

Forum.



Dounreay, Caithness.

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 Group news

More than 500 workers at the **Dounreay** site went on strike on the 15th and 29th May, with another day of action planned for the 19th June. This follows the rejection by Unite and the GMB of a revised offer from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). Another union, Prospect, was involved in the first strike day before accepting a revised deal¹.

¹ [Dounreay: Members of two unions walk-out in pay dispute - BBC News](#)



Nuleaf joins delegates from across Europe at GMF meeting in Bugey, France

Peter Hill CBE² has been appointed as the new Chair of the NDA. Peter is currently chair of Keller Group plc, the world's largest geotechnical projects engineer. He has previously been Chair and a non-executive director on the Boards of a number of organisations spanning the manufacturing, research, aerospace and defence industries amongst others.

Mr Hill succeeds **Chris Train OBE** who has been acting as Interim Chair of NDA since last autumn and who has now been appointed as Chair of Sellafield Ltd. He will take up the role from the 1st July.

Dates for the diary

There has been a high level of interest from members in the **Nuleaf Annual Gathering** being held in Llandudno on the 17th to 19th June 2024 and all places are now taken. On the 18th June there will be an extended Steering Group meeting along with a networking dinner. On the 19th, members will participate in a visit to the Trawsfynydd nuclear site before heading home.

The next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)** 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).

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/peter-hill-cbe-appointed-as-new-chair-of-the-nda>

Regulation updates

The **Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)** announced on the 7th May that it had granted a nuclear site licence to Sizewell C Ltd, following the satisfactory resolution of some issues the regulator had raised and which had prevented the granting of a license in 2022³.

The 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 June⁴. At the end of March, it was also announced that Sellafield's Chief Information Security Officer Richard Meal⁵ would be stepping down later this year. This follows reports in January that Mark Neate, the Environment, Safety and Security Director at the site, would be leaving his post in the coming months⁶.

The regulator has also published its **Corporate Plan 24/25**⁷.

Government news

The new UK and Devolved Administration policy on **Managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning**⁸ was launched on the 16th May. The first major revision of policy in a quarter of a century, the paper aims to drive earlier and more cost-effective nuclear decommissioning and better management of radioactive substances. Nuleaf and our members have been actively involved in shaping the policy. We will now work with Government, the NDA Group and regulators as it is applied to nuclear sites.

It has also been announced that the UK Government will purchase the **Wylfa** and **Oldbury** sites from Hitachi in a £160 million deal⁹.

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*'.¹⁰

³ [ONR grants nuclear site licence for Sizewell C | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

⁴ [ONR notifies Sellafield Ltd of intention to prosecute | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

⁵ [Sellafield's head of information security to step down | Nuclear waste | The Guardian](#)

⁶ [Sellafield nuclear safety and security director to leave | Energy industry | The Guardian](#)

⁷ [ONR Corporate Plan 2024/25 published | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

⁸ [Managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹ [Budget: UK government to buy Wylfa site in £160m deal - BBC News](#)

¹⁰ [Great British Nuclear to buy two Hitachi sites for new nuclear development - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Geological Disposal

The **Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership** is recruiting an Independent Chair to take forward the work of the group in engaging with local people.

Members of the **Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)** have visited the Dounreay and Vulcan sites on the north coast of Scotland. Dounreay presents complex decommissioning challenges, having been established in 1955 and being the host of world leading research into fast breeder reactors. A particular area of challenge is in the retrieval, characterisation and packaging of wastes from the site's shaft and silo, where past waste management decisions have presented significant challenges to the current mission. More on the visit can be found here¹¹.

Nuleaf news

With this year marking the 20th anniversary of the **Energy Act (2004)** that set out the framework for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, it is timely to consider the stakeholder landscape and ways in which future engagement could be improved. Nuleaf has commissioned research to review the current situation, and as a first step a workshop discussion with members will be held as part of our June Steering Group meeting on the 18th June. Running in parallel with the Nuleaf study, the NDA has commissioned a review of current arrangements for the Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs).

Cllr David Moore, Doug Bamsey and Philip Matthews all participated in a **GMF Europe** meeting in **Bugey, France on the 22nd to 24th May**. The event was organised jointly with ARCICEN, the French equivalent of Nuleaf and both Cllr Moore and Doug Bamsey were invited to speak to the international group on their experiences on engagement of communities in nuclear issues. France has the largest nuclear sector in Europe and plans a new fleet of reactors.

Nuleaf continues to work with the NDA and the **Scottish Council Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS)** to explore the potential to provide more support to SCCORS, the local government network on nuclear issues in Scotland. It is hoped that this will lead to the recruitment of a Co-ordinator for SCCORS later on this year.

Keep up-to-date



@nuleaforguk



linkedin.com/groups/4580995