

Meeting: Annual General Meeting
Date: 13th March 2024
Item: 4
Subject: Annual Report
Author: Philip Matthews



Introduction

This report provides a brief overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in June 2023.

Nuleaf will also produce a public facing Annual Report 2023/24 and a Report Card for this Financial Year setting out progress against the objectives set in our Service Plan. Our Service Plan 2023/24 can be viewed on our website¹.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the AGM notes the report.

1. Context

Nationally, there have been a range of developments in nuclear waste and decommissioning since the last AGM:

- Consultation on the review of UK radioactive waste management and nuclear decommissioning policy. Publication of this is imminent;
- The creation of Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) as the last of the four 'pillars' of the NDA;
- The withdrawal of Allerdale from the GDF siting process;
- Completion of the defueling of the first AGR reactor at Hunterston;
- Creation of Great British Nuclear and a range of policy developments around new nuclear development.

2. Overview of Organisational Developments and Activities

Nuleaf has around 100 member authorities comprising: 13 contributing authorities, 79 corresponding members, 3 National Park Authorities and 4 Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) co-optees. The list of member authorities is attached.

¹ <https://www.nuleaf.org.uk/about/how-we-work/>

Steering Group

Three online meetings of the Steering Group have been held since the last AGM. Presentations and discussions covered:

- NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy
- Changes to NDA comms and engagement
- Rebranding of NRS and update on strategic and site plans
- Progress with the GDF siting process
- Update on the work of CoRWM
- Progress with AGR defueling and decommissioning
- A detailed workshop on Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) involving a range of expert speakers.

Nuleaf also held a highly successful Annual Gathering in Workington on the 7th and 8th September 2023. In addition to a Steering Group meeting this included site visits to Sellafield and the LLWR, and a networking dinner with guest speakers. The event proved to be the best attended Nuleaf meeting ever, with around 40 participants over the two days.

Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)

The RWPG has met three times since the last AGM. During the course of the year topics discussed have included:

- The Code of Practice on determining the timing and pace of decommissioning
- Potential reform to EIA and EIADR
- Climate change and nuclear licensed sites
- A review of Low-Level Waste (LLW) management
- Progress with the Winfrith Masterplan
- The National Policy Statement (NPS) and planning aspects of geological disposal.

Members of the RWPG also continued their engagement with the NDA's Nuclear Industry Group Land Quality – Planning. This included a joint meeting in November 2023, to discuss the local authority perspective on planning issues and consider ways of enhancing engagement in future.

Organisational development

Among the improvements to service are the addition of a secure section on the website to enable members to share documentation which may provide helpful to other members. Nuleaf's social media presence on Twitter/X and LinkedIn has also been enhanced.

Chloe Atkinson was appointed to the role of Director's Assistant in July 2023. Two experienced consultants, Steve Smith and Doug Bamsey, have also been engaged to support Nuleaf's work and to represent the organisation as required.

Our GDF Local Authority Group has continued to meet quarterly, enabling authorities engaged in the siting process to share their experiences of the siting process.

External meetings and consultations

We have participated in:

- Theme Overview Group, Integrated Waste Management Industry Forum meetings and a range of other NDA groups on particular issues such as asbestos;
- Engagement with NDA comms and engagement staff including monthly meetings with Sam Harris, Director of Shareholder and Stakeholder engagement and regular meetings with NRS and NWS.
- Meetings of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) and discussions with NWS on the GDF siting process. Our Executive Director was invited to speak to the Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership in July 2023;
- The Radioactive Substances Policy Group (RSPG) and other meetings with UK Government officials on a wide range of work;
- Meetings with EDF energy and NRS on plans for AGR decommissioning;
- Quarterly catch-ups with ONR.

We responded to the consultation on the NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy and Business Plan 2024-2027; and to the Government consultation on the policy for siting new nuclear power stations.

International engagement

In October 2023, Nuleaf's Executive Director addressed an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Meeting on the role of municipalities in radioactive waste management. Along with some colleagues from Europe and North America he met with IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi who later issued a strong commitment to better engagement with local government and communities.

Other activities of note include:

- The signing of a Global Partnership Agreement between GMF Europe/Nuleaf, the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), representing American communities, and the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC);
- The re-appointment of Philip Matthews as a Vice President of GMF Europe;
- Ongoing participation in the Civil Society Group of the current 5-year EURAD programme.

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Contributing members:

1. Cumberland Council
2. East Suffolk Council
3. Essex County Council
4. Folkestone & Hythe District Council
5. Gloucestershire County Council
6. Gwynedd Council
7. Lincolnshire County Council
8. Manchester City Council
9. South Gloucestershire Council
10. Somerset Council
11. Suffolk County Council
12. Westmorland & Furness Council
13. Ynys Mon County Council

Corresponding members

14. Arun District Council
15. Ashford District Council
16. Birmingham City Council
17. Blackpool Borough Council
18. Braintree Borough Council
19. Breckland District Council
20. Broadland District Council
21. Bromsgrove District Council
22. Chelmsford Borough Council
23. Chesterfield Borough Council
24. Cheshire West and Chester Council
25. Colchester Borough Council
26. Cornwall Council
27. Dacorum District Council
28. Denbighshire County Council
29. Derby City Council
30. Derbyshire Dales District Council
31. Devon County Council
32. Dorset County Council
33. Durham County Council
34. Flint District Council
35. Forest of Dean District Council
36. Forest Heath District Council
37. Fylde Borough Council
38. Great Yarmouth Borough Council
39. Greater London Authority
40. Halton Borough Council
41. Hampshire County Council
42. Harlow District Council
43. Hartlepool Borough Council
44. Hyndburn Borough Council
45. Kent County Council
46. Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council
47. Lancashire County Council
48. Lancaster City Council
49. Leeds City Council
50. Leicestershire County Council
51. Lewes District Council
52. Liverpool City Council

53. London Borough of Hackney
54. London Borough of Harrow
55. London Borough of Hillingdon
56. London Borough of Newham
57. London Borough of Tower Hamlets
58. Maldon District Council
59. Melton Borough Council
60. Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
61. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
62. Norfolk County Council
63. Northamptonshire County Council
64. North East Derbyshire District Council
65. North London Waste Planning
66. North Norfolk District Council
67. Norwich City Council
68. Nottinghamshire County Council
69. Northumberland County Council
70. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
71. Oxfordshire County Council
72. Pembrokeshire County Council
73. Plymouth City Council
74. Rutland County Council
75. Scarborough District Council
76. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
77. South Ribble Borough Council
78. Southampton City Council
79. South Norfolk District Council
80. Stroud District Council
81. Spelthorne Borough Council
82. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
83. Tendring District Council
84. Tunbridge Wells District Council
85. Vale of the White Horse District Council
86. Wansbeck District Council
87. West Berkshire District Council
88. West Lindsey District Council
89. Worcestershire County Council

NFLA authorities

90. Caerphilly County Council
91. Cardiff City Council
92. Hull City Council
93. Leeds City Council

National Parks Authorities

94. Lake District National Park Authority
95. North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority
96. Snowdonia National Park Authority