

eBulletin.



Seasons Greetings to all Nuleaf members and partners!

Welcome – and Merry Christmas!

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.

On behalf of everyone at Nuleaf we would like to wish you a good festive break and look forward to working with you again in the New Year.

Dates for your diary

The next meeting of the **Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)** will be held, via Teams, between **10am and 12.30pm on Wednesday the 31st January 2024**. In addition to the usual papers and updates, we will hear from DESNZ on potential changes to EIA and EIADR as they impact on nuclear sites; and Nuclear Waste Services (NRS) on



the National Policy Statement (NPS) and the planning aspects of the Geological Disposal Facility as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). If you wish to attend contact Chloe Atkinson: Chloe.Atkinson2@suffolk.gov.uk

The next **Steering Group** will be held on **Wednesday the 13th March 2024**. Please note the date - more information will be sent out nearer the time.

At the December 14th Nuleaf meeting, members agreed that the **2024 Nuleaf Annual Gathering** should be held in June in north Wales. The date and an outline programme will be confirmed early in the new year.

A milestone in AGR defueling

EDF Energy has announced that the defueling of the first of two reactors at **Hunterston B** has been completed on time and on budget, after beginning in May 2022.

Defueling the plant involved removing more than 300 channels of fuel from each of the reactors. The fuel channels will be stripped and processed then taken to the on-site fuel storage pond to cool before being packaged into used fuel flasks and transported via rail to Sellafield.

Work to defuel the other reactor is due to start shortly. EDF said the aim is to have this achieved and all used fuel sent to Sellafield by mid-2025, prior to transfer of site ownership to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in 2026.

Allerdale exits the GDF siting process

On the 28th September, **Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)** announced that they had decided not to continue with the GDF siting process in **Allerdale**. This follows an evaluation of the information gathered which concluded that only a limited volume of suitable rock was identifiable. The geology of the area was therefore unlikely to support a post closure safety case.

The final meeting of the Community Partnership took place on the 27th November. The decision to withdraw leaves three communities in the process, two in Cumberland and one in Lincolnshire.

Nuleaf engagement in EURAD

Nuleaf's Executive Director participated in a meeting of the ongoing **EURAD** research programme on radioactive waste management, held in Brussels in early December. The seminar focussed on the UMAN (uncertainty management) work stream and involved waste management organisations, technical support bodies and civil society groups.



Nuleaf's Director and colleagues at a EURAD seminar, Brussels, 6th and 7th December

One NDA

On the 31st October, Magnox Ltd was rebranded and will now be known as **Nuclear Restoration Services**. The name change is in part due to the expanded nature of the company, which now includes Dounreay and which will take on responsibility for decommissioning of the Advanced Gas Cooled Reactors (AGRs) in coming years. It is also understood that NRS will take over the decommissioning of the MoD's Vulcan facility.

A virtual NDA **Stakeholder Summit** was held online on the afternoon of the 12th December, with a number of Nuleaf members joining the call. It is hoped that an in-person summit will be held in 2024, probably in Cumberland.

The NDA has launched their **Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23**. This provides an update of progress and showcases achievements and case studies. The Authority has also published its **Mission Progress Report 2023**.

Guidance on **Determining the timing and pace of decommissioning** has been prepared. This sets out the revised approach to prioritisation of sites and how an optimal approach will be decided on for each site. The overall preference is to decommission sites as quickly as possible. However, there is recognition that a number of constraints are likely to slow or defer decommissioning.



UK Government news

The final version of the **Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy** is due to be published early in 2024. The Policy represents the first substantive update of policy in over 25 years. It will enable new methods of waste management including in situ disposal and Near Surface Disposal facilities. Nuleaf has been engaged throughout the development of the new policy.

In support of **Great British Nuclear's** work, DESNZ plans to publish three related documents:

- A roadmap that will set out more information on plans for the delivery of 24GW of new nuclear power. This will include a high-level vision and more information on how they intend to boost skills, support the supply chain, ensure finance and investment, promote effective waste management and decommissioning, etc.
- A consultation on the development of alternative routes to market, to overcome some of the challenges that have been experienced in ensuring sufficient private investment in new nuclear projects.
- A consultation on the proposed approach to siting of new nuclear developments, including SMRs and advanced modular reactors. The intention is to publish this in the coming weeks. This will be followed in 2024 with a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) which it is hoped will lead to the completion of the Parliamentary scrutiny process and the designation of the new nuclear NPS in 2025.

Consultations

A consultation on a revised NDA **Social Impact and Communities Strategy** was launched on the 29th November¹. The deadline for submissions is the 21st February 2024. Nuleaf will prepare a draft response and circulate it for comment.

The NDA has also launched a consultation on its **Draft Business Plan 2024-27** with this running until the 24th February 2024. Again, Nuleaf will prepare a response for comment by our members.

Keep up-to-date



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