

Forum.



Dungeness A and B stations, Kent

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 our **Steering Group** will be held online from 10am to 3pm on Wednesday the 10th September. It will include an EGM to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair.

The next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group** meeting will be on Wednesday October the 22nd from 10am until 12.30pm.

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



Nuleaf members on a site visit to Dungeness A, June 11th

NDA news

Cumberland Council Leader **Cllr Mark Fryer** has stated that his authority is committed to working with the NDA to '*deliver maximum value and benefit*' from the Moorside site adjoining Sellafield. This follows an [announcement](#) from the Prime Minister that the 600 acre site is to be redeveloped as part of the Government's commitment to clear power. Cumberland Council has said no concrete decision has been made on what the site, owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, will be used for, though Cllr Fryer has stated that Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) would be his preference.

The NDA has announced a partnership that will see robots deployed for the first time to [sort and segregate radioactive waste](#). An investment of up to £9.5million has been allocated for the 4 year project, which is a collaboration between Sellafield, NDA, Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) and Nuclear Waste Services (NWS). The project will initially be deployed at **Oldbury** and will be used to separate low-level waste from intermediate-level waste which has been retrieved from the vaults on site.

Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) has published an updated [Inventory for Geological Disposal](#), setting out provision for all radioactive wastes (and nuclear materials that could be declared waste) to be disposed of in a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). The total packaged volume of this Inventory is estimated to be 769,000 m³, of which just over 10% is attributable to an assumed new build programme of up to 24GWe (GigaWatt equivalent). More than 80% is attributable to low heat generating waste.

UK Government updates

The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented her **Spending Review** to Parliament on June 11th. This set out the Government's spending plans for the next few years, including for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

Overall spending for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) will increase by 16% by 2028/29. The NDA has been awarded £13.9Bn by the end of the Review period. Its spend in 2025/26 will be £4.164Bn, with £3.3Bn from Government and the rest commercially generated. Non-site expenditure, which includes engagement and socio-economics, will be £0.189Bn in this financial year. Once the implications for this settlement for specific sites and parts of the NDA mission are fully understood, Nuleaf will hold a discussion session for our members with the NDA.

The UK Government published its **Industrial Strategy** along with a range of sector plans, including the **Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan**, on the 23rd June. The Industrial Strategy is a 10 year plan to increase investment and grow the industries of the future. It is supported by sector plans in areas seen as having significant potential for growth, including clean energy, where the Government has a mission to establish the UK as a Clean Energy Superpower.

The objective is that, by 2035 the UK will be a global leader in Clean Energy Industries, creating hundreds of thousands of high quality jobs across the country. Nuclear, both fission and fusion, is identified as an important part of this objective with scope for the sector, including defence, to support the employment of up to 120,000 people next decade.

A consultation on a UK Government working paper on **community benefits and shared ownership for local carbon energy infrastructure** closed on the 16th July. Nuleaf submitted a response which can be viewed [here](#).

Nuleaf news

An election to appoint a new **Chair** and **Vice Chair** for Nuleaf will be held at the next Steering Group meeting on the 10th September. Any elected member from a Contributing member authority is entitled to stand, and details of the nomination and election process have been sent out via email. If you are interested in standing, please respond to the email sent or contact Chloe Atkinson (Chloe.atkinson@nuleaf.org.uk). Current Chair Cllr David Moore, and Director Philip Matthews, are happy to discuss the role and election process with anyone considering standing.

Nuleaf held a well-attended engagement event on the **Strategy 5** consultation on the 16th July, with members of our Scottish sister organisation, SCCORS, also joining. Members have been sent information regarding further events the NDA plans for the 5th September, with more details on these to follow. The consultation on the Strategy and the related **Integrated Impact Assessment (IIP)** will run to the 29th September. We will circulate a draft response to members for comment during August.



New nuclear updates

Great British Nuclear (GBN) has been renamed **Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N)**. In the Spending Review a total of £8.3Bn was allocated to Great British Energy (GBE) and GBE-Nuclear, in line with previous commitments. However, £2.5Bn of this amount is earmarked for new SMR development, meaning that funding for GBE's non-nuclear activities has actually been cut.

The Treasury stated that the *'two allied publicly owned companies with a shared mission'* would spend the £8.3 billion on *'homegrown clean power'* while remaining separate entities. GBE-N announced on the 10th June that Rolls Royce has been selected as its sole partner for Small Modular Reaction (SMR) development, despite having previously identified a risk in only taking one technology forward.

The **Sizewell C** nuclear station got the official go ahead on the 22nd July, following the agreement of the final investment decision. The agreement sees the government becoming the largest shareholder, alongside private investors EDF, Centrica, La Caisse and Amber Infrastructure. The development will create 10,000 jobs at the peak of construction and provide electricity for the equivalent of 6 million homes when operational.

Live consultations

The **Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)** and the **Environment Agencies** covering England, Wales and Scotland have launched a consultation on their joint Guidance on Higher Activity Waste Management. The Guidance was last updated a decade ago, and radioactive waste management has evolved significantly over that time. The aim of the consultation is to gather feedback from interested parties on the scope, clarity and technical content of the guidance, to help inform a review. The consultation closes on the 22nd August, and Nuleaf will be responding.

The **Environment Agency** is running a consultation on plans for the disposal of radioactive waste at the Port Clarence landfill site in Stockton-on-Tees – this closes on August 4th operated by Auegan. Plans were first submitted in 2019 and the operator, Auegan, argue that risk assessments demonstrate that they pose no risk to the community or environment. Objections to the plan have been raised by the local MP and Mayor, Lord Ben Houchen.

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