

Meeting:	NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 21 Oct 2011
Agenda Item:	3
Subject:	Annual Report
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To provide an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2010

Introduction

This report provides an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2010.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the AGM agrees that the report presents a true picture of organisational developments and activities.

Context

The last year has seen significant developments in nuclear legacy and radioactive waste management and in NuLeAF's associated work programme. The developments include:

- the nuclear accident at Fukushima, Japan and Dr Mike Weightman's report on the implications for the nuclear industry in the UK;
- consultation by the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA) on its Business Plan 2011-14 and revised Strategy, and discussion with member authorities about key aspects of strategy implementation;
- continued involvement in the West Cumbria MRWS¹ Partnership, which is developing its preliminary views on the key issues associated with potential participation in the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility;
- following a public inquiry, the Secretary of State's approval of an appeal against refusal of permission for the disposal of LLW to the hazardous waste landfill site at King's Cliffe in Northamptonshire; and
- consultation on revised draft Nuclear National Policy Statements and subsequent parliamentary approval.

Further information and a commentary about these and other relevant developments are reported in the accompanying review of strategic objectives (see AGM report item 4).

Overview of Organisational Developments and Activities

Organisational developments and activities have included:

Steering Group

Four meetings of the Steering Group (SG) have been held in Manchester (13 April and 21 October), and London (25 January and 6 July). Guest speakers came from:

- the Nuclear Industry Association (on the outcomes of the study into options for new build spent fuel management and disposal, 25 January);
- DECC (on the roles and responsibilities of the Office for Nuclear Development, 13 April);
- the Environment Agency (on their recent experiences regarding the permitting of LLW disposal to landfill and their engagement with local authorities, 6 July); and
- HSE (on the 'Weightman report' on the Fukushima nuclear accident and its implications for the nuclear industry in the UK, 21 October).

Member Authorities

NuLeAF now has 101 member authorities comprising: 17 contributing authorities, 80 corresponding members and 4 NFLA co-optees. The list of member authorities is attached. Since the last AGM, two authorities (Lancashire County Council and Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council) ceased to be contributing members and reverted to corresponding membership. There have been no new members.

¹ MRWS stands for Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely, which is the name given to the Government programme to manage higher activity radioactive wastes in the long-term. The central feature of the MRWS programme is the work to find a site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)

The RWPG has met four times since the last AGM. It continues to provide a mechanism for officer review and discussion of key issues prior to preparation of reports for the Steering Group. During the course of the year issues it has considered include:

- implication of the King's Cliffe landfill application, subsequent inquiry, appeal and Secretary of State's decision;
- development of a potential community benefits protocol;
- discussion with Low Level Waste Repository Ltd on LLW inventory forecasts;
- treatment of radioactive waste in Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks; and
- radioactive waste and new nuclear power stations.

Numbers attending the meeting have increased over the last year, with current attendance at around 11 officers, plus NuLeAF. Core membership includes: Cumbria County Council, Dorset County Council, Essex County Council, Hampshire County Council, Kent County Council, Lancashire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Somerset County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and Suffolk County Council.

Engagement Meetings with NDA, SLCs and Regulators

A new forum has been set up to facilitate improved engagement between NDA, site licensee companies (SLCs), the regulatory bodies and local authorities with Magnox and RSRL sites. The first meetings were held in Birmingham (22 June, Berkeley, Hinkley Point, Oldbury, Trawsfynydd and Wylfa sites) and London (27 June, Bradwell, Dungeness, Harwell, Sizewell & Winfrith sites). The key issues addressed were:

- site restoration;
- integrated waste management;
- socio-economic support;
- engagement with local authorities; and
- Magnox & RSRL approach to implementing strategy.

A subsequent meeting has been scheduled for 11 November (for all Magnox and RSRL sites in England and Wales). Minutes and presentations from the meetings can be found on a dedicated section of the NuLeAF website.

Input to the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely Partnership

A substantial input has been made to the Partnership since the last AGM, including participation in the Public & Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) Sub-group and Technical Review Group (TRG) and preparation of initial drafts of assessment papers on:

- how to judge whether the Partnership's preliminary conclusions are robust in the light of public and stakeholder views
- the next stage of the siting process
- the inventory of wastes for disposal

The costs of staff time for this input are charged to the Partnership (see the finance report at AGM item 5).

Potential Input to Somerset and Suffolk Local Authorities on Radioactive Waste Management and New Nuclear Stations

To date there has been no paid input to the Somerset local authorities on the radioactive waste management aspects of the application for a new power station at Hinkley Point C. The Executive Director has met with officers from Suffolk local authorities to discuss potential working arrangements regarding an input on the radioactive waste management aspects of a potential Sizewell C station.

New Nuclear Local Authority Group (NNLAG)

This group has been formally established as a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association, with Somerset County Council in a lead role. NuLeAF is liaising with NNLAG (and other appropriate organisations) over the radioactive waste management aspects of development of a potential community benefit protocol for new build.

Services to Member Authorities

Services to member authorities continue to be maintained.

The website features a series of case studies to promote understanding, learning and good practice. These include NuLeAF case studies, links to planning reports on specific applications, and industry projects.

Two new NuLeAF case studies were published during the course of the year:

- The application to dispose of LLW to landfill at King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire, December 2010 ([Case Study 11](#))
- The application for the construction of a Spent Fuel Dry Store under the Electricity Act at Sizewell, Suffolk, August 2011 ([Case Study 12](#))

Other material published on the NuLeAF website since the last AGM includes: four [e-bulletins](#), a Policy Statement on Strategic Objectives for 2011 ([PS8](#)); and a Briefing Paper on Key Issues in the King's Cliffe application ([BP20](#)).

