

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 22 June 2006
Agenda Item:	7
Subject:	Developing a Work Programme on NDA Issues
Author:	Fred Barker
Purpose:	To identify the priorities for NuLeAF initiatives on NDA issues

1 Introduction

The NDA published its approved strategy at the end of March 2006. The strategy sets out the NDA's approach to a range of key issues, including radioactive waste management, decommissioning, competition, innovation and socio-economic development.

This report is based on a review of NDA strategy and preliminary discussion with NDA officials. It seeks to identify the priorities for NuLeAF initiatives on issues in the NDA's strategy.

2 Priority Issues

In identifying priorities it is necessary to be selective. Selection has been based on the issues that either (a) the NDA is most likely to seek local authority engagement on over the next six-nine months, or (b) are likely to be of most interest to NuLeAF member authorities within that timeframe.

These issues are:

- *Site End States*: the NDA is undertaking a review of site end states through a consultation exercise involving Site Stakeholder Groups and local communities (NDA Strategy p22). The period of consultation has recently been extended. SSG and community views are being sought by the end of the financial year, with a view to the NDA advising Government on site end states during the course of 2007.
- *Rationalising the Storage of Intermediate Level Waste*: the NDA has initiated a review of alternative approaches to ILW interim storage, including the scope for regional or national facilities (NDA Strategy p38). This is likely to involve discussion with stakeholders, including local authorities, before the end of the year.
- *Low Level Waste Management*: the NDA has expressed a preference, where possible, for existing sites to host their own disposal facilities for LLW (NDA Strategy p40). It expects that Site License Companies will submit proposals before the end of the year. Some NuLeAF member authorities have already been involved in 'option studies' with Magnox

Electric (see item 14). It is anticipated that further consultation will be undertaken in the New Year.

- *Prioritisation*: the NDA has been developing a process to inform decisions about the allocation of funds and management of risks within and between sites (NDA Strategy p80). This process is currently undergoing testing. It would be advantageous for member authorities to be aware of and understand the process involved.
- *NDA Strategy Review*: a review of parts of the NDA strategy will be undertaken during 2007. This will take into account the outcomes of the CoRWM and LLW reviews (NDA Strategy p20), and is likely to involve a period of formal consultation.
- *Socio-Economic Support*: the NDA is working on the development of a socio-economic strategy (NDA Strategy p82), and is establishing a socio-economic committee that will approve a draft for consultation. A consultation paper is expected later this year, with a three month period for comment.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Steering Group agree the following actions:

- a) endorse the list of priorities identified in this report;
- b) authorise the Executive Director to have further discussions with the NDA to establish further details;
- c) circulate a calendar to member authorities outlining when the NDA expects to engage stakeholders on each of the priority issues;
- d) authorise the Executive Director to produce further guidance and advice to member authorities as appropriate.

See also item 9, which proposes a series of regional seminars at which priority NDA issues, and long-term waste management issues, can be discussed with officers from member authorities.