

**MINUTES**

<b>Title of Meeting:</b>	Steering Group and Seminar																																															
<b>Date:</b>	10/06/2025																																															
<b>Place:</b>	The Stratford Hotel London																																															
<b>Times:</b>	13:00-17:00																																															
<b>Attended:</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Cllr David Moore</td> <td>Cumberland Council (Chair)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Joseph Ghayouba</td> <td>Cumberland Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Paul Thomas</td> <td>Folkestone and Hythe District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn</td> <td>Gwynedd Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Aled Morris Jones</td> <td>Isle of Anglesey County Council/SSG Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Robin W Williams</td> <td>Isle of Anglesey County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Michael Caswell</td> <td>Somerset Council (Vice Chair)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Chris Davies</td> <td>South Gloucestershire Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Richard Smith</td> <td>Suffolk County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jonathan Cook</td> <td>Cumberland Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Terry Burns</td> <td>Essex County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bethany Rance</td> <td>East Suffolk Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martyn Fulcher</td> <td>East Suffolk Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amartya Deb</td> <td>Gloucestershire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chadernnay Glenn</td> <td>Gloucestershire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iwan Robat Jones</td> <td>Gwynedd Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iwan Jones</td> <td>Isle of Anglesey County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edward Wright</td> <td>Lincolnshire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Martin</td> <td>Somerset Council/ Nuleaf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tessa Bond</td> <td>Somerset Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jon Severs</td> <td>South Gloucestershire Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chloe Atkinson</td> <td>Nuleaf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philip Matthews</td> <td>Nuleaf</td> </tr> </table>		Cllr David Moore	Cumberland Council (Chair)	Cllr Joseph Ghayouba	Cumberland Council	Cllr Paul Thomas	Folkestone and Hythe District Council	Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn	Gwynedd Council	Cllr Aled Morris Jones	Isle of Anglesey County Council/SSG Chair	Cllr Robin W Williams	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Cllr Michael Caswell	Somerset Council (Vice Chair)	Cllr Chris Davies	South Gloucestershire Council	Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council	Jonathan Cook	Cumberland Council	Terry Burns	Essex County Council	Bethany Rance	East Suffolk Council	Martyn Fulcher	East Suffolk Council	Amartya Deb	Gloucestershire County Council	Chadernnay Glenn	Gloucestershire County Council	Iwan Robat Jones	Gwynedd Council	Iwan Jones	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Edward Wright	Lincolnshire County Council	Louise Martin	Somerset Council/ Nuleaf	Tessa Bond	Somerset Council	Jon Severs	South Gloucestershire Council	Chloe Atkinson	Nuleaf	Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
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<b>Invited Guests:</b>	Michael Barry Dawn Armstrong Gerben Dijksterhuis John McNamara Bill Hamilton Rachel Conah Sam King John Pitchford Brendan Sweeney	Cumberland Council DESNZ GMF NDA NRS NWS Former Nuleaf Former chair Nuleaf
<b>Speakers</b>	Tina Saha Josh Buckland Meritxell Martell Juliet Long	DESNZ EDF GMF NDA
<b>Minute-taker:</b>	Louise Martin	

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>
1.1	<p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members. He noted that the Gathering this year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nuleaf and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Nuleaf was founded in response to the creation of the NDA, with the main drivers being the former Cumbria County Council and Manchester City Council. The organisation has grown and increased its influence over the last 2 decades and it is great that we can come together and celebrate that.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted the organisation’s adaptability and resilience, noting how Nuleaf has continued to evolve in response to the changing landscape of nuclear legacy management.</p> <p>He welcomed a number of first time attendees and note that apologies had been received from Rachel Whaley, Westmorland and Furness Council; Angela Jones, Westmorland and Furness Council; Jo Wynn-Carter, Folkestone and Hythe District Council; and Cllr. Michelle Campbell, SCCORS.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that no AOB had been received.</p>
Action: None	

<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 12/03/2025</b>
2.1	Approved.
Action: CA to add minutes to website	

<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>
3.1	All actions in hand.
Action: None	

4.	Update on National Developments in Radioactive Waste Management
4.1	PM presented the paper and highlighted a number of news items.
4.2	<p>He began by noting the launch of the consultation on NDA Strategy 5, the main guiding strategy for the Group from 2026-31. Nuleaf will be submitting a response and would hold an engagement event for members.</p> <p>The Chair stressed the importance of Strategy 5 and encouraged all local authorities to respond, either through Nuleaf or directly.</p> <p>Members asked questions and made a number of comments on the Strategy:</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Is there a clear policy for sites that are in long term Care and Maintenance (C&amp;M)?</p> <p><i>Answer (BH): Only one site, Bradwell, in is C&amp;M with decommissioning work ongoing at all other sites. We expect there to be a review of the decommissioning strategy as a result of the Spending Review and will engage with Nuleaf and councils on that.</i></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Communities want to know the timeframe for end states. What plans are there for engagement at site level?</p> <p><i>Answer (BH): NRS has started a deep dive of engagement around sites to have that conversation. We started at Wylfa and Oldbury/Berkley in February, then moved to Chapelcross. We plan to engage at Hunterston in August 2025, Trawsfynydd in September, then Dungeness, with Hinkley Point in Spring 2026.</i></p> <p><i>We will also do more work using the polling company Think Insight. Some small scale polling has been undertaken, followed by larger groups (up to 2,500) including a high proportion of young people. The results have been useful but have shown a low level of awareness of NRS and what is happening at some sites.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> How are you ensuring that learning on waste management is captured for work on later sites?</p> <p><i>Answer (BH): The aim is to have a rolling programme of decommissioning so that, for example we can have grouting infrastructure that moves between sites. We also have our lead at learn sites at Trawsfynydd and Winfrith which can help inform use of e.g. disposal in situ.</i></p>
4.3	<p>PM highlighted that the UK Government’s Spending Review was taking place today (10<sup>th</sup> June) and would have significant implications for NDA funding and its future mission. It was likely to take a few months before it became clear what the impact was on individual sites or work programmes.</p> <p>It was noted that Nuleaf would continue to advocate for the best possible settlement for the NDA Group. It was also commented that delays to decommissioning were likely to cost the Government/taxpayer more in the long run.</p>
4.4	It was noted that the UK Government (DESNZ) had published a working paper on <i>community benefits and shared ownership for local carbon energy infrastructure</i> on the 21 <sup>st</sup> May. Nuleaf will respond. The Chair encouraged others to also respond.

4.5	<p>Hunterston B power station was declared 'fuel free' on April 24<sup>th</sup>, the first Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR) to have reached this stage.</p> <p>BH commented that the timetable was on schedule and that it was expected that Hunterston B would transition to NRS on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. There was also a plan to deliver a community roadshow in the area in August 2025 to give confidence to the community. A similar event was planned for Hinkley Point in spring 2026 and there would be future engagement around Dungeness and Trawsfynydd.</p>
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Action: None

<b>5.</b>	<b>Update on the Geological disposal facility siting process</b>
5.1	<p>PM tabled the paper.</p> <p>He highlighted the news that Lincolnshire County Council has now formally withdrawn from the GDF siting process, bringing the Community Partnership (CP) at Theddlethorpe to an end. This means that only two communities, both in the Cumberland Council area, remain in the process.</p> <p>EW (Lincolnshire) added some additional context. He noted that the Reform Party had stood on a manifesto which included a commitment to withdraw from the GDF siting process and had moved quickly to deliver on this pledge after forming the new administration.</p>
6.2	<p>Concerns were raised by Nuleaf members as to the implications for the delivery of a GDF and a range of questions and comments were made. Responses were offered by Nuleaf's Chair and officers and by other members.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> What has been the process for withdrawal?</p> <p><i>Answer: The withdrawal has been decided without a full scrutiny process. Community Investment Funding (CIF) will continue for the remainder of the year. The Community Partnership (CP) has officially ended.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Where does Lincolnshire's exit leave the GDF process?</p> <p><i>Answer: The two CPs in West Cumbria will continue but, as both are located in one local authority area, the whole national process could end if Cumberland Council decides to withdraw at some stage. The current national policy remains in place and other communities may enter, though this is looking less likely.</i></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> The withdrawal brings lots of uncertainty at Sellafield and any ending or delays to the current process will have cost implications.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Should the GDF siting process be reviewed now that only Cumbria is involved?</p> <p><i>Answer: The situation raises concerns about the process's effectiveness. The current UK Government has signalled a desire to streamline planning processes and there may therefore be scope for revisions to be made to the current policy.</i></p>

	<p><b>Question:</b> What lessons can be learned from Lincolnshire’s experience?</p> <p>Answer: <i>There is a need to reflect and improve how the siting process is managed. A GDF is essential, but the approach must be more effective and coordinated.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> What is the status of the GDF process in Cumbria?</p> <p>Answer: <i>Negotiations are ongoing with two communities. The next step is to initiate the Development Consent Order (DCO) process for borehole investigations.</i></p>
Action: None.	

<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
7.1	Confirmed as the 10 <sup>th</sup> September, online.

<b>8.</b>	<b>SEMINAR: The current and future nuclear landscape in the UK</b>
8.1	The Chair welcomed all four speakers. The aim of this afternoon’s seminar was to take stock of the current nuclear landscape, covering decommissioning and waste, current power stations and plans for new build; and look to the future. It was a large and complex sector that was evolving, and he looked forward to hearing the presentations and the questions from Nuleaf members. All presentations would be placed on the Nuleaf website.

<b>9.</b>	<b>The UK Government’s vision for nuclear: Tonima Saha, Deputy Director for Nuclear Decommissioning and NDA sponsorship, DESNZ</b>
9.1	<p>Tonima thanked Nuleaf for the invitation to speak. She began by noting that today was the day of the Spending Review which will set out spending plans for nuclear and would also include some significant announcements related to the sector. This limited some of the things she was able to say. However, she noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UK has an ambition to become a clean energy superpower, based on both renewables and new nuclear provision.</li> <li>• There was due to be an announcement today of £14.2bn investment in the Sizewell C project (SZC) with a final investment decision due in the summer. SZC would create 10,000 jobs in construction and 70% of the supply chain contracts were predicted to go to UK firms. The costs of decommissioning had been integrated into the costs of the project.</li> <li>• Great British Nuclear (GBN) has announced that Rolls-Royce SMR has been selected as its preferred technology. The spending review would support SMR development with £2.5bn of investment.</li> <li>• The NDA would be working with Cumberland Council and others to look at clean energy deployment on the Moorside site.</li> <li>• As part of its wider mission to create a more effective regulatory landscape, an independent nuclear task force had been appointed to look at civil and defence nuclear regulation and would report in the autumn.</li> <li>• The planning framework for nuclear was being updated through the development of a new EN-7, which would be published towards the end of the year.</li> <li>• Government was very supportive of the need to engage with communities and for the NDA and nuclear industry to be based on a ‘social license to operate.’</li> </ul>

9.2

**Question:** I've been trying to establish exactly which of the sites of the NDA and its associated companies should be benefitting from the socio-economic obligations under the Energy Act 2004. My particular interest is in the Marine Terminal in Barrow. I made an FOI request to DESNZ, asking for a list of all the designated sites that were entitled to socio-economic support but was told that it was not possible to provide this. I don't accept this, and therefore wanted to ask you whether this could be actioned?

*Answer: Tonima agreed to respond in writing if the details of this issue could be sent to her.*

**Question:** The UK currently has no capacity to produce medical isotopes. What are the government's plans to address this?

*Answer: This is an important issue that the Government is looking at. We hope to be able to say more in due course.*

**Question:** Rolls Royce has been chosen as the preferred SMR supplier. Can you say more about the timetable and the overall plans for SMR roll out?

*Answer: The delivery of the first UK SMR is now expected in the mid-2030s. Beyond the work of GBN with Rolls Royce, the Government is supportive of private sector led deployment of SMRs and AMRs. We also believe that UK companies such as Rolls Royce have great potential to supply SMRs globally.*

**Question:** I represent one of the two areas that has been identified by GBN for a potential SMR but we still don't know when it will become clear what is going to happen. Can you say more on this?

*Answer: We hope there will be more clarity before too long. We are also working to review EN-7 which should open up the potential for new areas to host SMRs.*

**Question:** I welcome the SMR and Sizewell announcements. Will there be future Gigawatt (GW) reactors developed and if so when could that be announced?

