

E-BULLETIN

September 2006
Issue 2



Welcome to Issue 2 of NuLeAF's e-bulletin.

This issue focuses on:

- developments in the long-term management of radioactive wastes, including the recommendations of CoRWM (the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management);
- the work of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), including consultation on its Annual Plan, site end states and socio-economic initiatives;
- NuLeAF's programme of regional seminars on key issues in nuclear legacy management; and
- organisational developments, including advertising a Project Officer post.

Long-Term Management of Radioactive Wastes

At the end of July, CoRWM submitted its recommendations to Government on the long-term management of higher activity wastes (www.corwm.org.uk/content-1092).

CoRWM states that it has presented an integrated set of recommendations with three interdependent strands. It recommends geological disposal as the end point and robust storage in the interim period, including provision of contingency against delay or failure in reaching the end point. The third strand focuses on implementation, including the need for a staged process, flexibility in decision making and partnership with communities willing to participate in the siting process.

The UK Government and devolved administrations have welcomed CoRWM's recommendations (www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/060731e.htm), stating that a full response will be made to the respective Parliaments and National Assembly for Wales in the autumn. In support of the recommendations, the Environment Secretary says:

- CoRWM has considered and reflected a wide range of viewpoints, and arrived at a report that will provide a strong basis for moving forward
- the Government is committed to develop a strong voluntary partnership with local communities in identifying a site for geological disposal
- the Government understands the importance of independent scrutiny and will ensure, in taking a programme forward, that there is independent oversight.

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NuLeAF is broadly supportive of the recommendations. It has commended CoRWM for its commitment to public and stakeholder engagement and stressed that this should be maintained throughout any process for implementing the recommendations. NuLeAF also welcomed CoRWM's deferral of a final decision about the form of geological disposal and expressed the view that this should form part of the discussion and negotiation with potential host communities during a siting process.

CoRWM's proposals for ways of implementing policy are similar to those set out in NuLeAF's outline policy statement ([Implementing Policy on Long-Term Management](#)). If Government endorses these proposals - as seems likely - NuLeAF will undertake work on their practical application, covering:

- models of local partnership.
- appropriate arrangements for support packages and
- ways of integrating siting processes with planning requirements

Government has also been conducting a review of policy for the management of solid low level waste. The NuLeAF response to consultation took into account the views of member authorities and was circulated on 31 May ([DEFRA LLW policy review](#)). DEFRA has subsequently informed consultees that the number and complexity of responses has meant that analysis is taking longer than expected. The Government's response should be completed towards the end of the year (www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/radioactivity-llw/index.htm).

Is your authority concerned about the way in which policy for the long-term management of radioactive wastes will be implemented? This issue will be addressed in NuLeAF's regional seminars on nuclear legacy management. See below for further details and how to register.

NDA Initiatives

The NDA is currently consulting on two important issues, and is shortly to consult on a third:

- Draft Annual Plan: This was published on 1 August with a request for comments by 10 November (www.nda.gov.uk/documents/nda_draft_annual_plan_2007-08_for_consultation.pdf). The draft plan sets out the NDA's proposed priorities for 2007/8, covering decommissioning and clean-up, waste management, commercial operations, nuclear materials, competition, innovation, finance and socio-economic issues. NuLeAF will be considering preliminary comments on the draft plan at its meeting on 12 October and report further in e-bulletin 3.
- Site End States: the NDA is reviewing site End States with stakeholders (www.nda.gov.uk/documents/egr015_site_end_state_definition_process_rev_0.pdf). The review aims to identify the physical condition that a nuclear site should be left in when the NDA has finished its business. The End State (or states) will influence the end uses that are possible on a site. The outcome of the review

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will be incorporated into revised NDA strategy during 2008. NuLeAF has produced a briefing paper to encourage member authorities with NDA sites to get involved in the review (www.nuleaf.org.uk under Briefing Papers).

- Socio-Economic Support: the NDA Board has established a socio-economic sub-committee to ensure robust governance arrangements for its spending on socio-economic initiatives. It is also developing a socio-economic strategy to provide a framework for addressing national priorities and local needs. It is expected that consultation on the draft strategy will begin in October.

If your authority is involved in discussions with site licensees or the NDA and there are examples of local initiatives that should be drawn to the attention of NuLeAF's membership, please let us know. NDA initiatives will also be discussed at NuLeAF's regional seminars – see below.

NuLeAF Regional Seminars

NuLeAF is organising a series of regional seminars with the following aims:

- to brief local authority officers on key developments in nuclear legacy management
- to exchange information about local authority initiatives
- to identify initiatives that NuLeAF can take to support member authorities and
- to establish a network of local authority officers interested in nuclear legacy management.

The programme is:

East of England	25 October	Ipswich [Endeavour House]
South East England	30 October	London [LGA House]
South West England	9 November	Taunton [County Hall]
North West England	15 November	Preston [County Hall]
Wales	22 November	Llandudno [Venue Cymru]

These locations are in the areas containing the greatest concentration of major nuclear sites and NuLeAF Member Authorities.

The seminars are primarily for local authority officers with backgrounds in planning, economic development, environmental health, local strategic partnerships and community involvement.

The morning sessions will focus on aspects of implementing policy on the long-term management of radioactive wastes and the afternoon sessions on key issues arising from NDA strategy.

Discussion on implementing policy on long-term management is likely to cover key features of a process for siting new facilities, including:

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- models of Local Partnership and Community Engagement
- Community support packages
- the Siting Process and Planning Requirements

Discussion on NDA strategy is likely to cover:

- consultation on Site End Uses and States
- plans for the disposal of Low Level Wastes on existing nuclear sites
- options for consolidating the storage of intermediate level wastes on a smaller number of sites
- socio-economic initiatives around nuclear sites

In addition to presentations, the seminars will provide opportunity for group discussions on local authority responses and the role of NuLeAF.

Please identify the seminar in or nearest to your area and inform colleagues who might be interested in attending. There are a limited number of places at each seminar, so early registration is advised. There is no registration fee. To register please contact NuLeAF at the address below, or complete the on-line registration form (www.nuleaf.org.uk).

Organisational Developments

In addition to the seminars and briefings outlined above, NuLeAF is pushing forward with initiatives to improve the service it can provide to member authorities. Steps include:

- Appointment of a Project Officer: NuLeAF is seeking to appoint a Project Officer to develop, undertake and manage projects for NuLeAF. These projects will involve research on nuclear legacy management issues, document preparation, developing relationships with member authorities and representing NuLeAF at local and national meetings. See the NuLeAF website for further details. The closing date for applications is 29 September.
- Website: changes have been made to improve access to key documentation on the CoRWM website.
- Database of member authority reports: NuLeAF wishes to develop its work on the basis of a good understanding of member authority views on all aspects of nuclear legacy management. The database could also provide a useful resource for member authorities.

Has your authority recently taken a report through committee on any aspect of nuclear legacy management? If so, please send NuLeAF a copy (preferably in electronic form). We would also like to receive copies of future reports, so that we can add them to our database.

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Become a Contributing Member

In order to develop its work on behalf of member authorities, NuLeAF needs to increase the number of members that contribute financially. Contributing Members form the NuLeAF Steering Group and are eligible to vote on issues and represent the Forum on outside bodies.

Annual costs of becoming a Contributing Member are based on a sliding per capita scale:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Rate</u>
A. up to 100k	£ 500
B. 100k - 200k	£ 750
C. 200k - 500k	£1,000
D. 500k - 1,000,000	£1,500
E. above 1,000,000	£2,000

This issue of the e-bulletin has highlighted current developments in nuclear legacy management and explained how NuLeAF is increasing the level of service it provides to member authorities. To continue to do this, NuLeAF needs to increase the number of contributing authorities. If you haven't already done so, please contact us to make an annual payment.

Dates for the Diary

Thur 12 October	NuLeAF Steering Group and Annual General Meeting, 11.00am, County Offices, Kendal.
Wed 25 October	Regional Seminar, 9.00am, Endeavour House, Ipswich
Mon 30 October	Regional Seminar, 9.00am, LGA House, London
Thur 9 November	Regional Seminar, 9.00am, County Hall, Taunton
Wed 15 November	Regional Seminar, 9.00am, County Hall, Preston
Wed 22 November	Regional Seminar, 9.00am, Venue Cymru, Llandudno
Thur 25 January	NuLeAF Steering Group, 11.00am, Endeavour House, Ipswich.
Thur 19 April	NuLeAF Steering Group, 11.00am, Town Hall, Manchester.

Member authorities are welcome to attend the Steering Group and AGM on 12 October. For further details, contact NuLeAF at the address below.

Contacting NuLeAF

NuLeAF can be contacted via the Secretariat c/o Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, Tel: 01473 264833 e-mail: christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk.

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