

**January 2014,
Issue 32**

Welcome to Issue 33 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

- the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme,
- community benefits and radioactive waste management;
- proposals for the co-location Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and Fuel Element Debris (FED) across Magnox sites;
- developments in NDA strategy and operations,
- the draft NDA Business Plan 2014-17;
- UK strategy for the management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM);
- NuLeAF seminar 2014
- NuLeAF staffing;
- joining NuLeAF; and
- dates for the diary.

The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) process

In September, government published a [consultation paper](#) proposing changes to current policy towards the siting of a geological disposal facility (GDF). A [Briefing Paper](#) was circulated to NuLeAF members in early October, views were sought from NuLeAF members and a [final response](#) submitted.

A report¹ was submitted to the January Steering Group which gave an overview of the approach to the MRWS process by CoRWM and reported on the InSOTEC project which brought together representatives and researchers from 12 EU States, and representatives from Canada and the USA, to gain a better understanding of remaining 'socio-technical challenges' to geological disposal.

NuLeAF is seeking a meeting with NDA's newly appointed Interim Director of Communication, in order to understand better what form the proposed 12 months of awareness raising and engagement around GDF development will take and how NuLeAF can participate. NuLeAF has also written to Baroness Verma highlighting concerns about how the MRWS consultation process was conducted. The Steering Group agreed to invite members of CoRWM to present to a future meeting on their views on the MRWS process and the way ahead.

Community benefits and radioactive waste management

The NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) has considered the question of community benefits on many occasions. A Briefing Paper was produced in 2008, but the situation has moved on since then, with the provision of Community Benefits/Funds in association with many energy related developments becoming more prevalent. It was deemed appropriate that the Briefing Paper should be reviewed and a new draft Paper² was submitted to the Steering Group. Following discussion, the Paper will be redrafted and ultimately will be used as a basis for a new dialogue to develop a national community benefits framework. It was noted

1 [NuLeAF Steering Group Report, Item 5, Update on MRWS programme, 21 January 2014](#)

2 [NuLeAF Steering Group Report, Item 6, Community Benefits and radioactive waste management](#)

that action on this matter was timely with the publication by NDA of the preferred options for the co-location of ILW and FED (see next item).

Co-location proposals for Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and Fuel Element Debris (FED)

Officers from NuLeAF and the Radioactive Waste Planning Group have, over the past 12 months, participated in workshops organised by Magnox considering proposals to co-locate storage of ILW and FED at a smaller number of their sites. An NDA [preferred options paper](#) has now been produced and is open for comment until 31 January. A draft response³ was submitted to the Steering Group for comment. The response will be amended in light of discussions at the meeting and the posted on the [NuLeAF website](#).

NDA strategy and operations

NDA has recently published a position paper on approaches to the management of [separated plutonium](#), and on the management of [graphite waste](#). These were published too late to be included in discussions at the Steering Group meeting held on 21 January, but they will be considered at the meeting on 9 April (see below for meeting details).

A credible options summary for the [management of uranium](#) has also been published. Whilst there is no formal period of consultation, comments can be made to strategy@nda.gov.uk. Draft comments will also be submitted to the 9 April meeting for consideration.

NDA Draft Business Plan 2014-17

A draft response to the NDA call for comments on the Draft Business Plan 2014-17 was submitted to the Steering Group and agreed. You can read the response on the [NuLeAF website](#).

UK strategy for the management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM)

DECC/SEPA will be launching a consultation on the UK strategy for the management of NORM shortly. A workshop has been arranged for February 25th in Manchester at Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre, 9.30 - 4.00. The workshop will:

- explain the purpose and scope of the UK NORM Waste Strategy and the role of DECC/Scottish Government;
- explain the scope of the consultation on the UK NORM Waste Strategy and when and how responses can be made; and
- allow participants to comment and give views on both the consultation document and key issues associated with the Strategy and how they would like to be engaged further.

You can register for the event by contacting Deborah.Golder@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

NuLeAF seminar 2014

Following on from the success of last year's seminar on the Duty to Cooperate we are hoping to offer a seminar on the regulatory aspects of radioactive waste management on 16 June at Local Government House, Smith Square, London. An outline programme will be published in plenty of time for people to book, but we would encourage you to place a

³ [NuLeAF Steering Group Report, Item 7, Co-location of ILW and FED](#)

marker in your diaries at this stage. Consideration is also being given to discussing the regulatory aspects of NORM waste from fracking.

NuLeAF staffing

Following almost two years with NuLeAF as Co-Executive Director, Stewart Kemp has decided he will not renew his contract and will be leaving at the end of April. We wish Stewart well in his retirement. Philip Matthews will become full time Executive Director from 1 May 2014.

Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work

Nuclear waste and legacy issues are major concerns for local authorities across the country. Critical issues include decisions about disposal of Low and Very Low Level Waste to landfill, changes to planning guidance, considerations on the siting of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), the need to maximise community benefits from nuclear legacy operations and the impacts of the decommissioning of many nuclear power stations.

NuLeAF continues to be an effective voice for local authorities on all these issues. We welcome new member authorities and the active participation of Elected Members and officers in our Steering Group and in the officer Radioactive Waste Planning Group. If your authority would like to join NuLeAF, if you would like to participate in the work of the organisation, or find out more then please contact Catherine Draper at the address below.

NuLeAF on LinkedIn

NuLeAF has a group on [LinkedIn.com](http://www.linkedin.com). We hope that members will use this as a forum to discuss issues and seek advice with other members. We also post regular items of news.

Diary dates

The Radioactive Waste Planning Group will meeting at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.00 – 3.30 on 5 March. Kim Baines of NDA will give a presentation on the disposal of non-commercial assets from the NDA estate. The Steering Group will next meet on 9 April, also at Local Government House, 11.00 – 3.00. Sellafield Ltd has been invited to attend and talk about their future site strategy.

A full calendar of meetings can be found on the [NuLeAF website](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk).

Contact point

All member authorities are asked to ensure that NuLeAF is kept informed of any changes to officer or councillor contacts. It is important that these are kept up-to-date, so that the right people receive e-bulletins, invitations to NuLeAF meetings and other information.

The NuLeAF Secretariat can be contacted at *T*: 01473 264833 *W*: www.nuleaf.org.uk
E: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk