

Meeting: Annual General Meeting
Date: 10th June 2025
Item: 3
Subject: Annual Report
Author: Philip Matthews



Introduction

This report provides an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in March 2024.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the AGM agrees that the report presents a true picture of organisational developments and activities.

It is noted that a formal Annual Report for 2024/25 will be prepared and circulated to members in the coming weeks, along with a report on performance against the Outputs and Outcomes set out in the annual Service Plan.

1. Overview of Organisational Developments and Activities

Organisational developments and activities have included:

Member Authorities

Nuleaf has 105 member authorities and affiliated bodies comprising: 12 contributing authorities, 85 corresponding members, 3 National Park Authorities and 5 Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) councils. The list of member authorities is attached.

Steering Group

Three online meetings of the Steering Group were held during the year. Guest speakers were:

- Doug Bamsey and Steve Smith: Stakeholder engagement research
- Matt Buckley: NDA Storage Strategy
- Neil Crewdson: Update on developments at Sellafield
- Bill Hamilton: Update from Nuclear Restoration Services
- Philip Matthews: Presentation on Nuleaf's international engagement
- John McNamara: Update on NDA engagement
- Paul Skelton: Update on Low Level Waste Management
- John McNamara: Presentation on NDA research on SSGs

- Michael Borelli: The Canadian GDF siting process.

Nuleaf held its two day Annual Gathering in Llandudno in June 2024. The meeting included a seminar on socio-economics and nuclear featuring presentations from Cwmni Eginio, Menter Mon and Gwynedd Council; a dinner which was addressed by Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of Gwynedd Council; and a site visit to the Trawsfynydd nuclear decommissioning site.

The Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)

The RWPG has met four times since the last AGM. It continues to provide a mechanism for engagement between NDA Group, regulators and local planning authorities across a wide range of issues of importance. During the course of the year topics discussed included:

- Matt Meldrum, NRS: Biodiversity Net Gain. Matt now provides updates on NRS to every RWPG Meeting.
- Frank Wigley, NDA and Avison Young: Regular discussion on land use and waste planning issues including around EIADR, Planning Performance Agreements; Planning Policy Guidance; and Permitted Development Rights.
- Peter Howden, ONR: Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC)
- Trevor Howard, Environment Agency: Consultation on the Guidance on Requirement for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR)
- Malcolm Orford, NWS: Update on GDF siting process.

Outside of formal meetings, RWPG members have held dialogue with the NDA around issues including the landfill disposal of waste and Permitted Development Rights.

Services to Member Authorities

Services to member authorities continue to be maintained and new opportunities to provide added benefit sought.

- Quarterly meetings are held between member local authorities who are involved in the GDF siting process.
- A secure section has been added to the website to enable members to share documentation which may provide helpful to other members
- E-bulletins have been published following each Steering Group meeting summarising the discussions and decisions and alerting the readership to other topics of interest. Newsletters are provided to Contributing members in most other months of the year.
- Nuleaf commissioned independent consultants Steve Smith and Doug Bamsey to undertake research on best practice regarding local government engagement in nuclear. This looked at comparable industries in the UK and the overseas experience. Nuleaf members contributed to the report which will be published in summer 2025. Nuleaf is grateful to the NDA for providing funding to support this work.

- Nuleaf provides briefings, consultation responses, case studies and other information to members. Items of interest are posted on the Nuleaf forum on LinkedIn and on Twitter.

In February 2025 Nuleaf took over the Secretariat of our sister organisation in Scotland, SCCORS. An officer has been appointed to act as Co-ordinator of SCCORS, based within the Nuleaf team. They will also provide policy and strategy support to Nuleaf. This post has been supported by the NDA and will initially run for 12 months.

Responses to Consultation

During the course of the year consultation responses and comments have been submitted on:

- NDA Business Plan 2025-28;
- Guidance on the requirements for authorisation and staged regulation for the disposal of solid radioactive waste (GRR).

Events and Representation at Meetings

Officers have arranged or participated in a large number of meetings and workshops on GDF and other nuclear legacy management issues. These include:

- The NDA's Integrated Waste Management, Critical Enabler and Site Decommissioning and Remediation Theme Overview Groups;
- The NDA's Strategy 5 Development Group (S5DG);
- The NDA Stakeholder Summit, held in Manchester. Philip Matthews, Executive Director joined a panel discussion.
- Quarterly liaison meetings with key staff in the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ); Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA); Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS); Nuclear Waste Services (NWS); Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR): and EDF.
- Meetings of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM).
- The Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership.

