

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.

Dates for the diary

The next meeting of the **Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)** will be on **Wednesday the 7th May**. Speakers from NDA and NRS will provide updates on planning matters.

The 2025 **Annual Gathering and AGM** will take place in Stratford, London on the **10th and 11th June**. Further details are provided on page 3.

If you are interested in joining either meeting, please contact Chloe Atkinson Chloe.Atkinson@nuleaf.org.uk.



Philip Matthews speaking at ECA Forum, Idaho Falls

ECA Forum

Executive Director Philip Matthews spoke at the **Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Annual Forum** in Idaho Falls, USA on the 22nd to 24th April. Philip's visit was funded by GMF Europe, with the aim of further developing the Nuclear Communities Global Partnership. He spoke as part of a panel on international experiences of nuclear engagement.

NDA news

The 1st April 2025 marked the **20th Anniversary of the founding of the NDA**, established through the Energy Act 2004.

NDA Group CEO, David Peattie, commented '*Our mission is unique, dating back to the UK's nuclear origins in the 1940s and expected to span into the next century. Much of what we do has never been done before and was never designed to be done.... Ours is one of the most important environmental programmes on the planet. We have a responsibility to leave a positive legacy for the generations of the future and that's something that will continue to drive us forward over the next 20 years and beyond.*'

Nuleaf submitted a response to the consultation on the draft **NDA Business Plan 2025-28**. The final submission can be viewed [here](#).

Senior NDA Group management, including CEO David Peattie, along with DESNZ officials, gave evidence to the UK Parliament's **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** on the 20th March. A video transcript of the session can be viewed [here](#).

UK Government update

Nuleaf submitted a [response](#) to the UK Government's consultation on a new **National Policy Statement for Nuclear Energy Generation (EN7)**. EN-7 will allow developers more freedom in choosing locations for new nuclear projects, a move away from the pre-identified locations set out in EN-6; and also supports the development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) along with conventional Gigawatt stations. It is expected the final policy will be launched before the end of 2025.

Nuleaf also submitted a [response](#) to a recent **Call for Evidence on Revisiting the Nuclear Roadmap** made by the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee of the UK Parliament.

On the 28th February, **Great British Nuclear (GBN)** [announced](#) that it has entered the last stage of the selection process for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and plans to make a final decision in summer 2025.

Three vendors, GE Hitachi, Holtec and Rolls-Royce have submitted final tenders, with GBN having already identified potential development sites at Wylfa and Oldbury-on-Severn. Westinghouse announced on April 26th that it is dropping out of the competition.

Nuleaf Annual Gathering 2025

The programme for Nuleaf's Annual Gathering has now been finalised. Following a Steering Group meeting and AGM, a seminar on the current and future nuclear landscape in the UK will be held:

- Lord Hunt will give an overview of the Government's current and future plans for the nuclear sector.
- Clive Nixon, NDA Chief Nuclear Strategist, will update members on Strategy 5 and the challenges presented to the NDA by current financial pressures.
- Josh Buckland, Strategy Director for EDF will provide an overview of EDF's plans for decommissioning and new nuclear within the UK.
- Meritxell Martell, Executive Director of GMF Europe, will present the findings of research on the scope for the use of Community Hosting Agreements to help support local engagement between nuclear operators, local authorities and communities.

In the evening a members dinner will be addressed by David Peattie, CEO of the NDA and Gerben Djksterhuis, President of GMF Europe, the European network of nuclear municipalities.

Next morning we travel to Kent where there will be a visit to Dungeness A and a meeting with the Romney Marsh Partnership. Following lunch members will make their way home.



Geological Disposal news

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) has stated that it will withdraw from the GDF siting process unless it receives significant further information. Council Leader Martin Hill called on Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) to '*comprehensively explain the benefits and costs of the proposal*' for the local area.

The announcements follows the decision by NWS to define their 'Area of Focus' for the GDF headworks around land between Gayton le Marsh and Great Carlton. This represents a move away from previous plans that the headworks would be on the former gasworks site at Theddlethorpe.

Cllr Hill said LCC joined the siting process with '*an open mind, knowing that residents themselves could make the decision as to whether it was right for the area*'. However, moving the potential site had '*changed the very nature of the proposal and raised further concerns within the local community. We had planned to put the decision on whether to remain within the partnership to a public vote next year, but it has become increasingly apparent that the community is getting frustrated with the uncertainty and slow pace of this process.*'

The County Council's statement follows the decision of **East Lindsey District Council** to withdraw from the GDF Community Partnership, something that was formally confirmed at a meeting of the Council's Executive Board on the 4th April.

The involvement of at least one principal local authority is necessary for the process to continue and so Lincolnshire County Council's statement raises the possibility that the siting process will end in the area.

Nuclear regulation

The UK Government is setting up an **independent taskforce on nuclear regulation**. On the 23rd April a **Call for Evidence** was launched, with this running until the 19th May.

The review covers civil and defence nuclear regulation and will also consider health and safety, environmental and planning regulation as it applies to nuclear matters.

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