

Forum.



Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd. Nuleaf members will visit the site in June.

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.

NDA news

It has been announced that the NDA Stakeholder Summit 2024 will be held in person in Manchester on the **17th and 18th September**. As always, Nuleaf will work with the NDA to support the participation of our members. Further information will be forthcoming, but if you are interested, please note the date in your diary.

The first meeting of the **Strategy 5 Development Group (S5DG)** was held in Manchester on the 9th April. Nuleaf is a member of the Group, which will act as the focus for stakeholder input into the Strategy as it develops.



Nuleaf's Executive Director and GMF colleagues in Loviisa, Finland

The process of developing the draft Strategy will continue until early 2025. There will then be a 12-week consultation on the draft, commencing on the 19th May next year. Nuleaf plans to run an engagement session for members to help inform our response.

The NDA has published its **Social Impact and Communities Strategy**¹ and **Business Plan 2024-27**² following consultation with Nuleaf and other stakeholders.

There were 20 responses to the consultation on the Social Impact and Communities Strategy. The final version accepts the requests from Nuleaf for more action on the development of a reporting framework and in broadening the scope of future studies of value beyond economic measures to include metrics of social impact.

Dates for the diary

The next **Steering Group** meeting will take place as part of the **Nuleaf Annual Gathering in Llandudno**, north Wales, being held on the 17th to 19th June 2024. The Steering Group will include a panel discussion on socio-economics and nuclear involving the Executive Directors of Cwmni Eginio and Menter Mon, along with a senior officer from Gwynedd Council. These will also be a discussion on NDA engagement with Nuleaf and local government. On the 19th, members will participate in a visit to the Trawsfynydd nuclear site.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-social-impact-and-communities-strategy-april-2024>

² Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Business Plan 2024 to 2027 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)** meeting will take place between 10.00am and 12.30pm on **Thursday the 18th July** via Teams. It will include presentations from the ONR on Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC) and from the Environment Agency on their upcoming consultation on Guidance on Requirements on Authorisation (GRA).

The AGR fleet

EDF has launched Round 2 of its consultation on plans for the decommissioning of **Hinkley Point B**, with this running until the 27th May 2024. More information on the consultation is provided via their website and an online exhibition space which can be found here³.

It has been announced that the workforce at **Hunterston**⁴ will fall by around one third by 2026 as the site enters the next phase of decommissioning. The remaining 244 staff will then transfer from EDF to Nuclear Restoration Services following the completion of defueling at the B site. Overall, the workforce will have halved by that point compared to the 500 workers employed in 2020.

Regulatory updates

The **Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)** has notified Sellafield Ltd. that it will be prosecuted for alleged information technology security offences between 2019 and 2023, with the first hearing due in June⁵. At the end of March, it was also announced that Sellafield's Chief Information Security Officer Richard Meal⁶ would be stepping down later this year. This follows reports in January that Mark Neate, the Environment, Safety and Security Director at the site, will be leaving his post in the coming months⁷.

The **Environment Agency (EA)** has written to the Low-Level Waste Repository (LLWR) in Cumbria with concerns about a delay in securing waste at the site. It comes after LLWR failed to make sufficient progress on operations to complete an engineered cap for some of the radioactive waste, meaning it breached the terms of its environmental permit⁸.

³ [Hinkley Point B nuclear power station | EDF \(edfenergy.com\)](#)

⁴ [Hunterston workforce set to be cut by nearly a third | Irvine Times](#)

⁵ [ONR notifies Sellafield Ltd of intention to prosecute | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

⁶ [Sellafield's head of information security to step down | Nuclear waste | The Guardian](#)

⁷ [Sellafield nuclear safety and security director to leave | Energy industry | The Guardian](#)

⁸ [Nuclear waste storage facility told to take action after breach - BBC News](#)



Nuclear skills

In an appearance at the House of Commons Liaison Committee on the 26th of March the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, announced a 'national endeavour' to build the nuclear workforce to support energy security and defence⁹.

As part of this, around £750 million will be invested in skills, jobs and education by 2030 through a partnership with the nuclear industry, including BAE, Rolls Royce, EDF and Babcock. This is intended to help the sector fill an estimated 40,000 new jobs by the end of the decade.

Nuleaf news

This year sees the 20th anniversary of the Energy Act (2004) that set out the framework for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The Act placed a requirement on the Authority to engage with communities and to promote positive socio-economic outcomes.

Much has changed in the 20 years since the Act, both in terms of the nuclear landscape and regarding methods of engagement employed by the nuclear sector and elsewhere. Nuleaf has therefore commissioned research to review the effectiveness of current stakeholder landscape and look at the potential to enhance this in the future. **Doug Bamsey** and **Steve Smith** are leading this work which will involve engagement with our members.

Philip Matthews participated in a **GMF Europe** meeting in Loviisa, Finland on the 15th to 17th April. Loviisa hosts a nuclear power plant, built to a Russian design in the 1970s and also a Low and Intermediate Waste repository, located 110 metres underground at the site on the Baltic Sea. The meeting included visits to both facilities and discussions with the Mayor and officials of Loviisa Municipality, which has recently joined GMF.

At the request of **Avison Young (AY)**, Nuleaf has been involved in setting up meetings between RWPG members and the consultancy. The aim is to discuss local authority experience of Permitted Development Rights (PRD) and Planning Performance Agreements (PPA). It will help inform AYs work with the NDA.

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