

## MINUTES

<b>Title of Meeting:</b>	Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)	
<b>Date:</b>	22/10/2025	
<b>Place:</b>	Microsoft Teams	
<b>Times:</b>	10:00 – 12:30	
	<p>Eleanor Godesar Andrew Firth Terry Burns Chadernnay Glenn Amartya Deb Simon Milson Richard Outram James Holbrook Louise Martin Charlotte Rushmere Tessa Bond Jon Severs Ross Walker Steve Smith</p> <p>Chloe Atkinson Philip Matthews</p>	<p>Dorset Council East Suffolk Council Essex County Council Gloucestershire County Council Gloucestershire County Council Maldon District Council Manchester City Council/NFLA Somerset Council Somerset Council/Nuleaf Somerset Council Somerset Council South Gloucestershire Council Suffolk County Council Consultant</p> <p>Nuleaf Nuleaf</p>
<b>Speakers</b>	<p>Matthew Meldrum Huw Davies</p>	<p>Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Department of Energy Security and Net Zero</p>
<b>Minute-taker:</b>	Chloe Atkinson	

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>
1.1	Philip Matthews (PM) opened the meeting and welcomed members and guest speakers. He noted that Huw Davies of DESNZ would not be able to join the meeting until later on and so the agenda items had been re-ordered.  Apologies were received from Rachel Whaley- Westmorland & Furness Council.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>
	PM asked if there were any amendments or corrections to the last meeting's minutes. No objections were raised and the minutes were approved.
<i>Action:</i> CA to add minutes to website	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>
3.1	Jon Severs had an outstanding action to share a Community Benefits paper with Philip Matthews. PM and JS agreed to meet in the coming weeks.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Update from NRS-Matt Meldrum</b>
4.1	<p>Matt Meldrum (MM) provided an update on planning matters at NRS. He noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good progress was being made by Avison Young (AY) on their work with NDA Group on Permitted Development Rights (PDR) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). MM noted that it would be useful for individual authorities to engage in this work. <i>(PM added that NDA and AY would be presenting these issues at the January RWPG. If any local authority was interested in speaking to AY in advance of that meeting then Nuleaf could pass their details to AY).</i></li> <li>• At Trawsfynydd a decision has been made to withdraw the permit applications and the planning applications for work will need to be deferred. At the same time work on height reduction of the reactor buildings is moving forward – these will be reduced from 55m to 25m.</li> <li>• At Winfrith the planning application is progressing. It will be a single application which is what Dorset Council requested. The application should be submitted in December.</li> <li>• The planning application for the Dungeness boilers has been submitted and is with Folkestone and Hythe Council.</li> <li>• A new workstream has started to review planning restrictions at Hinkley A, likely requiring Section 73 applications to allow waste from Hinkley B to be managed and stored at the A site.</li> </ul> <p>Matt finished his presentation and invited questions.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Q: Is there an indicative timeline for Section 73 work at Hinckley?</b></p> <p><i>A: The project is in early scoping, reviewing EDF's waste volume assumptions, assessing planning restrictions at the A site and the potential transfer of B site waste for processing. This may require a Section 73 application. It is something to note for now but NRS will be in contact in the next 6 months or so.</i></p> <p><b>Q: You mention the work on PPG and Permitted Development Rights. What input is AY looking for at this stage?</b></p>

	<i>A: Input is needed from local authorities on what types of development could be acceptable as permitted development. Feedback on cost saving and planning challenges would also be welcome.</i>
<i>Actions : Members to indicate to CA and PM if they would like to engage with AY's work prior to the January meeting.</i>	

<b>5.</b>	<b>Update on developments in radioactive waste management</b>
5.1	PM presented the national updates report. In particular, he highlighted the recently announced departures from the NDA engagement team and the comparable teams at NRS and NWS.  The paper was noted.
5.2	<b>Q: The report on departures in the engagement team at NDA, and on the implications of the Spending Review, is concerning. When will we be clearer about the new arrangement for engagement?</b> <i>A: There will be staff departures across the NDA Group, in all sorts of roles, but the scale of the departures in the engagement team are clearly a concern for Nuleaf. It is hoped that John McNamara will be able to attend the December Steering Group meeting to discuss this issue.</i>
<i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i>	

