

Forum.



Nuleaf members at Chapelcross, July 14th

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

We will host a special meeting to discuss **NDA Guidance on Storage and Treatment Consolidation**, online on the 20th August from 2pm to 4pm.

Our next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group** meeting will take place on Wednesday the 9th September from 10am until 12.30pm.

The next **Steering Group** will be held online on the 7th October from 10am until 1pm.

Please note these dates – more information will be sent out soon or if you want to discuss then contact Chloe Atkinson Chloe.Atkinson@nuleaf.org.uk.



Nuleaf members and guests at the Gathering dinner.

Gathering in Cumberland

Nuleaf's members and guests enjoyed a sunny few days in Cumberland earlier this month for our **Annual Gathering**. The event was our best attended yet, with delegates from across England and Wales, including a number of newly elected Councillors, and some local authorities participating for the first time.

A highlight was a site visit to the former **Chapelcross** nuclear power station, where a multi-million pound, net-zero focused development is envisaged, including hydrogen production storage, advanced manufacturing, and energy and enterprise campuses. Our group heard from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), Dumfries and Galloway Council and South of Scotland Enterprise on the plans and were able to tour the facilities.

The Gathering also included a seminar on the current and future nuclear landscape in Cumberland, with presentations and discussion on plans for Sellafield, the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR), Pioneer Park and the national skills agenda.

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM), Councillor Joseph Ghayouba (Cumberland Council) was re-appointed Chair for another year, with Cllr Paul Thomas (Folkestone and Hythe District Council) reconfirmed as Vice Chair. Members also approved our budget and Service Plan for 2026/27.

Of course the Gathering is about much more than formal meetings and visits. Members were joined for dinner by Cumberland Council Leader Cllr Mark Fryer and a range of guests from the NDA Group; and were able to chat informally and network across the three days.

Burnham appoints new team

Andy Burnham MP became UK Prime Minister on the 20th July and has made major changes to the Cabinet and wider ministerial team.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) sponsoring department, Department of Energy and Net Zero (DESNZ) has a new Secretary of State, **Miatta Fahnbulleh MP**, who previously served as the Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation.

Previous nuclear Minister Lord Patrick Vallance has left Government, and it has not been confirmed as yet who within the new team will have lead responsibility for nuclear matters.

NDA engagement – all change

Following a period of change, new engagement teams at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) have been announced.

Pip Hatt has joined the NDA from NRS to take up a position of **Head of Stakeholder Engagement, UK Regions**. Pip will focus primarily on relationships with NRS sites and the NRS teams in England, Scotland and Wales. Meanwhile, **Rob Ward** will join the NDA from Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) to take up the position of **Head of Stakeholder Engagement - Cumbria**. Rob has extensive experience of working in local government and for the NDA group in stakeholder roles.

John McNamara will stay on until 31 December to work with Pip and Rob and to assist the new working arrangements as they are bedded in. After that, Pip and Rob will report into **Lindsay Woodcock, the NDA's Director of Strategic Communications**. Responsibility for stakeholders will transfer over to Lindsay's current portfolio and there will be a gradual handover from John McNamara over the coming months.

For NRS Sites, Site Directors, NRS Regional Communications Leads and Site Stakeholder Group (SSGs) secretariats remain in place and will continue to act as the primary contact with SSGs and other local groups. NRS is also in the process of changing some of its senior Communications positions as it takes on additional responsibilities on behalf of the NDA group.

Two **Head of Stakeholder Relations** positions will report to the NRS Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations; one for Scotland and one for England and Wales. **Gail Ross**, currently Head of Communications for Dounreay, will become **Head of Stakeholder Relations for Scotland**, while the Head of Stakeholder Relations for England and Wales will be appointed soon.



GDF: Decision awaited

The Secretary of State (SoS) at the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is currently considering whether a community or communities should progress to the next stage of the process to identify a site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). In making their decision, the SoS will consider the advice provided by Nuclear Waste Services (NWS).

Nuleaf understands that, with a new Prime Minister and significant ministerial changes, an announcement on the next steps in the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) may not be made until after the summer Parliamentary recess.

Nuclear plants extended

Recent weeks have seen a number of announcements regarding lifetime extensions for UK nuclear plants.

On the 8th July it was confirmed that **Sizewell B**, the UK's only Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) will now operate until 2055, 20 years longer than previously planned. Currently, Sizewell B provides approximately 3% of the UK's total electricity needs. The extension of the plant will maintain power to 2.5 million homes and support 900 jobs.

Then on the 22nd July it was confirmed that **Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station** and **Heysham 1** will now generate electricity until March 2030.

More than 1,000 roles across both locations will be supported by the decision, with the extension of both sites is expected to deliver an additional 28 terawatt hours (TWh) of low-carbon electricity - enough to power 8.4 million homes.

Simone Rossi, CEO of EDF UK, commented:

'Global events demonstrate time and again how vital it is for the UK to secure long-term, low carbon, homegrown electricity which protects British households and businesses from market volatility. Extending the life of the plants we already have alongside building new ones is central to EDF's strategy.'

Keep up-to-date



@nuleaforuk



linkedin.com/groups/4580995