

# E-BULLETIN

February 2007,  
Issue 5



Welcome to issue 5 of NuLeAF's e-bulletin. This issue covers:

- the NDA review of its arrangements for stakeholder engagement;
- NDA consultation on its socio-economic policy and site end states;
- developments relating to the management of Low Level Wastes (LLW);
- the long-term management of higher activity radioactive wastes;
- vacancies within Cumbria County Council for a Nuclear Issues Manager and Nuclear Issues Officer; and
- dates for the diary.

Please see the points highlighted in boxes for information of particular relevance to your authority and for requests for feedback.

## **NDA Review of Arrangements for Stakeholder Engagement**

The NDA is undertaking a review of its stakeholder engagement arrangements. This was discussed at the NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) meeting on 25 January [[Item 5: NDA engagement review](#)]. Discussion was informed by feedback from the NuLeAF regional seminars and from questionnaire returns from member authorities. The SG agreed that a more systematic and consistent approach to direct engagement with local government is needed, and that Site Stakeholder Groups should not be seen as the primary vehicle for engagement with local authorities. The outcome of discussions with the NDA will be reported in future issues of the e-bulletin.

If you have views about ways of improving the NDA's stakeholder engagement arrangements, please send them to [christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk](mailto:christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk).

## **Site End States**

The SG meeting on 25 January discussed feedback from the regional seminars about the NDA's site end states review, including concerns about the lack of involvement of local authorities in some areas [[Item 6: NDA Programme](#)]. The NDA's intention to involve NuLeAF in discussions about the reconciliation of local 'end state' recommendations and national policy considerations was welcomed. The SG also agreed to invite the NDA to make a presentation on progress with the site end states review at its meeting on 19 April in Manchester.

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NuLeAF wants its input to discussions with the NDA on the review of site end states to be fully informed by the views of member authorities. If you have not already done so, please send us copies of the responses that your authority has sent to the NDA or SSG ([christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk](mailto:christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk)). Registrations to attend the SG meeting on 19 April can also be sent to this address.

## **NDA Draft Socio-Economic Policy**

NuLeAF has submitted a response to the NDA consultation on its draft socio-economic policy [[2007-01-19 Response to NDA socio-econ consultation](#)]. This highlights the key themes and messages in member authority feedback, for example, about geographic priorities and the need for guaranteed minimum funding for socio-economic support.

## **The Management of Low Level Wastes**

The announcement of the Government's conclusions to the LLW policy review is expected shortly. The policy is expected to provide a high level framework, with emphasis on waste minimisation and a case-by-case consideration of all practical options for its management, including on-site disposal of LLW at existing nuclear sites.

The SG meeting on 25 January agreed that detailed consideration of the issue was required, taking into account member authority views on recent industry assessment of LLW management options and the outcome of the national policy review. Following this, briefing and guidance material will be produced for member authorities. This will help prepare the ground for participation in the NDA's consultation on its strategy for LLW management, expected in the Spring of 2008. Once NDA strategy is decided, planning applications for on-site disposal facilities can be anticipated.

If your authority has been involved in discussions with industry about LLW management options, NuLeAF is keen to hear your views. Please send comments to [christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk](mailto:christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk)

## **Long-Term Management of Higher Activity Wastes**

### ***Position on Geological Disposal***

The SG meeting on 25 January clarified NuLeAF's position on the geological disposal of higher activity wastes. This includes support for CORWM's qualified endorsement of geological disposal as the end point of strategy, with recognition that member authorities will have different levels of confidence in its very long-term safety [[Policy Statement 3 - Geological Disposal](#)].

## ***Liaison Meetings with Government***

A NuLeAF delegation met with Government and NDA officials on 26 January to review developments and present NuLeAF's proposals for Siting Partnerships [[Developing the Implementation Framework: Partnerships Briefing Paper 3](#)]. The meeting was the first in a series of four where NuLeAF proposals are being discussed.

The dates and topics for future meetings are:

February 21	Initial Invitations and Local Decision-Making about Participation
March 20	Funding Participation and Enhancing Community Well-Being
April 17	Siting, Planning Requirements and Rights of Withdrawal

Each discussion will be informed by a Briefing Paper setting out NuLeAF's proposals for what should be included in the Government's implementation framework.

Draft versions of the briefing papers are circulated for comment. If you are from a NuLeAF member authority and would like opportunity to comment on drafts, please contact [christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk](mailto:christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk).

## ***House of Lords Inquiry (19 Feb 07)***

The House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee is holding a short follow-up inquiry into radioactive waste management, focusing on CoRWM's final report and the Government's response. Following the submission of written comments [[2007-01-05 Letter to House of Lords Select Committee](#)], NuLeAF will be giving oral evidence to the Committee on 19 February.

## ***Implementation Briefing (21 Mar 07)***

A briefing for member authorities is being held on 21 March in Manchester Town Hall, with presentations by the Environment Agency and NDA. The meeting will provide an important opportunity to discuss:

- Environment Agency thinking on: (a) when and how it should become involved in the siting process; (b) the R&D needed to reduce uncertainties in the long-term safety of geological disposal; (c) the development of stakeholder confidence in emerging repository safety cases; and (d) the pros and cons of the phased geological disposal concept.
- NDA thinking on: (a) how functions relating to the long-term management of wastes will be ring-fenced; (b) how it will develop the capacity to work in partnership with local communities; (c) the appropriateness of its current contractor model for repository development; and (d) the draft outline repository development plan (including R&D to reduce long-term safety uncertainties).

Member authorities are invited to attend the briefing on 21 March. To register, please contact [christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk](mailto:christine.delcorral@nucleaf.org.uk).

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## Vacancies

Vacancies have arisen within Cumbria County Council for a Nuclear Issues Manager and Nuclear Issues Officer. Closing date for applications is noon on 12 February. These positions are currently advertised on the NuLeAF website. Please follow the link below for further details:

[\[Cumbria County Council: Nuclear Issues Manager and Nuclear Issues Officer\]](#)

## Dates for the Diary

Wed 21 March	NuLeAF Briefing on Implementation of Policy for the Long-Term Management of Higher Activity Wastes, 11.00am, Town Hall, Manchester.
Thur 19 April	NuLeAF Steering Group, 11.00am, Town Hall, Manchester.

A date for the meeting of the Steering Group in late June/early July is currently being finalised.

## 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](mailto:christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk).