

NEWS RELEASE

10 June 2005

Nirex Nuclear Site List Publication

The Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum welcomes the release of the historic list of sites previously considered by Nirex for radioactive waste disposal over 15 years ago.

NuLeAF understands why the government was in the past concerned about public and community reaction. However, we are pleased that the Freedom of Information Act, and the government and Nirex's commitment to open and transparent processes of community and stakeholder engagement on radioactive waste issues, now means that secrecy can no longer be maintained.

Councillor Geoff Blackwell, Copeland Borough Council and Chair of NuLeAF commented:

We do appreciate that the release of this list now might raise real concerns in the local communities being named, and this is why we have worked with Nirex to ensure that the release of the list was properly explained and that every local community was provided with explanatory information.

NuLeAF understands Nirex's view that the list is mainly historic in nature but recognises some locations could be considered again in a new siting process depending on how the UK nuclear waste legacy is managed in future.

No siting process currently exists because the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) is now consulting on which option, or combination of options, to recommend to Government for future waste management. NuLeAF supports the CoRWM process - based on the 1993 "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely" White Paper. Information about this process is available on the CoRWM website <http://www.corwm.org.uk>.

NuLeAF are advising all communities with named sites on the list to engage in the CoRWM policy development process.

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Note:

Currently, NuLeAF has the support of 79 Local Authorities, 3 National Park Authorities and 1 Fire Service. Many of these authorities host nuclear sites, some are neighbouring authorities concerned about local economic, safety and environmental impacts of future legacy management, others are more widely dispersed and affected, for example, by nuclear transportation or historic (and potentially future) nuclear facility siting issues. All have decided to co-operate in the collective community interest on radioactive waste and nuclear legacy issues.



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Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management



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