International engagement

Nuleaf was involved in significant international engagement over the year. All engagement was funded by the IAEA and GMF Europe.

Nuleaf has been a member of GMF (Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities) for a number of years. The Executive Director is a Vice-President of the organisation and participates in meetings of its governing body. Nuleaf sent a delegation to a GMF meetings in France in May 2024 and Spain in October 2024.

The Executive Director also participated in the GMF site visit to Oskarhsamn in Sweden, involved in the Swedish GDF process. He was accompanied by Lincolnshire

County Council's Head of Infrastructure, supporting the authority's engagement in their local GDF siting process. This visit was organised in collaboration with NWS.

In October 2024, Nuleaf's Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director, along with elected members from East Suffolk and Folkestone and Hythe Councils attended an IAEA Technical Meeting on Stakeholder Engagement alongside a larger UK delegation supported by NWS. Nuleaf members were invited to present to the global conference, and Nuleaf's Director also acted as Chair and rapporteur for other sessions.

At the Vienna meeting, Nuleaf continued to play an active role in the development of the Nuclear Communities Global Partnership, working with European, American and Canadian Colleagues. Argentina and Korea have now joined the Partnership and Nuleaf's Executive Director has since been appointed to the Global Partnership Board.

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Contributing members:

1. Cumberland Council
2. East Suffolk Council
3. Essex County Council
4. Folkestone & Hythe District Council
5. Gloucestershire County Council
6. Gwynedd Council
7. Lincolnshire County Council
8. South Gloucestershire Council
9. Somerset County Council
10. Suffolk County Council
11. Westmorland & Furness Council
12. Ynys Mon County Council

Corresponding members

13. Arun District Council
14. Ashford District Council
15. Bassetlaw District Council
16. Birmingham City Council
17. Blackpool Borough Council
18. Braintree Borough Council
19. Breckland District Council
20. Broadland District Council
21. Bromsgrove District Council
22. Carlisle City Council
23. Chelmsford Borough Council
24. Chesterfield Borough Council
25. Cheshire West and Chester Council
26. Colchester Borough Council
27. Cornwall Council
28. Dacorum District Council
29. Denbighshire County Council
30. Derby City Council
31. Derbyshire Dales District Council
32. Devon County Council
33. Dorset County Council
34. Durham County Council
35. Eden District Council
36. Flint District Council
37. Forest of Dean District Council
38. Forest Heath District Council
39. Fylde Borough Council
40. Great Yarmouth Borough Council
41. Gosport Borough Council
42. Greater London Authority
43. Halton Borough Council
44. Hampshire County Council
45. Harlow District Council
46. Hartlepool Borough Council
47. Hyndburn Borough Council
48. Kent County Council
49. Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council
50. Lancashire County Council
51. Lancaster City Council
52. Leicestershire County Council

53. Lewes District Council
54. Liverpool City Council
55. London Borough of Bromley
56. London Borough of Hackney
57. London Borough of Harrow
58. London Borough of Hillingdon
59. London Borough of Newham
60. London Borough of Tower Hamlets
61. Maldon District Council
62. Melton Borough Council
63. Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
64. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
65. Norfolk County Council
66. Northamptonshire County Council
67. North East Derbyshire District Council
68. North London Waste Planning
69. North Norfolk District Council
70. Norwich City Council
71. Nottinghamshire County Council
72. Northumberland County Council
73. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
74. Oxfordshire County Council
75. Pembrokeshire County Council
76. Plymouth City Council
77. Rutland County Council
78. Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
79. Renfrewshire Council
80. Scarborough District Council
81. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
82. South Ribble Borough Council
83. Southampton City Council
84. South Norfolk District Council
85. St Edmundsbury Council/Forest Heath DC
86. Stroud District Council
87. Staffordshire County Council
88. Spelthorne Borough Council
89. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
90. Tendring District Council
91. Tunbridge Wells District Council
92. Tower Hamlets London Borough Council
93. Vale of the White Horse District Council
94. Wansbeck District Council
95. West Berkshire District Council
96. West Lindsey District Council
97. Worcestershire County Council

NFLA authorities

98. Caerphilly County Council
99. Cardiff City Council
100. Hull City Council
101. Leeds City Council
102. Manchester City Council

National Parks Authorities

103. Lake District National Park Authority

104. North Yorkshire Moors National Park
Authority

105. Snowdonia National Park Authority