*Answer: I can't say more about that at present. Josh Buckland (JB) noted that EDF was also interested in this timeline.*

**Question:** The availability of skilled workers is a critical issue. In West Cumbria we are concerned that the recent submarine announcement at Barrow may draw skilled workers away from Sellafield. We also have an aging workforce and there is a real need to get more young people interested in nuclear. Can you say more on how this might be addressed?

*Answer: This is a critical issue. The industry is collaborating under the 'Destination Nuclear: The Future's in Your Power' campaign and we are keen to do more to promote the full range of opportunities across decommissioning, new nuclear, and defence. Graduate schemes have been successful and I hope for similar success with apprenticeships. I agree that some of this work needs a higher profile.*

*Note: Other presenters added comments on this issues. They noted the need to look beyond the nuclear sector and recognise there was scope to attract people currently working in oil and gas and renewables. The upcoming Government Industrial Strategy*

	<b>Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy</b> <i>was also highlighted as a useful underpinning of this work.</i>
	Action: Nuleaf to write to Tonima regarding the issue raised around socio-economic obligations. DESNZ to respond.

<b>10.</b>	<b>Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) – Strategy 5 and forward work plan: Juliet Long, Chief Strategist, Site Decommissioning and Remediation, NDA.</b>
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10.1	<p>Juliet reflected on the progress that had been made in decommissioning over the NDA's 20 years of operation, and noted the more recent restructuring of the organisation, which was intended to give a greater coherence to work. The involvement of local government and communities was critical to delivery and so it was important to be having ongoing dialogue with Nuleaf.</p> <p>Strategy 5 was in development and would be published in 2026 following a consultation this summer. The context for the Strategy was very different than 5 years ago, with a more unstable global environment, a challenging UK economic situation and a greater need to work with the new nuclear and defence sectors. Key challenges and priorities for the Strategy were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pace of decommissioning would be guided by the funding provided by Government. Communities must be engaged about the issues around this.</li> <li>• Embedding the new structure of NDA</li> <li>• SDR (site decom and remediation) remains the core priority, with more focus being given to responsible stewardship of the estate and its optimisation, guided by local priorities.</li> <li>• Action needed to continue in promoting Integrated Waste Management (IWM) and sustainability.</li> <li>• Plutonium was a key area where the approach was developing.</li> <li>• Engagement with planning authorities was also important around issues such as Permitted Development Rights (PDR) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).</li> </ul>
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10.2	<p><b>Question:</b> Is the One NDA model the right one or should it be replaced by something else?</p> <p><i>Answer: The NDA was originally based on a competitive model, but contracts became a barrier to progress. The organisation is now in a stronger position, though challenges remain, particularly around funding and delivery. Efficiency pressures are increasing due to limited funding.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> How can the supply chain be properly supported. For example, in West Cumbria there is a metals facility (operated by EDF) that is impacted by low throughput and there are concerns that general support for the supply chain will diminish as the NDA/Sellafield has more limited resources.</p> <p><i>Answer: I recognise that there is a challenge posed by the drip-feed of work to the supply chain. One NDA offers scope for a group approach based on economies of scale.</i></p>
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Action: None.


