

**Meeting:** Nuleaf Steering Group  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
**Item:** 8  
**Subject:** Nuleaf meetings and communications – member views  
**Author:** Philip Matthews



## Introduction:

A review of Nuleaf's meeting format and communications is underway. We would like to discuss our meetings, topics of interest and communication channels with members. This paper sets out the context for that discussion.

**Recommendation:** That members offer their views as to the current format and length of Nuleaf meetings; and the various ways in which Nuleaf communicates with the membership and wider stakeholders. We would in particular welcome views on:

- Meeting length and format.
- Specific topics that members would like to see covered more.
- Meeting papers.
- The usability and value of our website, social media and newsletters/ebulletins.

## 1. Nuleaf meetings

1.1 Nuleaf currently holds four meetings per year of our Steering Group, and four meetings of our Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG). All these meetings are held online, with the exception of one Steering Group meeting a year which takes place as part of the two day Annual Gathering. The 2026 Annual Gathering will be held in Cumberland on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July, and will also include a site visit to the Chapelcross nuclear site and a seminar on the current nuclear landscape in Cumberland, as well as a guest dinner.

In addition to these regular meetings, Nuleaf also convenes special meetings as and when required, for example to contribute to major consultations or to focus on particular issues such as plans for Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs).

1.2 While meetings have largely moved online in recent times, their basic length and format has remained unchanged for many years:

- The Steering Group usually runs from 10am until 3pm, with a break for lunch. It has a set of standard update papers and presentations from guest speakers in the morning and after lunch.

- The RWPG runs from 10am until 12.30pm and again consists of standard papers (with the same focus as Steering Group papers) along with presentations and updates from all local authorities on planning matters in their area.

1.3 The development of Strategy 5, and current changes in the NDA engagement teams has meant that there have been fewer opportunities for presentations over the last year, and some Steering Group meetings have been shortened, ending at 12.30pm or 1pm. Attendance at these meetings has been good, and some members have indicated that they find it easier to join a half day meeting rather than one that runs for most of the working day.

- **We would welcome members' views on the meeting length and format.**

1.4 Speakers at Nuleaf meetings have largely been drawn from the NDA Group, with some contributions from others e.g. the UK Government or regulators. Given that these are the primary organisations that Nuleaf seeks to engage with, and that the NDA Group is a main funder of our work, this is appropriate.

However, the nuclear landscape is wider than this and developing over time. Nuleaf has run events on new nuclear (often in partnership with the New Nuclear Local Authority Group) and on some other topics. Beyond this, there may be other areas that members would welcome presentations on e.g. more contributions from regulators, transport or the defence sector: or from regional networks or international partners. It might also be useful to hear more from individual members on activities or developments in their local area or the site they host.

- **Members are invited to consider specific topics that they would like to receive presentations on or discuss at future meetings. During this meeting we plan to invite members to offer their suggestions through a live poll on Slido (see end of paper for more guidance); or alternatively to provide suggestions in the Teams chat.**

1.5 Finally, we would welcome member views on the current papers that are provided to meetings. Specifically:

- **Are the standard papers on (a) National Updates in Radioactive Waste Management and (b) Geological Disposal appropriate?**
- **Is it appropriate to table the same papers at Steering Group and RWPG meetings. As the meetings are only 6 weeks apart then there can be a degree of repetition. Would an alternative be to simply table a general updates paper, with a focus on land use and waste planning matters, at the RWPG?**

## 2. Nuleaf communications review

2.1 Nuleaf communications with members and stakeholders through a range of channels. These are:

- Our website which provides a range of information on Nuleaf and on nuclear matters and access to our Briefings, Policy documents, meeting papers and consultation responses. Alongside the public facing website there is a members area accessible by permission.
- Our social media – we have an X/Twitter feed and a LinkedIn group.
- Our newsletter (sent to contributing members) and EBulletin (sent out after each Steering Group to a wider list of interested parties).

2.2 The website was last updated around 5 years ago and it is felt timely to review it again. Consideration is being given to refreshing and updating the look of the site and also streamlining the information provided. In particular it is felt that:

- The site would benefit from less 'text heavy' sections on topics of interest and a reduction in the range of archive material that is available.
- More of a focus on news and live updates, with better integration with our social media feeds.

2.3 It is also felt that the current distinction between the newsletter and Ebulletin is not helpful, and that it may instead be preferable to send out a newsletter every two months to all members and stakeholders. This would better highlight our work to all interested parties, and be a means of continuing to communicate with our Corresponding members now that it has been agreed that meetings will be restricted to Contributing members.

2.4 Members are invited to offer their views on:

- **The value of our website and other communications**
- **The proposed changes to the website and our Newsletter/Ebulletin.**

**Note on Slido:** During the meeting we will be seeking member views on a small number of questions using Slido (<https://www.slido.com/>). It would be useful to have your mobile phone to hand for this, as it enables quick access to the online poll. Members who do not wish to use Slido will be able to comment using the chat function in Teams.