

eBulletin.



Nuleaf members at Sellafield, 8th September

Welcome

Here is a summary of topics discussed at the recent Nuleaf Steering Group meeting, forthcoming meeting dates and other items we hope will be of interest.

Nuleaf Annual Gathering

Nuleaf's **Annual Gathering** took place in a warm and sunny Workington, Cumberland, on the 6th to 8th September. A large number of our members from across England and Wales participated in the event, which involved a Steering Group meeting along with site visits to Sellafield and the Low-Level Waste Repository (LLWR).



On the evening of the 7th a dinner was held, where members were joined by colleagues from Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Councils and the NDA Group. Feedback on the event has been very positive and work will start soon in planning the 2024 Gathering.

Steering Group meeting

A Steering Group meeting was held on the 7th September as part of the Gathering.

Jamie Reed, the NDA's Director of Socio-Economics, gave a presentation on the upcoming consultation on a new NDA **Socio-economic Strategy**. Members welcomed the commitment made by Jamie Reed to the maintenance of current levels of socio-economic spend but stressed the need for 3- or 5-year budgets to support longer term and more impactful work.

The presentation prompted a lively discussion. Key points included the need to ensure that the strategy addresses social as well as economic issues; the need to further enhance the positive impact of NDA spend on local supply chains; and the importance of engaging with EDF to ensure an effective and consistent approach to socio-economics following the incorporation of the Advanced Gas Cooled Reactors (AGRs) into the NDA estate.

It was confirmed that a 12-week consultation is planned. Nuleaf will prepare a detailed response to this and share it with our members.

The Steering Group also included an update on the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process. As part of this, the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, Cllr. Martin Hill, spoke about the recent joint statement he had made with the Leader of East Lindsey Council, proposing that the Test of Public Support be held in 2027.

The meeting welcomed Chloe Atkinson, who has recently started work as Nuleaf's Director's Assistant. An update was also provided on further staffing changes. It is hoped that an announcement on those can be made at the next Steering Group meeting.



Nuleaf member dinner, 7th September

Consultations

The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), along with the Ministry of Defence and the Health and Safety Executive, is conducting a review of the **Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPIR)**. Responses can be made online by the 24th September.

The **Environment Agency** is updating their Guidance on Requirements for Authorisation (GRA) that supports solid waste destined for the GDF and Near Surface Disposal. A consultation is planned for early 2024.

The UK Government received almost 200 responses to their consultation on **Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy**. They are expecting that the final policy, along with a document setting out their response to all the comments made, will be published in early 2024. Nuleaf will circulate this to members when available.

As noted elsewhere, a consultation on the **NDA's Socio-economic Strategy** is expected to be launched later in the year. Nuleaf will alert members when this is online.



UK Government

Claire Coutinho was appointed **Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero** on the 31st August.

Great British Nuclear was launched on the 18th July with a remit to drive the rapid expansion of nuclear power within England and Wales.

Its first act was to open a tender process for partners to support the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). Current SMR projects include Rolls-Royce proposals for Oldbury and Berkeley and Balfour Beatty/Holtec plans for a reactor somewhere in the UK.

David Peattie, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) CEO noted that decommissioning plays a crucial role in the lifecycle of nuclear power generation and that the NDA 'are committed to sharing our expertise, resource and assets to support GBN and the government in delivering for the British public.'

A **Nuclear Skills Taskforce** has been launched to develop capabilities and employment in the sector, with Sir Simon Bollom appointed Chair. The aim is to bring together Government, industry and academia, and the taskforce will cover decommissioning, nuclear new build and defence.

One NDA

The NDA has undertaken a **Storage Strategy Review** with this work now at the implementation phase. The review looked at the optimal approach to storage given the expansion of the NDA to incorporate decommissioning of the AGR fleet and potentially other facilities. The new approach is likely to lead to new waste streams being assigned to existing stores, to the development of new waste stores and to implications for the transportation of waste.

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