Hits on the website peaked in May 2011 at 58,410, over 10,000 up on the previous year's highest monthly total.

A newsletter rounding up items of interest, dates for the diary and current consultations is sent out to contributing member authorities in those months when an e-bulletin is not issued.

Seminar

NuLeAF ran a seminar 'Spatial Planning and the Implementation of Strategy for Managing Nuclear Industry Low Level Radioactive Waste' on March 22nd at Local Government House. Forty-four people attended the seminar, the majority from local authorities, with representatives also from regulatory bodies and from industry. A full report on the seminar is published on the NuLeAF [website](#).

Responses to Consultation

During the course of the year [consultation responses](#) have been submitted on:

- the management of plutonium stocks
- the call for topics for the Weightman review
- the Waste Transfer Pricing methodology
- the Funded Decommissioning Programme
- the Non-nuclear Industry LLW Strategy
- the NDA draft Business Plan
- the draft revised Nuclear National Policy Statements
- NDA Strategy

Events and Representation at Meetings

Officers have arranged or attended a large number of meetings and workshops on MRWS and other nuclear legacy management issues. These include:

- regular MRWS liaison meetings with Government and NDA;
- the MRWS Regulatory Interface Management Group;
- participation in the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership;
- the NDA's Low Level Waste Programme Delivery Group (formerly the LLW Strategy Group);
- the Consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment Sub-Groups of the MoD's Submarine Dismantling Project;
- a British Geological Society meeting on aspects of GDF site assessment; and
- participation in a meeting with members of the US Blue Ribbon Commission panel tasked with recommending a new strategy for managing spent nuclear fuel in the US.

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Allerdale Borough Council - contributing

Arun District Council - corresponding
Ashford District Council - corresponding
Barrow Borough Council - corresponding
Birmingham City Council - corresponding
Blackpool Borough Council - corresponding
Braintree Borough Council - corresponding
Breckland District Council - corresponding
Broadland District Council - corresponding
Bromsgrove District Council - corresponding
Caerphilly County Borough Council - corresponding
Carlisle City Council – corresponding
Cornwall Council - corresponding
Chelmsford Borough Council - corresponding
Chesterfield Borough Council – corresponding
Cheshire West and Chester Council - corresponding

Copeland Borough Council – contributing

Cumbria County Council - contributing

Dacorum District Council - corresponding
Denbighshire County Council – corresponding
Derby City Council – corresponding
Derbyshire Dales District Council - corresponding

Dorset County Council – contributing

Dorset Fire and Rescue – corresponding
Durham County Council - corresponding
Eden District Council - corresponding
Essex County Council- corresponding
Flintshire County Council – NFLA Co-optee
Forest of Dean District Council - corresponding
Forest Heath District Council - corresponding
Fylde Borough Council - corresponding
Gosport Borough Council - corresponding
Great Yarmouth Borough Council - corresponding
Greater London Authority - corresponding
Gwynedd County Council - corresponding
Halton Borough Council – corresponding

Hampshire County Council - contributing

Harlow District Council - corresponding

Hartlepool Borough Council - contributing

Hyndburn Borough Council - corresponding
Kent County Council - corresponding
Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council - corresponding
Lancashire County Council - corresponding
Lancaster City Council - corresponding
Leeds City Council - corresponding
Lewes District Council - corresponding
Liverpool City Council - corresponding
London Borough of Bromley - corresponding
London Borough of Hackney - corresponding
London Borough of Harrow - corresponding
London Borough of Newham - corresponding
London Borough of Tower Hamlets - corresponding
Maldon District Council – corresponding

Manchester City Council - contributing

Melton Borough Council – corresponding
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service - corresponding
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council - corresponding

Newport City Council – NFLA Co-optee
Norfolk County Council – corresponding
Northamptonshire County Council - corresponding
North East Derbyshire District Council - corresponding
North Norfolk District Council - corresponding
Norwich City Council - corresponding
Nottinghamshire County Council – corresponding
Northumberland County Council - corresponding
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council – corresponding
Oxfordshire County Council - contributing
Pembrokeshire County Council - corresponding
Plymouth City Council - contributing
Preston City Council – NFLA Co-optee
Purbeck District Council - corresponding
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – NFLA Co-optee
Rutland County Council - corresponding
Scarborough District Council - corresponding
Sedgemoor District Council – contributing
Shepway District Council - contributing
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding
Somerset County Council – contributing
South Gloucester Council – contributing
South Lakeland District Council - corresponding
Southampton City Council - corresponding
South Norfolk District Council – corresponding
Stroud District Council - corresponding
Spelthorne Borough Council - corresponding
Staffordshire County Council – corresponding
Suffolk Coastal District Council – contributing
Suffolk County Council – contributing
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council - corresponding
Taunton Deane Borough Council - corresponding
Tendring District Council - corresponding
Tunbridge Wells District Council - corresponding
Vale of the White Horse District Council - corresponding
Wansbeck District Council - corresponding
Waveney District Council - corresponding
West Berkshire District Council - corresponding
West Lancashire District Council - corresponding
West Lindsey District Council - corresponding
West Somerset District Council – contributing
Worcestershire County Council - corresponding
Ynys Mon County Council - contributing

NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITIES

Lake District National Park Authority
North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority
Snowdonia National Park Authority