

Forum.



Nuleaf members on a site visit to Trawsfynydd, June 2024.

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.

Berkeley plans move forward

It was announced on the 21st August that South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGSC) has sold its 40-acre science park site at the former Berkeley nuclear power station for £6.5 million¹.

The land has been purchased by Chiltern Vital Group (CVB) who are interested in the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and the creation of a low carbon energy 'super-cluster'. An announcement from Government on a technology provider to develop new nuclear at the site is expected soon. The land is already host to a University Technical College run by SGSC – this is not being sold as part of the agreement and will continue operating as before.

¹ [Former Berkeley power station site sold for £6.5m - BBC News](#)



Visualisation of the proposed low carbon energy 'super cluster' at Berkeley

Kevin Hamblin, CEO of SGSC commented '*CVB can now invest in the site to support research, development and skills training around new nuclear, AI and low carbon businesses...(this) will bring significant new investment and work opportunities, and for GSGC it will mean the college plays a very prominent role in the teaching of new skills for many years to come.*'

Dates for the diary

The next **Nuleaf Steering Group** will be held on Wednesday the 11th September between 10am and 2pm. Along with the usual updates, the meeting will include a discussion on our ongoing research on stakeholder engagement and presentations from Sellafield on progress with decommissioning; and from the NDA on changes to their waste storage strategy.

We are hosting a meeting between our **Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)**, Avison Young and the NDA online on the 6th September from 10am to 11.30am to discuss developments in NDA land use and waste planning.

If you would like to join these events but haven't registered, then please contact Chloe Atkinson at Chloe.Atkinson2@suffolk.gov.uk and also accept the Teams invitations that have been sent out.

The NDA's **Stakeholder Summit** will take place on the 17th and 18th September in the Radisson Blu Hotel Manchester Airport, with the theme of 'creating meaningful conversations.' Nuleaf's Executive Director has been invited to speak as part of a panel discussion on developing partnerships. Members have been sent registration information but it, and the full agenda, is available here².

² [NDA Stakeholder Summit 2024 - idloom.events](https://www.idloom.com/events/nucleaf-stakeholder-summit-2024)

Government news

The newly elected Labour Government has maintained the structure of Government departments, meaning that the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) continues to be the sponsor for all aspects of nuclear policy. The **Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP** has been appointed Secretary of State with **Lord Hunt** the Minister responsible for nuclear and individual planning decisions³. As Lord Hunt does not sit in the House of Commons, Michael Shanks MP will speak on nuclear matters in the chamber.

A key commitment of the new Government is to establish **Great British Energy** (GBE) as a publicly owned energy company to deliver decarbonisation of the grid by 2030. A Bill has already been introduced in Parliament. The founding statement⁴ commits GBE to engagement with local authorities and states that the Government is exploring how GBE can align with **Great British Nuclear (GBN)**.

NDA updates

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) has received planning permission to demolish the turbine hall and annexe at the **Sizewell A** site⁵. Senior Project Manager Wendy Heath commented *'It will be a major skyline change for the community and clear an area the size of a professional football pitch for future use by March 2025.'*

Sellafield Ltd. has issued an apology after pleading guilty to charges related to cybersecurity failings that were brought by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). The ONR has stated that it will not provide details of the offences ahead of sentencing, which is now expected in September. The Guardian newspaper, which first reported on cybersecurity issues at the site in late 2023, has detailed a range of alleged failings⁶.

Separately, Sellafield has been given permission by Cumberland Council to knock down a series of 8 buildings known as the **Calder House Blower Houses**⁷. While much of the asbestos in the buildings has been removed, a further 25 tonnes are expected to be generated during demolition.

On the 8th August the NDA announced it was seeking a strategic partner to turn the **Chapelcross** site into a green energy hub; and also unveiled a masterplan for the 210Ha site. The plans are supported by investment of up to £15.3M from both UK and Scottish governments. NDA chief executive David Peattie said: *'Our ultimate aim is to free up our land for reuse, delivering benefit to local communities the environment and the wider economy – the green energy hub will enable us to deliver this at Chapelcross.'*

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers/minister-of-state-minister-for-energy-security-and-net-zero>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introducing-great-british-energy>

⁵ [Sizewell A demolition project approved - Nuclear Engineering International \(neimagazine.com\)](https://www.nuclearmagazine.com/news/sizewell-a-demolition-project-approved)

⁶ [Sellafield apologises after guilty plea over string of cybersecurity failings | Nuclear waste | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/oct/12/sellafield-apologises-after-guilty-plea-over-string-of-cybersecurity-failings)

⁷ [Sellafield nuclear plant's buildings to be demolished - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-67444444)



Geological Disposal

David Fannin has been appointed as the Independent Chair of the **Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership**, replacing Jon Collins who has acted as interim Chair since the CP was established in June 2022. David is a director of Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team and has previously served as Assistant Chief Executive at South Holland District Council.

Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) has published its 2024 **Geological Disposal Facility Report** which details progress with the siting process. The report outlines the work of the three Community Partnerships, noting that £7 million has now been distributed to local communities. It also outlines NWS' international engagement and the progress that is being made in undertaking the studies and surveys required to gain an understanding of the surface and sub-surface environment. The report can be viewed here⁸.

Finally, a new video explaining the siting process has been released⁹.

Nuleaf news

Nuleaf is supporting the recruitment of a Co-ordinator for our sister organisation in Scotland, the **SCCORS (Scottish Council Committee on Radioactive Substances)**. This role is being offered initially as a 12-month secondment, with 3 days working for SCCORS and one day per week supporting Nuleaf's policy work. Details of the post have been circulated to members.

Nuleaf's will be sending a delegation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) **Technical Meeting on Strengthening Local Stakeholder Engagement**, being held in Vienna on the 16th to 20th October. We have been an active participant in the IAEA's previous engagement events; and this year we have been able to provide funding for a number of our members to attend.

Nuleaf will also be participating in the **GMF General Assembly** in Salamanca on the 8th and 9th October, while our Executive Director has been invited to join a GMF delegation that will visit the underground rock laboratory near **Oskarshamn**, Sweden on the 25th and 26th September. The rock lab has been the focus for much of the research on geological disposal that has taken place.

Full reports on all these visits will be provided to the December Steering Group meeting.

Keep up to date



@nuleaforguk



linkedin.com/groups/4580995