<b>11.</b>	<b>EDF – working across the nuclear cycle: Josh Buckland, Strategy Director, EDF</b>
11.1	<p>Josh gave an overview of EDF’s operational fleet, decommissioning plans, and new build projects. He noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Sizewell B life extension to 2055 was under discussion.</li> <li>• Sizewell C was expected to create 26,000 jobs across the UK. The replication from Hinkley Point C to Sizewell C was expected to lower costs and speed up delivery.</li> <li>• A recent study had shown that the AGR reactors had provided an economic impact of £123 billion since 1976.</li> <li>• Hunterston B had been defueled with Hinkley Point B closely behind. There was an expectation that both would be transferred to NRS on time. Almost all workers at Hunterston had been found new roles or opted for retirement or voluntary redundancy.</li> </ul>
11.2	<p><b>Question:</b> Are you able to provide a figure for the full costs of the Sizewell C development?</p> <p><i>Answer: More detail will be available after the Final Investment Decision stage.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Why is there no focus on how the UK could be a leader in nuclear?</p> <p><i>Answer: EDF’s UK focus is on HPC, SZC, and decommissioning but discussions are ongoing with GBN around how best to support SMR delivery. It is also important that we avoid a conflict for skilled workers across the sector.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> What skills are needed for the life extension of nuclear plants?</p> <p><i>Answer: We are looking for appropriate investment in the UK supply chain. A key challenge is predicting the 2035 energy market and regulatory changes.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> How can we optimise community benefit? Does EDF have a plan?</p> <p><i>Answer: Yes, EDF has plans for each site. There is a need for consistency from government across the nuclear and wider energy sector while maintaining a degree of flexibility and ability to respond to local need.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Do we have a clear, integrated message about the UK’s nuclear lifecycle - from cradle to grave?</p> <p><i>Answer: Not yet. There’s a need for better storytelling and strategic alignment. Interim storage solutions are widespread, but final disposal remains unresolved. Public understanding and policy clarity are lacking.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> What can we do to improve the messaging and approach?</p> <p><i>Answer: We need to shift the narrative to cradle-to-cradle thinking (circularity); Improve public communication, especially around medical and research uses of nuclear materials; and address public concerns about waste with transparent, science-based communication.</i></p>

	<p><b>Question:</b> Can you explain what the strategy is for waste stores?</p> <p><i>Answer: There's an opportunity to think differently and for consolidation, but this could impact site licensing requirements. More thought is being given to this.</i></p> <p><b>Question:</b> How is socio-economic support managed during site transfer?</p> <p><i>Answer: It is important to engage with communities at these moments. BH added that community interface is key and this is being taken forward for the three sites that are being defueled and passed to NRS.</i></p>
	<p>Action: None.</p>

<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Community Hosting Agreements: the international experience Meritxell Martell, Executive Director, GMF Europe</b></p>
<p>12.1</p>	<p>Meritxell outlined her recent research on Community Hosting Agreements (CHAs). This had looked at the experience in 14 countries and also been based on a wider literature review. The aim was to highlight good practice and to help draw up guidelines for how CHAs could be developed.</p> <p>She then outlined some examples that had been identified from Belgium and Spain. These highlighted the need for a focus on adding value and the benefits of a CHA in underpinning long term relationships between the nuclear industry and communities.</p> <p>It was suggested that the UK could benefit from a standardised framework for community benefits, building on the example already under development in Lincolnshire as part of the GDF process.</p>
<p>12.2</p>	<p><b>Question:</b> Did the communities you identified in Belgium and Spain choose to be included in the development of CHAs?</p> <p><i>Answer: In Belgium, the CHA was developed voluntarily with the support of the community. In Spain, existing nuclear plants were all involved, but agreements were driven by local authorities.</i></p>
	<p>Action: None.</p>

## INTERNAL FOI CHECKLIST FOR MINUTES OF OFFICER MEETINGS

To be completed by the chair in respect of ALL minutes.

<p><b>The full minutes of this meeting are assumed to be accessible to the public and to staff, unless the chair claims an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</b> Detailed guidance about applying the exemptions is available from <a href="mailto:foihelpdesk@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk">foihelpdesk@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk</a> or call x720 4618</p>		
<p><b>Please indicate opposite any exemptions you are claiming.</b></p> <p>Remember that some exemptions can be overridden if it is in the public interest to disclose – as decided by the FOI multi-disciplinary team.</p> <p>Exemptions normally apply for a limited time and the information may be released once the exemption lapses.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	<u>These minutes contain information;</u>	Please insert an "x" if relevant
	1. That is <b>personal data</b>	
	2. Provided in <b>confidence</b>	
	3. Intended for <b>future publication</b>	
	4. Related to <b>criminal proceedings</b>	
	5. That might prejudice <b>law enforcement</b>	
	6. That might prejudice ongoing <b>external audit</b> investigations	
	7. That could prejudice the <b>conduct of public affairs</b>	
	8. Information that could endanger an individual's <b>health &amp; safety</b>	
	9. That is subject to <b>legal privilege</b>	
	10. That is prejudicial to <b>commercial interests</b>	
	11. That <b>may not be disclosed by law</b>	
	12. <b>Other</b> Please describe	

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