

E-BULLETIN

October 2007,
Issue 8



Welcome to Issue 8 of the e-bulletin. This covers:

- NuLeAF regional seminars on November 26 and 29, and December 4;
- the latest developments in the programme for siting a geological repository;
- an update on current discussions about siting Low Level Waste (LLW) management facilities;
- consultation on the NDA's Business Plan and Strategy; and
- the NuLeAF AGM, held on 18 October.

NuLeAF Regional Seminars – Book Now!

NuLeAF is organising a series of regional seminars to:

- Provide a briefing on key developments in nuclear legacy management
- Promote discussion of the implications for local government
- Identify initiatives that NuLeAF can take to support member authorities

The seminars are taking place as follows:

- 26 November, Manchester Town Hall (for North Wales, Gloucestershire and West Scotland)
- 29 November, LG House, London (for East Anglia, the South, South East and South West)
- 4 December, County Offices, Preston (for North West England)

The seminars will discuss:

- the implementation framework for a geological repository
- strategy for managing low level wastes (LLW)
- a local case study on LLW management
- proposals from the NDA review of arrangements for local stakeholder engagement
- issues raised by the potential for inter-site transfers of radioactive wastes

Speakers will come from DEFRA, the NDA, Member Authorities and NuLeAF. There will be ample opportunity for Q&A and small group discussion.

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

The seminars are primarily for councillors and officers from local authorities. A limited number of places will also be available for representatives from Site Stakeholder Groups, Regional Assemblies, Regional Development Agencies, NGOs, the regulators and industry.

Please book now by using the registration form at:

[2007 Registration Form](#)

Consultation on the Framework for Siting a Geological Repository

The closing date for comments on the Government's proposed implementation framework is 2 November. The Steering Group (SG) meeting on 18 October discussed a draft response. This will be finalised and placed on the NuLeAF website before the end of October.

Member authorities submitting comments on the consultation document are asked to send copies to NuLeAF (christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk).

If any member authority wants advice on issues around a possible expression of interest in the siting process, they should contact the secretariat so that a meeting can be arranged.

Input to National Discussions on the Repository Siting Process

NuLeAF is involved in three sets of national meetings about the repository siting process:

1 Liaison meetings with Government and NDA

The meetings provide opportunity to discuss key aspects of the Government's proposals. In particular, discussion has covered the invitation process and community benefits. The meetings help to ensure that Government representatives fully understand the local government perspective, and offer prospect for successful resolution of key issues associated with current proposals.

2 Government Communications Steering Group

The Government is setting up a Steering Group to oversee (a) preparation of information packages to accompany its invitation for Expressions of Interest in participating in the siting process and (b) the organisation of associated stakeholder events. The Steering Group has endorsed NuLeAF participation in the new group

3 Regulatory Interface Management Meetings (RIM)

NDA has established these meetings to ensure effective liaison and discussion of the permissioning processes associated with repository development. NuLeAF has been represented at RIM meetings on 16 July and 4 October. The meetings will help

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to permissioning processes covering environmental, safety and security regulation and planning.

Management of Low Level Waste (LLW)

NuLeAF has established a LLW Officer Working Group, which had its first meeting on 3 October.

The meeting was attended by officers from Copeland BC, Cumbria CC, Essex CC, Oxfordshire CC, Sedgemoor DC, Somerset CC, Suffolk CC, Suffolk Coastal DC and Vale of White Horse DC. This includes authorities from the three sites where applications have been made, or are likely to be made, for additional LLW management facilities (the repository near Drigg, Hinkley Point and Harwell). The group also includes officers that sit on the Planning Officer Society's Minerals and Waste Topic Group and its Waste Planning Advisory Group.

It was agreed that the primary role of the Group should be to: exchange information about developments in LLW management; review and discuss developments as they affect local government; and advise on initiatives that NuLeAF should take to (a) assist member authorities and (b) represent their views to national bodies. It was noted that NuLeAF initiatives should include engaging with the NDA in development of its strategy for managing LLW, and disseminating examples of good practice.

Discussion at the first meeting covered:

- initiatives on LLW management and community benefits
- a pilot study on non-nuclear industry LLW and
- addressing LLW in Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks.

For the main points from the first meeting of the group see:

[2007-10-18 SG Item 6 Management of LLW](#)

Consultation on the NDA's Business Plan and Strategy

Instead of producing Annual Plans, the NDA is switching to a three-year business planning cycle. This will include consultation on a draft Business Plan, starting in early November 07. The SG agreed to canvass member authority views on the draft plan, and to submit comments in the light of those views. Member authorities are encouraged to send copies of their comments on the draft Business plan to christine.delcorral@nuleaf.org.uk.

The NDA is also preparing to review its national strategy. This is likely to involve a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the Spring of next year, leading to consultation on a draft strategy in the autumn.

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management

NuLeAF Chair and Vice-Chair

A new Chair and Vice-Chair were appointed at the NuLeAF AGM on 18 October. The Chair is Councillor Allan Holliday from Copeland Borough Council and the Vice-Chair is Councillor Julian Swainson from Suffolk County Council. The Steering Group recorded its thanks to Councillor Bill Risby from Manchester City Council, who has been Vice Chair or Acting Chair since NuLeAF was established.

Contributing Member Authorities

The SG has highlighted the importance of increasing the number of contributing member authorities. 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. The AGM on 18 October agreed that the fees for 2008-09 should be as follows:

Population	Annual Contribution 07-08	Annual Contribution 08-09
Up to 100k	£550	£605
100k-200k	£825	£905
200k-500k	£1100	£1210
500k-1m	£1650	£1850
Above 1m	£2200	£2420

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

Nominated Councillor and Officer Contacts

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

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.

Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management