

eBulletin.



Dungeness B at night

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.

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 Tuesday the 30th April**. In addition to the usual papers and updates, we will hear presentations on the Planning Framework for Trawsfynydd; the Guidance on Requirements for Authorisation (GRA); and Biodiversity Net Gain. We will also receive an update from the NDA on their work on planning, including research on Permitted Development Rights and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for the decommissioning sector.

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The next **Steering Group** will be held as part of our **2024 Annual Gathering** in north Wales on the **18th and 19th June**. Based in Llandudno, the event will include a site visit to Trawsfynydd nuclear site and a panel discussion on socio-economics and decommissioning.

If you wish to attend either meeting, please contact Chloe Atkinson:
Chloe.Atkinson2@suffolk.gov.uk

Steering Group and AGM report

Steering Group on the 13th March had a packed agenda and included our Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM confirmed the reappointment of **Cllr David Moore** as Nuleaf Chair, and of **Cllr Mike Caswell** and **Cllr David Blackburn** as our Vice Chair and Vice Chair (NFLA) respectively. This will be the last year of a three-year term for the Chair and Vice Chair, and Elected Members for all our Contributing Authorities are invited to consider standing in 2025.

The Steering Group heard from a range of speakers:

- **Dr Sam Harris**, NDA Director of Shareholder and Stakeholder Relations updated members on changes in the NDA team and engagement plans for 2024.
- **Prof. Sir Nigel Thrift** spoke to members on the work of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) which he Chairs and the issues that had been highlighted by the Committee's recent work on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs).
- Speakers from **EDF, the NDA and Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)** updated members on their collaborative work on advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR) defueling and decommissioning.

Members also discussed a range of issues highlighted in the meeting papers including:

- The brief entry and then exit of South Holderness into the GDF siting process and the implications for the wider GDF programme.
- Developing work between the NDA, Nuleaf and the Scottish Council Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) to better support local authority engagement in Scotland.
- Nuleaf's upcoming engagement in the development of NDA Strategy 5.

Meeting papers and presentations can be viewed [here](#).

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What Hunterston will look like in Care and Maintenance

UK and Devolved Government news

Great British Nuclear announced on the 7th of March that it is to purchase land at Wylfa on Anglesey and Oldbury in Gloucestershire from Hitachi.

Gwen Parry-Jones, GBN's Chief Executive commented *'These two sites at Wylfa and Oldbury have tremendous potential and present a significant opportunity for Britain and for local communities. Each location has a long history of hosting the UK nuclear industry and has experienced the enormous benefits that nuclear power can bring to their local and regional economies.....We look forward to engaging with each community in what we hope will be a long and fruitful dialogue. As our thinking moves forward, we will update local residents and their representatives in the Wylfa and Oldbury areas.'*

The **Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee** of the Welsh Senedd has published a report on the future of nuclear development in Wales. It calls on the UK Government to decide soon on the future of the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd sites, and backs new nuclear development at both. It also urges the Welsh Government to be ready to ensure that the maximum benefits to the Welsh economy are delivered.

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Nuclear power and fusion

The decommissioning of the **Joint European Torus (JET)** facility at Culham in Oxfordshire has begun following the ending of experiments at the fusion reactor in December. It is expected that it will take 12 years to repurpose the reactor. The facility was commissioned in the 1970s and anticipated to operate for a decade, but its life was repeatedly extended.

The ONR has announced that the **Imperial College Reactors Centre** in Ascot has become the first reactor site in the UK to be fully decommissioned under modern regulatory controls. The small 100kW research reactor began operations in 1965. It closed in 2012 and defueling was completed two years later with fuel elements transported to Sellafield. Imperial College applied to the ONR in 2015 to begin the decommissioning project.

The official go ahead for the **Sizewell C** nuclear power plant was given on the 15th January with the triggering of the Development Consent Order (DCO). The development is estimated to cost around £20Bn and the granting of the DCO means that a phased package of £250million community benefits will begin. Almost 8,000 workers will be required during the construction phase with a commitment that at least a third will come from the local area.

The final financial package for the development is still to be agreed, and a range of opposition groups are continuing to campaign against the development.

Consultations

Nuleaf submitted a response to the recent Government consultation on the **NPS for New Nuclear** which sets out the proposed siting process for new nuclear power post-2025. We noted the importance of maintaining a focus on the sites designated under EN-6, and stressed the need for effective waste management arrangements and for community benefits for any area hosting a new nuclear development.

Nuleaf also submitted responses to NDA consultations on their **Social Impact and Communities Strategy** and **Draft Business Plan 2024-27**.

All three responses can be viewed [here](#).

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