

E-BULLETIN

July 2007,
Issue 7



Welcome to Issue 7 of the e-bulletin. This reports on:

- the launch of Government consultation on a proposed framework for implementing geological disposal;
- the LGA conference on the long-term management of radioactive wastes;
- a workshop on repository safety cases;
- an update on Low Level Waste (LLW) management and adoption of a NuLeAF policy statement;
- the implications of potential new nuclear build for nuclear legacy management;
- the NDA reviews of (a) site end states and (b) stakeholder engagement arrangements; and
- NuLeAF's membership drive.

Consultation on the Implementation Framework for Siting a Geological Repository

The Government has launched its consultation on the implementation framework for siting a geological repository. The consultation papers are available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/radwaste-framework/index.htm.

The Government's proposals cover:

- aspects of design and delivery of a repository programme;
- the siting process, including development of a voluntarism/partnership approach; and
- the assessment of potential sites, including the initial screening out of areas unlikely to be suitable for geological reasons.

The closing date for comments is Friday 2 November.

NuLeAF will be producing a commentary on the consultation document to assist member authorities prepare responses. This commentary will be available on the NuLeAF website by 20 July. In the meantime, an overview of NuLeAF's pre-consultation input to Government is available at:

[BP7 Overview of NuLeAF Input to Government](#)

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management



Member authorities are encouraged to review the consultation document and NuLeAF commentary. Any authority that is interested in discussing the document with NuLeAF officers or contributing to the formulation of NuLeAF's response should contact the Secretariat at christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk. NuLeAF will be finalising its response to the consultation at its Steering Group meeting in Manchester on 18 October.

LGA Conference on the Implementation Framework

The LGA Conference on 6 September, 'The Long-Term Management of Radioactive Wastes - the Role of Local Government', will provide an important opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the consultation. The conference is taking place at LGA House in London.

Speakers include the Minister, senior officials from DEFRA, the NDA, the Environment Agency and NuLeAF, and an adviser to the Municipality of Oskarshamn, which is involved in the siting process in Sweden. Conference details and a registration form are available at:

[LGA Conference details and registration.](#)

Workshop on Repository Safety Cases

NuLeAF members are invited to a PAMINA (**P**erformance **A**ssessment **M**ethodologies **I**N **A**pplication) workshop on 17 October to discuss the development and presentation of geological repository safety cases. The workshop is being jointly organised by Galson Sciences and the NDA. The workshop is taking place in Manchester Town Hall, the day before the NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) and AGM at the same venue. A limited number of workshop places are available and interested members are asked to book asap via the NuLeAF Secretariat. A registration form is available at:

[Pamina workshop documentation](#)

Management of Low Level Waste (LLW)

As reported in e-bulletin 6, Government published its new policy on LLW management in March. The policy heralds a greater emphasis on local approaches for managing LLW from nuclear and non-nuclear industry sectors, including disposal to new facilities on existing nuclear sites and landfill.

Given the significance of the new policy emphasis, the NuLeAF SG has endorsed a Policy Statement for consideration by local authorities developing or revising local Waste Plans, or handling an application for a LLW management facility. The statement recognises the need for the development and utilisation of additional LLW management facilities, but highlights the importance of taking forward proposals in ways that address local authority views and can inspire public confidence. This statement is available at:

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

[Policy Statement 4 - Management of Low Level Wastes](#)

The meeting of the NuLeAF Steering Group on 27 June received a report outlining developments in LLW management. These include submission of a scoping report to Somerset County Council about a proposed LLW disposal facility at Hinkley Point. A planning application is expected later in the year. This is likely to be the first of a series of planning applications for LLW disposal at nuclear sites around the UK. Further updates are available at:

[Managing Low Level Radioactive Waste](#)

The SG also agreed that an officer working group be convened to monitor and review developments in LLW management and to advise on further NuLeAF initiatives. If your authority is interested in participating in this working group, please contact the NuLeAF Secretariat.

New Nuclear Build: Implications for Nuclear Legacy Management

Although it is not within NuLeAF's remit to form a view on whether new nuclear power stations should be built, it does have responsibility to comment on any implications for nuclear legacy management. For this reason, the SG has agreed to publish a Briefing Paper that focuses on relevant questions in the Government's current consultation on nuclear power. The Briefing Paper also suggests ways in which the interactions between any new build and legacy management should be handled. It is available at:

[BP9 New Nuclear Build - the Implications for Nuclear Legacy Management](#)

Member authorities are invited to use the Briefing Paper when preparing responses to the Government consultation. Any comments on the suggestions in the Briefing Paper should be sent to the secretariat by 28 September. These will be used to inform NuLeAF's response to the consultation.

NDA Review of Site End States

Following local consultation to identify the preferred end states of NDA sites, the review has reached the 'reconciliation stage' where local recommendations are being reviewed against national policy developments.

The 'reconciliation' discussions have taken place in NDA-convened meetings as follows:

- 18 June: Covering Capenhurst, Springfields, Harwell and Winfrith
- 26 June: Covering Magnox stations in England and Wales
- 2 July: Covering West Cumbria sites - Sellafield, Calder Hall and the LLWR

The format for the meetings is – for each site - to discuss 'mapping review issues' to identify any differences between the existing NDA assumed end state and the preferred end state as recommended by each Site Stakeholder Group (SSG). At the

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

end of the process for each site, the meeting reaches a view on what end state should be confirmed. The recommendations from the meetings will go to the NDA Board in September, for review and inclusion in the NDA's revised national strategy, which is to be consulted on in Spring 08. In the meantime NDA is organising feedback workshops with representatives from SSGs.

NuLeAF is preparing a Briefing Paper to ensure that feedback is also provided to member authorities. This should be available on the NuLeAF website in August.

Review of NDA Stakeholder Engagement

The NDA is overseeing a two-stage review of its stakeholder engagement arrangements. The first stage has focussed primarily on national arrangements and the second stage will focus on local arrangements.

NuLeAF submitted comments on the first stage review recommendations, which were subject to a short period of web-based consultation in late May/early June. These comments are available at:

[Comments on the First Stage Review Recommendations](#)

A welcome output from the first stage review is preparation of an 'Engagement Plan', which will set out engagement issues, objectives and activities. This should make it easier for local authorities to see what they need to engage on, when and how.

Member authorities will be kept informed about opportunities to contribute to the second stage of the review.

Membership Drive

NuLeAF wrote to corresponding member authorities and non-member authorities in late May to ask that they become contributing members, based on the payment of an annual contribution. This contribution is needed for NuLeAF to be able to sustain and develop its work on the developments in Government policy and NDA strategy outlined above.

Becoming a contributing member provides enhanced opportunities to:

- influence policy and strategy at a national level, through participation in the NuLeAF Steering Group and associated meetings;
- receive information, advice and guidance on nuclear legacy management from NuLeAF, including the member-only part of the NuLeAF website; and
- share experience and learning through discussions with other NuLeAF member authorities, including a reduced rate for registration at seminars and workshops.

NuLeAF operates a sliding scale of membership fees, based on the number of residents within a member authority area. This is as follows:

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

<u>Population</u>	<u>Rate</u>
A. up to 100k	£550
B. 100k - 200k	£825
C. 200k - 500k	£1,100
D. 500k - 1,000,000	£1,650
E. above 1,000,000	£2,200

It is important for NuLeAF's future financial viability that it receives financial contributions from a much larger number of its member authorities, so corresponding members are encouraged to consider making an annual payment.

Member authorities are also asked to let us know if their nominated officer and councillor contacts for NuLeAF change.

Dates for the Diary

6 Sept	LGA Conference, 'The Long-Term Management of Radioactive Wastes – the Role of Local Government', LGA House, London
17 Oct	PAMINA safety case workshop, Town Hall, Manchester
18 Oct	NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM, Town Hall, Manchester

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.