

Forum.



Hinkley Point B, now defueled.

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 service which we provide to those of our members who financially support our work.

Dates for the diary

Our next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group** meeting will be on Wednesday the 29th April from 10am until 12.30pm.

The next **Steering Group** (and our AGM) will be held as part of our **Annual Gathering** in Carlisle on the 13th to 15th July. Formal invitations to join the Gathering will be sent out in April.

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



Nuleaf's Director and other leaders of the Nuclear Communities Global Partnership in Vienna.

NDA Group updates

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) published its new **Group Strategy** on the 23rd February. The Strategy sets the long terms direction for the NDA Group and it is a requirement of the Energy Act (2004) that it is renewed every 5 years. Nuleaf was a member of the Strategy 5 Development Group (S5DG) and fed back detailed comments on the draft Strategy during the recent [consultation](#).

The document identifies strategic priorities for the Group as being around site decommissioning and remediation, consistent and effective waste management and the development of long term plans for the management of nuclear materials (plutonium and uranium).

The Strategy also commits the NDA to act as a strategic partner for Government around climate change and in the management of non-NDA nuclear liabilities; and establishes sustainability as a strategic principle that is embedded across the mission. Activity is supported by a range of Critical Enablers including around Socio-economics and Engagement.

The **NDA Business Plan 2026-29** was published on the 16th March and can be viewed [here](#).

The Board of **Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)** has appointed Simon Hughes as their new GDF Executive Director. They have stated that *'Simon will lead the GDF programme at an important time – guiding the next steps of the GDF programme, reviewing our work, and ensuring we are structured in the best possible way to speed-up decision-making, strengthen accountability, and our focus on delivery'*.

UK/Devolved Government news

The UK Government has launched an **Independent Review of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**, led by Dr Tim Stone. Tim is the Chair of Nuclear Risk Insurers and a Non-Executive Director of Great British Energy – Nuclear. He was previously Chair of the Nuclear Industry Association.

The review will be guided by an independent panel of experts and is intended to provide assurance on NDA performance and governance. The last such review was undertaken in 2021.

Nuleaf has been in contact with the team in the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) that are supporting this work, and will feed into the review as it progresses. It is expected that the report will be published this autumn.

On the 4th February the UK Government published its **Advanced Nuclear Framework**, the aim of which to stimulate private investment in innovative nuclear technologies across the country, providing a clear route to market and support for credible projects to get them off the ground.

At a Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) event in Cardiff on the 26th February, it was announced that the **Welsh Government** is preparing a proposal for Rolls-Royce SMR to develop a modular manufacturing facility in Deeside, Flintshire. Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning in the Welsh Government Rebecca Evans commented *'The Welsh Government and I have supported new nuclear at Wylfa for many years – we regard it as a major low-carbon infrastructure project and as a long-term industrial opportunity. We want Wales to reap all the benefits that modern nuclear can bring, and intend for Wales not only to host nuclear generation, but to help build it, maintain it and supply it for decades to come.'*

New nuclear reports

The ONR along with the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, have begun the **Generic Design Assessment (GDA)** for Terrapower's Sodium reactor design. Terrapower, backed by Bill Gates, has designed a 345 MW sodium fast reactor which is combined with a molten salt energy storage system, intended to integrate the reactor with renewable generation.

Cllr Richard Rout of Suffolk County Council, the Chair of Nuleaf's sister organisation the **New Nuclear Local Authority Group (NNLAG)**, appeared before the Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) Committee of the UK Parliament on the 28th February in a session on Revisiting the Nuclear Roadmap. A video of the discussion can be viewed [here](#).



Nuleaf and the NFLA

Nuleaf's Executive Director participated in an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) **Technical Meeting on Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships** in Vienna on the 10th to 12th December. During the meeting he spoke on Nuleaf's development over its 20 year history and was a panellist on discussions on the experience of nuclear host communities and the development of the Nuclear Communities Global Partnership. His involvement was funded by IAEA.

The **Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA)** ceased operations at the end of January 2026, following a decline in membership. Launched in 1981, the network had an important role in the foundation of Nuleaf in 2005, and has continued to be engaged in our work. Despite the demise of the NFLA at a UK and Ireland level, an in principle decision has been taken to form a Scottish NFLA network. There are also plans to relaunch the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance (WANA).

We wish outgoing NFLA Secretary Richard Outram all the best for the future. As a broad Forum, Nuleaf will continue to welcome all local authorities across England and Wales, regardless of their views on nuclear power.

Trawsfynydd plans progress

Gwynedd Councillors have approved the next steps in the proposed Innovation, Business and Skills Centre at the former **Trawsfynydd** nuclear power station site.

The multi-use centre, estimated to cost around £20 million, is designed to create high-value jobs and strengthen the regional economy by supporting growth in sectors including nuclear decommissioning, low-carbon energy, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

Sponsored by Cyngor Gwynedd, the hub will provide flexible office, laboratory, training and collaboration space to support research, skills development, business growth and innovation.

The proposal represents the first phase of a wider masterplan for the Trawsfynydd site, which sits within the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone and the North Wales AI Growth Zone.

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