

E-BULLETIN

February 2012,
Issue 25



Welcome to Issue 25 of the e-bulletin, which contains news about:

- recruitment of a new NuLeAF Executive Director
- the NuLeAF seminar on 9 March
- NDA strategy development and implementation
- the draft NDA business plan
- a NuLeAF/NNLAG protocol
- radioactive waste management and new nuclear power stations
- the UK response to the Fukushima accident
- consultation on the Submarine Dismantling Project
- the process for siting a geological disposal facility and
- dates for the diary.

Recruitment of a new Executive Director

After six years in post, Fred Barker has decided to leave NuLeAF, so the process has started to find a new Executive Director.

The successful candidate will require a good knowledge of the nuclear industry, experience of local government and a range of first class skills including policy analysis, communication (both written and verbal), networking and project management. The post has a flexible working base.

If you think you might fit the bill, or know someone who might, see the job details at [Executive Director, Flexible Base, £44,066 - £55,239 per annum / Guardian Jobs](#).

Seminar 9 March – Book Now!

If you have not already done so, it is time to register for the NuLeAF seminar on spatial planning and radioactive waste management. The seminar features presentations from senior managers from the NDA, LLWR Ltd, EdF and the Planning Inspectorate. Details can be found on the NuLeAF website at [Seminar registration](#).

NDA Strategy Development and Implementation

The NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) on 25 January considered a report on NDA strategy development and implementation (see the website at [SG item 5](#)). This covered:

- strategy development on Integrated Waste Management (IWM)
- strategy development on Site Restoration

- other aspects of strategy development
- an update on representations about implementing NDA strategy for contracting and supply chain development
- an update on the proposal for a Community Benefits Protocol.

After discussion the SG agreed to submit comments on the NDA's draft Integration Waste Management strategy development programme, as set out in the annex to the report, and to issue a press release urging a rethink on disposal of LLW to landfill (see [Press Statement on Disposal of Radwaste to Landfill](#)).

Draft NDA Business Plan

The draft Business Plan was published on 12 December with a deadline for comments of 3 February. Copies are available on the NDA website at [NDA publishes draft Business Plan for consultation](#).

The SG meeting agreed a set of comments as set out in the report on the website at [SG item 6](#).

NuLeAF/NNLAG Protocol

A draft protocol setting out the relationship between NuLeAF and the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) has been prepared in liaison with NuLeAF's Chair and Vice Chair and the NNLAG secretariat. This covers:

- the remits, objectives, membership, and governance and working arrangements of each organisation;
- the areas of mutual interest, and arrangements for communication and liaison between the two bodies.

The draft protocol can be found out [SG item 7](#). The SG meeting agreed to adopt the protocol subject to an addition to cover the possibility of staff from either group undertaking remunerated work for the other.

Radioactive Waste Management and New Nuclear Power Stations

A detailed report was tabled at the SG meeting on 25 January, covering:

- the granting of interim acceptance by the regulators of the generic designs for two nuclear reactors proposed for construction in the UK;
- the application for approval to construct a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset;
- an initial review of the current position on proposals for managing radioactive wastes and spent fuel from new nuclear power stations; and
- the publication of Government guidance on the Funded Decommissioning Programme for new nuclear build.

Following discussion, the SG agreed to write to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) asking it to take account of the views of the Royal Society on methods of spent fuel storage when requiring future new build licensees to undertake actions to underpin their approach to such storage. The report can be found on the NuLeAF website at [SG item 8](#).

UK Response to the Fukushima Accident

The SG considered two reports addressing key developments. The first (at [SG item 9](#)) covered:

- the Government response to the Weightman Report;
- the report of the EC 'Stress Tests' for UK nuclear power plants; and

The second (at [SG item 10](#)) focused on nuclear emergency planning, including:

- the current position on 'detailed emergency planning zones' and the concept of their 'extendability' to deal with major nuclear accidents;
- planning for the recovery phase of a major nuclear accident; and
- nuclear emergency exercises.

Following discussion, the SG agreed a new strategic objective. This is: with regard to the implications of the Fukushima accident for nuclear legacy management in the UK, to encourage the Government and the Office for Nuclear Regulation to ensure that appropriate actions are taken and improvements sustained, and to regularly communicate progress to stakeholders.

Specifically on nuclear emergency planning, the SG agreed to consider further reports as the results of further DECC and Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) reviews become available.

It also agreed to invite the ONR to its April meeting to provide an update on key developments.

Consultation on the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP)

The consultation was launched by the MoD on 28 October and ends on 17 February. The Consultation Document is available on the MoD website at [Consultation on the Submarine Dismantling Project](#).

The feedback from the consultation will be used to inform three key decisions within the project:

- how radioactive material should be removed from laid-up nuclear submarines;
- where the radioactive waste should be removed; and
- which type of site should be used to store the resultant Intermediate Level Waste (ILW).

The SG agreed that it was minded to adopt a draft response to the consultation as set out at [SG item 11](#). It also agreed to delegate final sign-off to the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director, following an SDP workshop in Birmingham on 31 January.

The Process for Siting a Geological Disposal Facility

West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership has launched a formal public consultation to consider whether West Cumbria should take part in the search for a site for a repository for the UK's higher activity radioactive waste, without any commitment to have it. Details on the consultation can be found on the Partnership website at [Consultation - West Cumbria MRWS Partnership](#).

The consultation runs until 23rd March 2012 and asks for views on the Partnership's initial opinions about the key issues relating to a potential repository for higher activity radioactive waste in West Cumbria. The Partnership will use responses to consider whether it should change its initial opinions and, if so, how. This will shape the advice the Partnership gives to Allerdale BC, Copeland BC and Cumbria CC, to help inform their decision about whether to take part in the search for a site for a repository or not.

Geological Disposal Implementation Board (GDIB)

The GDIB meeting on 6 December discussed options for acceleration/optimisation of the GDF programme. This included a presentation by NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) on its work to date in responding to the Minister's challenge to bring forward disposal dates. Potential options had been grouped under three possible scenarios, which ranged from finding efficiencies in the current programme to more radical options such as deep borehole disposal.

RWMD's preferred course of action is to carry out further technical underpinning work and stakeholder engagement on scenario one (see paper now published on the NDA website at [Review of timescales](#)) to further test the potential for achieving accelerated dates within the programme. The Minister thanked NDA for its work so far and looked forward to receiving the final report. He indicated that once received, the Government would commission formal advice from CoRWM. It would also look to have RWMD's work peer reviewed outside Government.

The minutes of the GDIB meeting are published on the DECC website at [GDIB meeting](#).

Expression of Interest Process Still Open

The afternoon session of the SG meeting on 25 January heard from DECC that it was still open for other areas to express an interest in potential participation in the GDF siting process on a without commitment basis.

DECC highlighted the benefits that siting a GDF could bring to an area:

- inherent benefits from hosting a large-scale, long-term engineering project (averaging over 550 jobs a year, and 1000 during the construction phase);
- inward investment mitigation of impacts (which could include transport and infrastructure); and
- an additional community benefits package.

Dates for the Diary

9 March	Spatial Planning and Radioactive Waste Management Seminar, Local Government House, London
25 April	Steering Group Meeting, 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.