepared for Winfrith and the council is expecting site of a draft copy in November 2022.

South Gloucestershire: Some significant buildings have been demolished at Oldbury, and demolition of the turbine halls is proposed for 2023. Oldbury and Berkeley SSGs now meet jointly.

Gloucestershire: Pre-application discussions are taking place regarding dismantling of reactor buildings in 2023.

All other sites had no updates to report.

8. Date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting will be held 10.00 – 12.30, 24th January 2023

9. Any other business

9.1 Due to time constraints it was not possible to deal with the items on the agenda under Any Other Business.

9.2 The meeting closed at 11.29 and participants joined the NDA NIGLQ-P meeting.

Note of key points from NDA's Nuclear Industry Group Land Quality – Planning (NIGLQ-P) meeting

10. Chair, Paul Nicholson welcomed Nuleaf members to the meeting and round the table introductions were made.

11. The NIGLQ-P was formed about a year ago to create communities of good practice across the NDA estate and draw together expertise. It also looks at how the planning system and nuclear decommissioning interface.

12. The Group is looking to receive a presentation from Isle of Anglesey County Council at a future meeting on its Energy Island programme, particularly looking at the way they liaise with operators, and make connections between operators, local authorities and local communities.

13. Issues the group wishes to discuss include seeking clarity on the consequences of the following:

- Implications of changes to the pace and priority of the decommissioning programme
- Site end states: a review of all sites to align them to updates in strategy is underway
- Land demands to complete NDA's clean-up mission
- Demands on NDA land which is not part of a nuclear licensed site
- Community, regional and national drivers.

14. NDA is seeking to ensure that its plan fit well with Local Plans and Minerals and Waste Development Plans.

15. Nuleaf members stressed the importance of the following:

- Recognising that it's a plan led system and the correct planning terminology needs to be used.
- Early engagement on Local Plan policies is a priority: discuss what is possible rather than push for what you can get.

- Prior notification in terms of planning applications is beneficial and more efficient for the applicant. If significant resources are required then a PPA will be needed, and NDA needs to recognise that although there is a cost it will help in terms of certainty and efficiency of working.
- NDA should take the Winfrith Masterplan as an example of good practice.
- Nuleaf will provide feedback from those who joined the meeting today.

Action List

21st July 2022			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
2.1	Post note of the 21 st July 2022 on Nuleaf website subject to amendments.	CD	Done
5.2	Feedback comments on Economic Impact Reports to NDA	PM	Done