

<b>Meeting:</b>	NuLeAF Steering Group, 12 October 2006
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	5
<b>Subject:</b>	NDA Issues
<b>Author:</b>	Fred Barker
<b>Purpose:</b>	To report on developments

## **Introduction**

At its meeting in April the Steering Group agreed:

- a list of priorities for initiatives on NDA issues; and
- to authorise the Executive Director to produce briefings for member authorities as appropriate.

This report provides an update, covering:

- NDA draft annual plan
- Review of site 'End States'
- Socio-economic support
- Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg
- Options for rationalising the storage of ILW

## **Recommendations**

That the Steering Group agrees that:

- 1 Comments on the draft annual plan be submitted to the NDA following a request for views from Member authorities via the e-bulletin.
- 2 The Executive Director be authorised to take further actions in relation to the site 'End States' review eg production of further briefing material, if required as a result of feedback from Member Authorities.
- 3 Member authorities with NDA sites be encouraged to respond to the forthcoming consultation on a strategy for socio-economic support and provide feedback to NuLeAF.

## 1 Draft Annual Plan

The NDA published its draft Annual Plan on 1 August with a request for comments by 10 November ([www.nda.gov.uk/documents/nda\\_draft\\_annual\\_plan\\_2007-08\\_for\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/nda_draft_annual_plan_2007-08_for_consultation.pdf)). The draft plan sets out the NDA's proposed priorities for 2007/8, covering decommissioning and clean-up, waste management, commercial operations, nuclear materials, competition, innovation, finance and socio-economic issues. It also provides a summary of plans for each of the NDA's sites.

Overall the draft plan is a clear and helpful summary of how the NDA intends to proceed. However there is a need:

- for more information about the main components of expenditure on 'stakeholder support'
- for more consistent reporting of Site Stakeholder Group activities and socio-economic initiatives at the different sites
- to define the use of key terms arising from the NDA's Work Breakdown Structure (eg the meaning of 'transition')
- to explain how the justifications for the continued operation of THORP and SMP are addressed and reported.

Member authority comments on the draft annual plan will be requested in e-bulletin 3. These will be used to inform preparation of comments for submission to the NDA.

## 2 Site 'End States'

The NDA is reviewing site End States with stakeholders ([www.nda.gov.uk/documents/egr015\\_site\\_end\\_state\\_definition\\_process\\_rev\\_0.pdf](http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/egr015_site_end_state_definition_process_rev_0.pdf)). The review aims to identify the physical condition that a nuclear site should be left in when the NDA has finished its business. The End State (or states) will influence the end uses that are possible on a site. The outcome of the review will be incorporated into revised NDA strategy during 2008.

A NuLeAF briefing paper has been produced to encourage member authorities with NDA sites to get involved in the review. The reasons for involvement are:

- Preferred end uses are important in shaping the approach to clean-up at a site and whether the site, or parts of it, will be delicensed.
- Suggestions for site end uses need to be assessed for conformity with the local development plan, as informed by Community Strategies, Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- The NDA and Site Licence Companies need to understand local authority views.
- Although potentially not for many decades, planning decisions relating to the end use or uses of a site will ultimately be required.

The NDA's review of site End States consists of four main stages:

- (i) *Stakeholder consultation on end uses*

The aim is to arrive at a hierarchy of preferred end uses for a site as a result of dialogue between the Site Licence Company (SLC) and stakeholders. The indicative date for completing this stage is by October 06.

*(ii) End State development*

The aim is to define a range of End States that match the hierarchy of preferred end uses. This work will be undertaken by the SLC and will include assessment of the technical, safety, environmental and economic issues associated with remediation of the site to enable particular end uses. The indicative date for completing this stage is by February 07.

*(iii) Stakeholder consultation on End States*

The aim is to identify preferred End States, which End States stakeholders can live with and which are unacceptable, and to understand the reasons for these views. The indicative date for completing this stage is by April 07.

*(iv) Reconciliation*

The aim is to arrive at a coherent approach for defining site End States for incorporation into the next version of the NDA Strategy. The NDA states that completion of this stage must be by September 07.

The review of site end states is also significant because it is the first time the NDA has sought to involve all SSGs in a programme of wider engagement with local communities. The NuLeAF briefing asks for feedback from member authorities about involvement in the site End State definition process, including views on strengths and weaknesses of the process.

The review of site 'End States' is also being discussed at the regional seminars.

#### **4 Socio-Economic Support**

The NDA Board has established a socio-economic sub-committee to ensure robust governance arrangements for its spending on socio-economic initiatives. It is also developing a socio-economic strategy to provide a framework for addressing national priorities and local needs. It is expected that consultation on the draft strategy will begin in October.

It is suggested that member authorities be encourage to respond to the consultation and to provide feedback to NuLeAF.

#### **5 Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg**

The first ever competition for a nuclear management contract under the auspices of the NDA is underway. This covers the operation of the LLW repository near Drigg and the longer-term development and implementation of a strategic plan for LLW arising from the NDA's 20 sites.

See item 6 on LLW Management for further detail, including Copeland Borough Council's Community Prospectus.

## **6 Options for Rationalising the Storage of ILW**

The NDA has initiated a review of options for the interim storage of operational ILW, including the scope for regional or national facilities.

This issue will be addressed in a presentation to the Steering Group following the AGM.