

# E-BULLETIN

January 2011,  
Issue 21



Welcome to the first issue of the e-bulletin in 2011. It contains news about:

- radioactive waste management and new nuclear power stations
- consultation on the NDA's draft Business Plan 2011-2014
- plans for improved engagement between NDA, Site Licensee Companies and local authorities
- consultation on a proposed strategy for managing Low Level Waste (LLW) from the non-nuclear industries
- community benefits and radioactive waste management
- the process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility
- the Submarine Dismantling Project and
- dates for the diary.

## Radioactive Waste Management and New Nuclear Power Stations

An update on new build developments includes:

- **Proposed responses to consultation on the Government's revised guidance on the Funded Decommissioning Programme and an updated methodology for Waste Transfer Pricing:** these are contained in a report to the NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) meeting on 25 January – see pages 5 and 9 of the report at [SG Item 4 report](#). The SG agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to approve final responses. These will be published on the NuLeAF website in early March.
- **Consultation on third party nuclear liabilities:** the Government launched a consultation on proposed revisions on 24 January (for details see [Proposals on liabilities](#) on the DECC website). The NuLeAF Steering Group will consider a proposed response at its next meeting on April 13.
- **Response to consultation on a draft revised Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS):** NuLeAF's response on the radioactive waste management aspects has been published on its website at [Comments on draft revised NNPS](#).

## Consultation on the NDA's draft Business Plan 2011-14

The SG meeting on 25 January approved a response, which has been published on the NuLeAF website at [Comments on draft Business Plan](#).

## Plans for improved engagement between NDA, Site Licensee Companies (SLCs) and Local Authorities

Subject to some amendments about flexibility in participation, the SG also endorsed a proposal to arrange some 'strategic level' meetings between NDA, SLCs and local authorities across a number

of NDA sites. The proposal is set out in Annex B of the report to the SG at [SG item 5 report](#). The annex outlines suggestions for objectives, geographic scope, participants, agenda, format, timetable and next steps. The secretariat will shortly be writing to officer contacts in those authorities that will be invited to initial meetings to seek feedback and agreement in principle.

## **Consultation on a proposed strategy for managing Low Level Waste (LLW) from the Non-Nuclear Industries**

DECC published the proposed strategy on 7 December with a deadline for comments of 8 March. The draft strategy is available on the DECC website at [Draft Strategy for NNI LLW](#).

The draft strategy explains that adequate treatment and disposal capacity is available for the majority of NNI LLW. It notes that the very small volumes of NNI LLW are largely insufficient to drive the provision of bespoke management and disposal facilities via the market and that, as a result, NNI LLW management has to rely on networks provided for other large volume non-nuclear wastes. Government wants to conserve existing routes and establish or expand other routes, to reduce the "fragility" of current arrangements. It wants Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) to take account of NNI LLW disposal requirements, both in their role as consultees to the environmental regulators and when they prepare and review their local development frameworks covering waste.

Preliminary comments on the draft strategy are attached in the Annex to the SG report at [SG item 6 report](#). Following discussion, the SG agreed that a proposed final response should be circulated to attendees for comment before submission to DECC. The final agreed response will be published on the NuLeAF website in early March.

The SG item 6 report also contains an update on developments relating to implementation of the strategy for managing LLW from the nuclear industry.

## **Community benefits and radioactive waste management**

NuLeAF has had a long-standing objective to seek to ensure that a consistent, proportionate and transparent approach can be taken to the establishment of Community Funds associated with key radioactive waste management facilities. In the light of recent developments, including the debate about community benefits associated with the proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Somerset, the SG agreed to make new representations to Government.

The background to this decision is set out in [SG item 7 report](#). A progress report will be provided to the next SG meeting on April 13.

## **The Process for Siting a Geological Disposal Facility**

The latest activities of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership can be found at [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk). See the 'Latest News' section for responses to debates in the local press and 'Recent Documents' for meeting reports, newsletters and e-bulletins.

The Government has revamped the Geological Disposal Implementation Board (GDIB), which is now chaired by the Minister for Energy and involves a wider range of stakeholders. The NuLeAF Executive Director attended the first meeting of the Board as an observer on behalf of the LGA. The objective of the GDIB is to provide Ministerial oversight of the implementation programme as well as enabling local communities, CoRWM, key waste consignors and green NGO's to provide

direct input to, or to have direct observation of, the programme. The minutes of the first meeting are available on the DECC website at [Geological Disposal Implementation Board](#).

## **Submarine Dismantling Project**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that identifies and considers the potential environmental impacts of submarine dismantling activities. As part of this process, potential candidate sites for the removal of radioactive elements ('initial dismantling') of submarines have been named in the SEA scoping report. These sites are Devonport and Rosyth Royal Dockyards. The scoping report is accompanied by a Proposed Site Criteria and Screening Paper which explains, on an indicative basis, how the potential candidate sites for initial dismantling were identified. These reports are available on the SDP website at [Submarine Dismantling](#).

Potential candidate sites for the storage of resultant Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW) will not be identified at this stage due to the developing nature of NDA and MoD strategies on radioactive waste management. However, MoD's proposed criteria for identifying suitable storage sites in the future have been made public in the Proposed Site Criteria and Screening Paper.

MoD does not intend to confirm the list of candidate sites for initial dismantling until it has concluded the ongoing Statutory Consultation process and engaged with key local site stakeholders. MoD plans to do this early this year and, following more detailed options analysis and environmental assessment, it plans to conduct full public consultation in the second half of 2011. Having taken the SEA and public consultation responses into account, MoD will then complete its analysis leading to strategic decisions on the project.

## **Dates for the Diary**

10 March	Radioactive Waste Officer Planning Group, Senate House, University of London
22 March	NuLeAF seminar on Spatial Planning and the Implementation of Strategy for the Management of Nuclear Industry LLW (for details, including how to register, see <a href="#">Seminar flyer</a> ), Local Government House, Smith Square, London
13 April	NuLeAF Steering Group, Town Hall, Manchester

## **Contact Points**

All member authorities are asked to ensure that NuLeAF is kept informed of any changes to officer or councillor contacts. It is important that these are kept up-to-date, so that the right people receive e-bulletins, invitations to NuLeAF meetings and other information.

NuLeAF can be contacted via the Secretariat c/o Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, Tel: 01473 264833 e-mail: [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk).