

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held online, 14th June 2023, 10.30 – 12.00

Present:

Cllr David Moore	Cumberland Council (Chair)
Cllr Mike Caswell	Somerset Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Blackburn	Leeds City Council (Vice-Chair NFLA)
Cllr Sarah Whitelock	East Suffolk Council
Cllr Paul Thomas	Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Cllr Maggie Tyrell	South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council
Jonathan Cook	Cumberland Council
Bethany Rance	East Suffolk Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Linda Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Andy Gutherson	Lincolnshire County Council (part of meeting only)
Richard Outram	Manchester City Council
John Burton	Somerset Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Ross Walker	Suffolk County Council
Angharad Crump	Ynys Mon County Council
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Catherine Draper	

	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	Welcome, introductions and apologies had been given as part of the AGM which had been held prior to this meeting.	
1.	MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7th MARCH 2022.	
1.1	PM confirmed that the meeting with Jamie Reed regarding the review of NDA's Local Economic and Social Impact Strategy had taken place. He advised the meeting that a formal consultation	

	will take place in autumn 2023. An invitation has been issued to Jamie Reed to present to the Steering Group when it meets in West Cumbria in September.	
1.2	The Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting and would be posted on Nuleaf's website.	CD
2.	MATTERS ARISING	
2.1	There were no matters arising.	
3.	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
3.1	PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and provided updates on: NDA Group; UK Government, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) AND Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs), AGR decommissioning, regulatory matters, Nuleaf news, and international news.	
3.2	In response to a question PM advised the meeting that consultation on the draft New Nuclear NPS was currently scheduled for late 2023 and would cover a broad range of technologies. Nothing further was known at this stage.	
3.3	The Chair noted his concerns that NDA were being asked to take on more, but it was unclear whether the resources would increase proportionately. Nuleaf should seek to ensure that funds are not diverted from the management of legacy wastes to support NDA's new commitments.	
4.	UPDATE ON GDF SITING PROCESS	
4.1	PM took the meeting through the paper which had been circulated in advance and which provided updates on: Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Siting Process, Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), international news; and CoRWM.	
4.2	The meeting was advised that a letter had been sent to East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council by the leader of one of the parish councils covering the Theddlethorpe siting saying the authorities should withdraw from the siting process following the un-elected appointment of a number of anti-GDF parish councillors. Both councils had responded that this would not be in keeping with the test of public support as set out in the White Paper, and confirmed that they will continue to engage in the siting process.	

4.3	<p>The Chair provided an update on the Community Partnerships in West Cumbria. Indications were that the new Cumberland Council was content to continue to participate in the siting process. A parish council in the southern search area had polled its electorate asking whether or not they wished to have a GDF in their area. 83% had responded negatively and the parish council had asked that the area be withdrawn from the search. However, this too did not comply with the definition of a test of public support as set out in the White Paper. Community Partnership meetings were now being held in public. NWS were still saying that there were two further communities who wished to enter the siting process, but given the cut off date NWS had now set of 2026, DM could not see how this would give sufficient time to carry out community engagement properly. There were also concerns that if a decision on which site to select was not taken until 2026, this would place a burden on local authorities to keep communities engaged in the siting process.</p>	
4.4	<p>CoRWM's comments on the siting process were noted with interest. PM advised that he would invite the Chair of CoRWM to speak to a future meeting.</p>	PM
5.	FEEDBACK ON INTERNATIONAL VISITS	
5.1	<p>PM gave a presentation on his recent visit to the underground rock characterisation facility in Bure, France, and to a meeting with GMF and the Canadian and USA local government representative bodies in Paducah, Kentucky, USA.</p>	
5.2	<p>A question was raised regarding whether the UK Community Partnerships were aware of what was happening in other countries. PM advised the meeting that he had, for a number of years, told NWS that Nuleaf was well positioned to organise trips for members of Community Partnerships, but this offer had not yet been taken up.</p>	
5.3	<p>DM advised that members of the Copeland Community Partnerships had met with the Canadian developer, and spoken to members of the community around the Andra site in France when they had visited the UK. NWS was organising a trip to the Finish repository, but was limiting attendance to three per Community Partnership.</p>	
5.4	<p>PM advised the meeting that the engagement between GMF and the Canadian and American bodies was welcomed by IAEA, and all three bodies had been invited to attend an event organised by IAEA in October 2023. The engagement echoed a tripartite</p>	

	<p>agreement which had been signed by UK, US and Canadian governments on sharing of information and experience in decommissioning. NDA was also supportive and Nuleaf had been invited to participate in a meeting they were organising later this year. The potential to engage with other national representative bodies was being explored.</p>	
6.	SERVICE PLAN 2023-24	
6.1	In consultation with NDA and NWS, PM had prepared a Service Plan for the coming year and this was circulated prior to the meeting. PM asked for comments and for the Steering Group meetings approval.	PM
6.2	In response to a query regarding reporting on the Service Plan, PM advised that Nuleaf produced a 'Traffic Light' report indicating progress on each objective. A short Annual Report highlighting achievements would also be produced and circulated shortly.	
6.3	It was noted that an abbreviated version of the Service Plan would be more easily used in engagement with councils. PM agreed this could be produced.	
6.4	The Steering Group confirmed that it was happy with the proposed activities set out in the Service Plan 2023-24.	
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
7.1	The next meeting will be held in person in West Cumbria on 7 th and 8 th September. Details of the programme will be circulated in July. PM asked that members hold the dates in their diary. Nuleaf will cover the travel and accommodation costs of one elected member and one officer per authority wishing to attend.	
8.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
8.1	A discussion was held regarding concerns on the stakeholder engagement with Magnox. It was felt that the atmosphere at certain Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) meetings had deteriorated recently, and that this was discouraging participation.	
8.2	The Chair advised the meeting that discussions had been had, and continued to be had with John McNamara and Paul Vallance at NDA. He also noted that SSG business was not the responsibility of Nuleaf, and that it was the role of the Chair of the SSG to raise concerns with NDA.	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.57.	

ACTION LIST

<i>14th June 2023</i>			
Item	Action	By	Outcome
1.2	Post minutes of meeting held on 7 th March on website.	CD	Done
4.4	Invite Sir Nigel Thrift to speak to a future meeting.	PM	Added to list of future guest speakers
6.3	Prepare abbreviated version of Service Plan.	PM	To be prepared in future years