

Forum.



Visualisation of Trawsfynydd after reactor height reduction

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.

Dates for the diary

The next **Steering Group** (and our AGM) will be held as part of our **Annual Gathering** in Carlisle on the 13th to 15th July. If you have not yet registered then please do so soon (more information on page 2).

Our next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group** meeting will take place on Wednesday the 16th September from 10am until 12.30pm.

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



Masterplan for Chapelcross: green energy park

Nuleaf Annual Gathering nears

There has been a high level of interest from Nuleaf members in our **Annual Gathering**, taking place in the historic village of Wetheral, by Carlisle, on the 14th and 15th July.

Over two days, members will come together to network, and also explore current nuclear issues in more depth.

The event includes a site visit to the former **Chapelcross** nuclear power station, where there are ambitious plans for a Green Energy Hub. Members will tour the site and also hear from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), the local authority and South of Scotland Enterprise. That evening a dinner will be held, addressed by Nuleaf Chair Cllr Joseph Ghayouba and Cumberland Council Leader Cllr Mark Fryer.

The next morning a Steering Group meeting and our AGM will be held in Cumberland Council offices in Carlisle. The extended meeting will also include a seminar on the current and future nuclear landscape in Cumberland, with presentations on:

- **Cumberland Council engagement in nuclear and plans for Pioneer Park** (Iain Irving, Cumberland Council and Michael Pemberton, Executive Director, BEC)
- **The UK national nuclear skills plan** (Mark Rouse, Skills Director, National Nuclear Skills Plan)
- **Grand Challenges and High Hazards at Sellafield** (Alyson Armet, Sellafield)

If you are interested in attending but have not yet registered, please contact Chloe Atkinson Chloe.Atkinson@nuleaf.org.uk.

UK/Devolved Government news

The UK Government has launched **Building our nuclear nation**, their response to the Nuclear Regulatory Review 2025 (the Fingleton report). The response represents the biggest change in nuclear regulation for many years and covers a wide range of areas. These include streamlining environmental assessments, creating a lead regulator (the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)), and taking a range of steps to facilitate nuclear development. The review includes some areas that impact on local government, with a need to understand new frameworks and undertake faster assessments.

Work has begun at **Wylfa** on the UK's first **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**. This follows on from the agreement between Rolls Royce SMR and Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) to develop reactors on the Anglesey site. It is claimed that the project will create 3,000 local jobs and an additional 5,000 across the UK. The plan is to develop 3 SMRs, though there is scope for further development at a later stage. The three units will generate enough electricity to power 3 million homes for 60 years, with the plant expected to become operational from the mid-2030s.

On the 14th May it was announced that a competition has been launched, inviting the people of Anglesey to name the new site. Residents of the island have until the 8th June to submit their suggestions.

NDA updates

The NDA has published a new **Economic Impact Assessment of NDA sites**, with the research undertaken by PwC UK. It covers 17 NDA sites though not the three AGR stations that have or are due to transition to the NDA estate. The report calculates that the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the NDA sites was £4.1bn in 2025, and that the NDA's employment impact is around 56,000FTE jobs. Of this, Sellafield contributed £3.1Bn and supports around 41,000FTEs. You can view the report here.

A significant milestone has been reached at the **Trawsfynydd** site in Gwynedd, with the completion of the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) programme. This involved retrieving legacy material, processing it safely and placing it into secure long-term storage on site. In total, almost 2,300 individual waste packages were completed.

Looking forward, Costain had been appointed as principal contractor to reduce the height of the reactor buildings from around 54m to 29m (see front cover photo). The project, valued at up to £70 million, is expected to take up to four years to deliver, with more than 100 people employed at the peak of the programme.



GDF: Decision awaited on next steps

Over the coming months the Secretary of State (SoS) at the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) will consider whether a community or communities should progress to the next stage of the process to identify a site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). This Site Characterisation phase would include deep borehole investigations, and in making his decision, the SoS will consider the advice provided by Nuclear Waste Services (NWS).

In a report to **Cumberland Council's [Nuclear Issues Board](#)** in March it was stated that *'The advice is due to be submitted to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) in May 2026. NWS has made clear there is no specific time frame within which the Secretary of State must respond and while we may expect DESNZ to respond as soon as practicable, they will want to give themselves flexibility to take as long as they need to consider the matter properly before announcing decisions.'*

DESNZ will need to decide on the appropriate form of final decisions, for example it could be a written ministerial statement to Parliament, and on how to engage with stakeholders about the conclusions they reach.'

Welsh members' meeting

Wales has a dynamic nuclear sector, with the recent announcement of the UK's first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) site at Wylfa: developing proposals for decommissioning at both Wylfa and Trawsfynydd (with the latter being a 'Lead and Learn' site); and plans, supported by the Welsh Government, to enhance the supply chain and social value across the principality.

In response, Nuleaf is hosting a **Welsh member meeting** at Portmerion in Gwynedd on **Monday the 19th October**. The meeting will hear from the Welsh Government and Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils; with other presenter covering the North Wales Growth Deal, the Wales Nuclear Forum, the NW Nuclear Arc and the work of M-Sparc.

Formal invitations will be sent out to Welsh local authorities and other partners in the near future.

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