

## MINUTES

<b>Title of Meeting:</b>	Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)																																	
<b>Date:</b>	16/07/2025																																	
<b>Place:</b>	Microsoft Teams																																	
<b>Times:</b>	10:00 – 11:00																																	
<b>Attended:</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Eleanor Godesar</td> <td>Dorset Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clara Peirson</td> <td>East Suffolk Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Terry Burns</td> <td>Essex County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jo Wynn-Carter</td> <td>Folkestone and Hythe District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chadernnay Glenn</td> <td>Gloucestershire County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simon Milson</td> <td>Maldon District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annie Keen</td> <td>Maldon District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Martin</td> <td>Somerset Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tessa Bond</td> <td>Somerset Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlotte Rushmere</td> <td>Somerset Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Burton</td> <td>Somerset Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jon Severs</td> <td>South Gloucestershire Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ross Walker</td> <td>Suffolk County Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sion R Roberts</td> <td>Snowdonia National Park Authority</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chloe Atkinson</td> <td>Nuleaf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philip Matthews</td> <td>Nuleaf</td> </tr> </table>		Eleanor Godesar	Dorset Council	Clara Peirson	East Suffolk Council	Terry Burns	Essex County Council	Jo Wynn-Carter	Folkestone and Hythe District Council	Chadernnay Glenn	Gloucestershire County Council	Simon Milson	Maldon District Council	Annie Keen	Maldon District Council	Louise Martin	Somerset Council	Tessa Bond	Somerset Council	Charlotte Rushmere	Somerset Council	John Burton	Somerset Council	Jon Severs	South Gloucestershire Council	Ross Walker	Suffolk County Council	Sion R Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority	Chloe Atkinson	Nuleaf	Philip Matthews	Nuleaf
Eleanor Godesar	Dorset Council																																	
Clara Peirson	East Suffolk Council																																	
Terry Burns	Essex County Council																																	
Jo Wynn-Carter	Folkestone and Hythe District Council																																	
Chadernnay Glenn	Gloucestershire County Council																																	
Simon Milson	Maldon District Council																																	
Annie Keen	Maldon District Council																																	
Louise Martin	Somerset Council																																	
Tessa Bond	Somerset Council																																	
Charlotte Rushmere	Somerset Council																																	
John Burton	Somerset Council																																	
Jon Severs	South Gloucestershire Council																																	
Ross Walker	Suffolk County Council																																	
Sion R Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Authority																																	
Chloe Atkinson	Nuleaf																																	
Philip Matthews	Nuleaf																																	
<b>Speakers</b>	Matthew Meldrum	NRS																																
<b>Minute-taker:</b>	Chloe Atkinson																																	

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>
1.1	<p>PM welcomed everyone and noted that the meeting today would be shorter as there would also be an engagement meeting on the Strategy 5 consultation starting at 11.30. He hoped RWPG members would also be able to join that. October will be our next full RWPG meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that apologies had been received from: Rachel Whaley (Westmorland &amp; Furness Council); Marcus Hudon (Lancashire County Council); and Amartya Deb (Gloucestershire County Council).</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>
2.1	The Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record, with no amendments.

*Action: CA to add minutes to website*

<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>
<p>It was noted that there was an action for Jon Severs to speak with Matt Meldrum regarding the interface between the NRS site and planned new nuclear at Oldbury. JS confirmed that discussions were ongoing.</p>	

<b>4.</b>	<b>Update from NRS-Matt Meldrum</b>
4.1	<p>PM welcomed Matthew Meldrum of NRS and invited him to give an update to members.</p> <p>Matt began by noting that he now has another planner working with him which is welcome and gives more capacity. The new staff member will be based in Scotland but is covering all sites and applications across the UK.</p> <p>He also noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application for management of the boilers at Dungeness is progressing and should be ready in the next few months</li> <li>• There is another significant application at Chapelcross which is progressing well and which they are seeking engagement on</li> <li>• Progress towards the end state at Winfrith is continuing</li> <li>• At Traws the ponds application continues to move forward</li> </ul> <p>NRS is also continuing to assess the impacts of the Spending Review on their plans for each site. The decommissioning mission will continue but the pace may alter at some sites.</p> <p><b>Question: Regarding the Spending Review, when is it likely that the implications for individual sites will become clearer?</b></p> <p><i>Answer: It is expected that we will know more by the autumn.</i></p>

*Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):*

<b>5.</b>	<b>Update on developments in radioactive waste management</b>
5.1	PM introduced the National Updates paper and highlighted a few items:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategy 5 consultation is now live and he and Louise would be drafting a Nuleaf response for sharing with members – Louise would also be preparing a response on behalf of SCCORS. An engagement event on Strategy 5 with Nuleaf members would be held later this morning. The level of interest in this has been high and it should prove useful in helping Nuleaf and local authorities prepare their responses. and will be discussed further this afternoon.</li> <li>• NDA funding is critical to the success of the mission. It is now understood that the Spending Review (SR) will provide an increase in NDA funding of 16% by the end of the decade. PM is in dialogue with NDA and hopes to run a session for members on the implications of the SR on NDA sites at the December Steering Group.</li> <li>• There is interest in developing a SMR or renewables at Pioneer Park, part of the Moorside site adjacent to Sellafield. The details aren't clear at present and there are competing interests in the use of Moorside, though it covers a big area.</li> <li>• Nuleaf has submitted a response to a recent consultation on community benefits and shared ownership for local carbon energy infrastructure.</li> <li>• The new National Policy Statement on nuclear is expected to be published at the end of 2025 following the recent consultation.</li> <li>• No announcement has been made yet on the replacement of Lord Hunt as nuclear minister.</li> <li>• PM is hoping to set up a meeting with Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) and Rolls Royce at the next Steering Group in September.</li> </ul>
--	---

*Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):*

<b>6.</b>	<b>Update on the GDF siting process</b>
6.1	<p>PM presented the GDF update paper and noted a few items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key new item is that Lincolnshire County Council has confirmed it has withdrawn from the GDF Community Partnership, thereby ending the siting process in the area. This decision was made quickly following the May 2025 local elections, despite earlier expectations of a summer consultation.</li> <li>• This means that only two communities, both in Cumberland, remain in the process. This clearly leaves the whole process more vulnerable.</li> <li>• PM and Nuleaf Chair Cllr David Moore have been invited to met Seth Kybird, the interim CEO of Nuclear Waste services, to discuss the GDF process and wider waste management.</li> <li>• Canada has launched a siting process for a second repository – this is for higher level waste. The first repository, for Spent Fuel, has now been granted community consent.</li> </ul>

*Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):*

<b>7.</b>	<b>Local site updates</b>
7.1	<p><b>Hinkley</b> - Hinkley Point B is actively defueling and remains on track with its targets. ONR recently held a consultation on Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning of Nuclear Reactors (EIADR) for HPB and the local authority participated. This went well from a Council perspective with a number of different teams and functions feeding in to the response.</p>

The current assumption is that Hinkley Point B will not develop its own ILW storage facility but will share the existing store at the A site. Local policy is supportive of this but elected members have previously expressed concerns about proposals for the facility to be used to store waste from other sites outside Somerset.

**Sizewell** – No significant update except to note that the demolition of turbine hall was completed a couple of months ago.

**Winfrith**- The Environment Agency (EA) has a live consultation now for the permit applications that NRS has submitted and Dorset Council is in the process of preparing a response. The Council has also been exploring the End State again as there is an area on the site that has potential to generate employment. They are looking to launch a tendering process for the development of the Masterplan to support this.

**Berkeley/Oldbury**-Two planning applications have been submitted for Berkeley, both concerning waste handling buildings. One has been pending since 2023.

Ongoing conversations are taking place between the S. Gloucestershire Council, NRS and NDA focused on the relationship between new nuclear projects and decommissioning efforts. SGC also suggested a number of amendments to the NNLG response to the consultation on Community Benefits and nuclear. Jon Severs is happy to share these.

Finally, there have been moves to remove reference to community benefits in the emerging local plan. This is disappointing.

Comment: A member reported that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is pushing back on the inclusion of community benefits in the waste plan currently under review in Somerset. There is obvious concern over the potential removal of these benefits, which are typically intended to support local communities affected by nuclear activities.

**Dungeness** – Jo Wynn-Carter was welcomed to the RWPG, this being her first meeting. Jo noted that engagement with EDF was ongoing and that she hoped to have a fuller update at the next meeting.

**Trawsfynydd** – Not much to report. The last two quarterly meetings with NRS have been cancelled while the implications of the Spending Review for the site has been worked through.

**Bradwell**- The site is continuing to accept waste from Dungeness. They are also looking forward to potentially receiving waste from Sizewell B. These waste management requirements are expected to emerge several years down the line.


*Action:* Jon Severs to share community benefits paperwork with PM.

<b>8</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	The next RWPG will be held on the 22nd October (online)

9	Any other business
	<p>Louise Martin shared her reflections from a Planning Officers Society (POS) meeting she attended recently. RWPG member Rachel Whaley chairs their sub-group on minerals and waste planning policy and LM and RW have had a couple of discussions around some of the changes that came out of the 2024 Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning Policy which introduced new concepts such as disposing of low level radwaste on site and implications for landfill and other capacity.</p> <p>The meeting was useful and the discussions there and with RW highlighted the need to consider the changes in the 2024 policy and their implications for local plans and for sites. Also the need to consider the potential for LLW disposal to landfill.</p> <p>PM thanked LM and commented that Nuleaf and the RWPG should consider if there are other groups on planning that we should consider engaging with.</p>
<p><i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i></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>	<p><u>These minutes contain information;</u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 85%;">1. That is <b>personal data</b></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2. Provided in <b>confidence</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3. Intended for <b>future publication</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4. Related to <b>criminal proceedings</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5. That might prejudice <b>law enforcement</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6. That might prejudice ongoing <b>external audit</b> investigations</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7. That could prejudice the <b>conduct of public affairs</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8. Information that could endanger an individual's <b>health &amp; safety</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9. That is subject to <b>legal privilege</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10. That is prejudicial to <b>commercial interests</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11. That <b>may not be disclosed by law</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12. <b>Other</b> Please describe</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		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		<p>Please insert an "x" if relevant</p>
	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																																					

**Remember to destroy all drafts and routine correspondence once the final version of these minutes is agreed.**