<b>6.</b>	<b>Update on the GDF siting process</b>
6.1	PM presented the paper.  He noted that NISTA had suggested the GDF was 'undeliverable' and that there had been media reports suggesting that the siting process may change. These had created concerns, although NWS and Government have challenged some of the coverage.  Looking forward, NWS will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State around whether to progress to the next stage in Cumberland. It was expected that they will submit their report in March with a decision announced over the summer.
6.2	<b>Q: What has been the major barrier for local authorities to engage with the GDF process?</b> <i>A: It has been challenging to get local authorities to engage due to the media backlash that has occurred when they have signalled an interest. The maintaining of a long term process across electoral cycles is also difficult – as has been shown in Lincolnshire with a change of administration leading to withdrawal.</i>
<i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i>	

<b>7.</b>	<b>Local site updates</b>
7.1	<b>Sizewell A:</b> No new demolition plans since turbine hall removal last year. <b>Sizewell C:</b> Construction is now in its second year and there are ongoing planning applications and discharge requirements.  At <b>Hinckley Point C</b> there will be a significant workforce increase from the original DCO peak of 5,600 workers to a proposed 15,000, with cumulative and combined impacts

	<p>following. Somerset’s core strategy is currently being reviewed to align with future infrastructure needs. <b>Hinckley Point B:</b> Minor permitted development inquiries linked to decommissioning. Focus is on confirming what qualifies as permitted development.</p> <p><b>Berkeley/Oldbury:</b> A one-month notification has been received for transporting intermediate-level waste in Type B packages from Oldbury to Berkeley between 24 November and 8 December, alongside two recently issued planning decisions for waste handling buildings.</p> <p><b>Winfrith:</b> A planning application is expected in mid-December, alongside an ongoing review of the site’s end state to ensure alignment with the application. The original end state target of 2023 has slipped, and a revised timeline is currently under discussion.</p>
<p><i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i></p>	


<b>8.</b>	<b>Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce review – Huw Davies, DESNZ</b>
8.1	<p>PM welcomed Huw Davies to the meeting and invited him to present on the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce review. He noted that the draft report of the Taskforce had been circulated to members in advance.</p> <p>Huw began by explaining the process. The Task Force (TF) was launched in the spring. It had focused heavily on new nuclear in its interim report but there are also recommendations around decommissioning.</p> <p>The TF held themed workshops with government, industry, and international partners, and engaged with some other stakeholders. Their report recommendations are being finalised this week, with the final report due to be submitted to Government by the end of November. The report is independent advice, and it is up to the UK Government to decide on the extent to which it adopts the recommendations.</p> <p>Among the recommendations relevant to this group were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to avoid over-engineering and duplication.</li> <li>• Proposal for a single process in place of EIADR and EIA. Both stem from the same directive, but separate processes create duplication.</li> <li>• There is a need for a Co-ordinating role to unite regulatory agencies and consider priorities in a balanced way. EA and ONR have tried to collaborate, but local/regional differences still cause delays.</li> <li>• Collaborative models like Sellafield’s G6 show success when driven by shared safety objectives.</li> </ul>
8.2	<p><b>Q: What changes do you believe are needed in nuclear policy?</b>  <i>A: There is a need for greater urgency and clarity. We see a lot of delays in new nuclear projects and also in decommissioning (e.g., Winfrith 2023→20430s; GDF 2040→2050s). Streamlined processes and better coordination are essential to enable nuclear to contribute to newt zero targets.</i></p> <p><b>Q: How does the Task Force report fit with EN-7 and community benefits?</b>  <i>A: EN-7 designation remains a priority and won't be delayed. Community benefits consultation is separate and unaffected.</i></p>

	PM thanked Huw. He looked forward to the publication of the Task Force Report and confirmed that Nuleaf will engage further once its recommendations were in the public domain.
	<i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i>

<b>10.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
	PM noted that the next RWPG would be on the 28 <sup>th</sup> January when it was expected that Frank Wigley and Matt Verlander will present on PPG and PDRs. The group would also hear from NDA on their landfill study and receive the regular update from Matt Meldrum.  The meeting closed.
	<i>Actions Agreed, Target Date (s), Lead Officer (s):</i>

### 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> 	<p><u>These minutes contain information;</u></p>	<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.**