

# **Note of the Engagement Meeting with NDA, Magnox, RSRL and Environment Agency**

**11 November 2011, Local Government House, London**

The meeting observed two minutes silence.

## **1. