

Forum.



Cooling ponds at THORP, Sellafield

Welcome

Here is a summary of what has been hitting the headlines, recently issued reports, consultations in progress, forthcoming meeting dates and other items of note. This is a monthly service which we provide to those of our members who financially support our work.

New community in GDF process

On the 25th January it was announced that the community of **South Holderness**, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, had set up a Working Group as part of the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process. Establishing a GDF Working Group is the starting point for a conversation with a local community. One of the Working Group's tasks will be to engage people to begin to understand the local area and any issues or questions the community might have.



Dounreay, now part of the newly formed Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)

Councillor Anne Handley, leader of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, commented *'East Riding of Yorkshire Council has today accepted the invitation to join the South Holderness GDF Working Group, which is the first step to opening discussions with the community about whether a GDF would be right for the area. Understanding what a GDF is and exploring the associated benefits is critical to the decision-making process for any community, because it will ultimately be the local community who decide.'*

South Holderness joins three other communities engaged in the siting process, two in Cumberland and one in Lincolnshire.

Dates for the diary

The next **Steering Group** meeting will be held online on **Wednesday the 13th March** between 10.00am and 3.00pm. On the agenda are presentations from **Sir Nigel Thrift**, Chair of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM); **Samantha Harris**, Director of Shareholder and Stakeholder Relations, NDA; and **Paul Morton** of EDF and **Andy Munro**, NRS, who will providing an update on progress with Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR) decommissioning.

The March Steering Group will also include Nuleaf's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group** meeting will take place between 10.00am and 12.30pm on **Tuesday the 30th April 2024**, via Teams. In a busy agenda there will be presentations on the Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) at Trawsfynydd, Biodiversity Net Gain and from the Environment Agency on their upcoming consultation on Guidance on Requirements on Authorisation (GRA). Frank Wigley of NDA will also update members on NDA planning matters.

One NDA

The Guardian newspaper ran a series of articles in December that were critical of **Sellafield** operations, and covered cyber security, the workplace culture and the safety of the high hazard facilities. The NDA has responded by challenging some of the allegations made and arguing that other issues were already in the public domain – their response was set out in a letter from CEO David Peattie to the Secretary of State. Interim Sellafield boss **Euan Hutton** also appeared on the BBC to challenge some of the allegations.

On the 16th January, Phil Matthews met with Andy Christmas, Group Head of Accommodation at NDA and Andrew Edwards from the NDA Property Team to discuss **transport and estate management issues**. The NDA is looking to develop a more aligned approach to estate management and transport across all the operating companies. As an example, Herdus House, which was previously only used by NDA staff, is being opened up for use by those from Sellafield, Nuclear Waste Services and elsewhere in NDA Group. Work is ongoing to address the NDA Group's net zero carbon targets, both in terms of building energy use and transport. On the latter, a charging strategy for Electric Vehicles (EVs) is in development.

Regulatory update

The **Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)** has launched a consultation on the environmental statement submitted by EDF energy as part of their decommissioning plans for the **Hunterston B** power station in Ayrshire. The deadline for comments is the 28th March.

The statement has been prepared under the **Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning Regulations (EIADR)**.



Consultation updates

The consultation on a revised NDA **Social Impact and Communities Strategy** will close on the 21st February 2024. Nuleaf will prepare a draft response and circulate it for comment in the coming days. Nuleaf has also submitted a response to the consultation on the **NDA Business Plan 24-27** which ended on the 29th January.

The **UK Government** has launched two significant consultations on the framework for new nuclear, both of which have implications for decommissioning and legacy waste management. These are:

- A consultation on **siting for new nuclear projects**. This marks a first step in the process for developing a new nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS) and will close on the **10th March 2024**. The consultation will be used to inform the drafting of the NPS document, which will then be subject to further consultation. The NPS will provide a planning policy framework for SMRs and AMRs as well as traditional GW-scale power stations.
- A consultation on **Alternative routes to market for nuclear projects**. This aims to explore how government can go further and what steps can be taken to enable different routes to market for new Advanced Nuclear Technologies (ANTs), as well as exploring the uses and services they can provide the economy. It will close on the **4th April 2024**.

These consultations were published alongside the **Civil Nuclear Roadmap** which reconfirms the government's ambition to deploy up to 24 gigawatts nuclear power by 2050. It provides high-level timelines and key decision points for a wide range of nuclear technologies over the next decades. It covers areas such as siting, regulation, financing, and the supply chain. It also addresses legacy through policies on decommissioning and waste management.

Nuleaf news

The date of Nuleaf's **Annual Gathering 2024** has been provisionally set for 18th and 19th June, to be held in North Wales. Discussions are ongoing with NRS and the NDA, but it is hoped that the meeting will include a site visit to Trawsfynydd, one of the lead and learn sites, and presentations on the socio-economic support the NDA has provided in the area.

Keep up-to-date



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