

Forum.



Trawsfynydd - visited by Nuleaf members as part of our Annual Gathering

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.

Annual Gathering

Nuleaf's **Annual Gathering** took place in a warm and sunny Llandudno on the 17th to 19th June. It was well attended by members from across England and Wales as well as by colleagues from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

The Gathering included a Steering Group and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), but also provided space for a range of important issues to be explored in more depth.

CEOs and senior officers from Gwynedd Council, Menter Mon and Cwmni Egino spoke on their work in promoting positive socio-economic and environmental



Menter Mon CEO Dafydd Gruffydd addresses Nuleaf members

outcomes around former nuclear sites, this being followed by a lively and engaged discussion.

Earlier in the day, consultant Steve Smith facilitated a group discussion on current stakeholder engagement and how this could be enhanced in future. This will feed into a consultancy study commissioned by Nuleaf, due to be published in the autumn. Members were then able to network over drinks and dinner, with the evening brought to a close with an address from Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of Gwynedd Council.

On the 19th members visited the former Trawsfynydd nuclear power station, an NDA 'Lead and Learn' site which is taking forward a range of new and innovative approaches to decommissioning and waste management.

Dates for the diary

Nuleaf and NNLAG (New Nuclear Local Authority Group) have jointly organised an online meeting with **Great British Nuclear (GBN)**, tasked by the UK Government with supporting the delivery of new nuclear projects. The meeting will be on **Thursday July 18th between 1pm – 2.30pm**, where we will be joined by John McNamara, GBN's Head of Stakeholder Engagement. John will be presenting on GBN's emerging plans and will also participate in a Q&A session.

On the morning of the same day (18th July) there will be a meeting of our **Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)** which will run between 10.30am and 12 noon. The agenda for this is being finalised and will be confirmed shortly.

Dounreay

Mark Rouse has left his role as the Managing Director of **Dounreay** to take up a role elsewhere in NRS. It has been suggested that his departure is connected to industrial action¹, with more than 500 workers at the site striking on the 15th and 29th May.

A further strike day planned for the 19th June was postponed while the Unite and GMB unions consider a revised offer from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). Another union, Prospect, was involved in the first strike day before accepting a deal².

It has also been announced that the clean-up of the **Dounreay** site will now take decades longer to complete, with the end date moving from 2033 until the 2070s³.

New nuclear updates

Four sites across Teesside, Cumbria, the West Midlands and South Yorkshire have been shortlisted for a factory to build SMRs for deployment across the UK, Europe and the Middle East. The development, by **Holtec Britain**, could lead to an investment of £1.3Bn. It is dependent on Holtec being selected by Great British Nuclear (GBN) as one of its preferred designs. However, a decision on which firms will be selected to roll out Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the UK has now been delayed until after the General Election.

It has been confirmed that **Wylfa** has been selected as the preferred site for a large-scale nuclear power plant, following the purchase of the land by GBN⁴. GBN has also announced that **Trawsfynydd** will not be considered as a site for the initial roll-out of SMRs. The stated reasons for this were the size of the site and the volume of cooling water required, given GBN's desire that the initial sites would contain 4 or 5 SMRs. There is still scope for Trawsfynydd to be considered in the next phase of roll out, where smaller sites with one or two reactors could be included⁵.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is to award £196 million to **Urenco** to build a Uranium enrichment facility, with the UK being the first European nation to produce advanced nuclear fuel for the UK and elsewhere⁶. The Government believes this will free Europe from reliance on Russia. Around 400 jobs will be created at the Capenhurst site.

¹ [Allegations managing director of Scotland nuclear complex was 'shipped out' over long-running pay dispute \(scotsman.com\)](https://www.scotsman.com/news/energy/energy-industry/allegations-managing-director-of-scotland-nuclear-complex-was-shipped-out-over-long-running-pay-dispute)

² [Dounreay: Members of two unions walk-out in pay dispute - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/energy-56888888)

³ <https://www.johnogroat-journal.co.uk/news/plan-to-extend-decommissioning-work-at-dounreay-until-the-20-345764/>

⁴ [Nuclear power: Wylfa on Anglesey chosen as site for new plant - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/energy-56888888)

⁵ [Why UK Government nuclear quango has ruled out Trawsfynydd from initial mini-nuke rollout - North Wales Live \(dailypost.co.uk\)](https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/energy/why-uk-government-nuclear-quango-has-ruled-out-trawsfynydd-from-initial-mini-nuke-rollout)

⁶ [UK first in Europe to invest in next generation of nuclear fuel - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-first-in-europe-to-invest-in-next-generation-of-nuclear-fuel)



Geological Disposal

Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) plans to submit a **Development Consent Order (DCO)** for site characterisation boreholes as early as 2027. Deep boreholes are required to assess the suitability of the underground environment for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Head of major permissions Malcolm Orford told New Civil Engineer⁷: *'The first DCO is for our boreholes' because 'any boreholes greater than 150m deep have been deemed nationally significant infrastructure and must be consented via a DCO'. Orford said that NWS is 'looking to commence drilling in 2029 or 2030 and therefore, to be able to meet that date, we have to submit (the DCO application in) 2027 or 2028'. These dates are not precise but are targets, he added.*

Nuleaf news

Nuleaf's Executive Director has been invited by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** to join the advisory group tasked with setting the agenda for the upcoming **Technical Meeting on Strengthening Local Stakeholder Engagement**, being held in Vienna on the 16th to 20th October. Nuleaf has been an active participant in the IAEA's previous engagement events and through the advisory group is working to develop a programme that reflects the opportunities and challenges facing diverse nuclear communities across the world. He is also representing GMF Europe on the group.

Nuleaf is also engaged in supporting the further development of the **Nuclear Communities Global Partnership**, launched last year. As part of this work, Phil Matthews joined a meeting on the 20th June with **Zengenkyo**, the association of Mayors representing nuclear communities in Japan.

Looking forward, Nuleaf is pleased to be able to provide funding to a number of our members to attend the IAEA Technical meeting in Vienna on the 16th to 20th October.

We will also be providing support for a small number of members to attend the **GMF General Assembly** meeting in Salamanca on the 8th and 9th October.

Please note these dates if you are interested in attending. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

Keep up-to-date



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