

**Meeting:** Nuleaf Steering Group  
**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
**Item:** 9  
**Subject:** GMF membership  
**Author:** Catherine Draper



## 1. Recommendation

That the Steering Group agree to ongoing membership of GMF, subject to circumstances being favourable.

## 2. Background

2.1 At the Steering Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the Chair proposed that a motion be made to a future meeting that Nuleaf would renew its annual membership of GMF without recourse to the Steering Group each year, unless circumstances warranted withdrawing from membership.

2.2 Benefits and costs of membership of GMF are given at Annex A.

## **Annex A: Benefits and costs of GMF membership**

Membership of the GMF has a number of advantages for Nuleaf. These include:

- The identification of international good practice in socio-economics, sustainability, engagement and planning. Nuleaf's involvement with GMF enabled it to link the consultants carrying out research on Nuleaf's behalf into community benefits in other countries with suitable sources of information.
- The strengthening of engagement with transnational companies i.e. those with nuclear operations in a number of nations such as EDF. With EDF having signed an agreement with NDA/Magnox on the decommissioning of its AGR stations, the benefits of international connections is likely to become more significant in future.
- The development of visits and exchanges, to enable UK local authorities to learn from and share information with others that host a decommissioning site or a potential GDF. In terms of the UK GDF siting process, this could be a useful way of enabling local councils and communities to understand both the technical aspects of GDF development and the political and socio-economic challenges and opportunities.
- Engagement in GMF fora and meetings. In 2022, Nuleaf's Chair, Executive Director and another member attended the GMF AGM in Borsele, which included a visit to the COVRA (Dutch radioactive waste management organisation) facility at Nieuwdorp. The site contains a range of innovative storage facilities for nuclear waste. In 2023, although not yet confirmed, the GMF secretariat is considering holding meetings in France and Slovakia. Nuleaf again hopes to have funding available to enable some of our members to participate in these meetings.

The costs of membership for this year have been set at 10,000 Euros (c. £8,700) and Nuleaf's Director, as a member of the Presidium, will have his costs for meeting participation covered by GMF.

As Nuleaf's future funding from NWS/NDA is influenced by our ability to engage on an international stage, membership of GMF helps support our funding discussions. The costs of membership are covered by the settlement provided by NDA/NWS. The maintaining of dialogue with other European countries post-Brexit is also viewed as important by the UK Government (BEIS).

The usual time commitment involved is limited to the two meetings per year plus online meetings of the GMF steering group in which the Executive Director takes part.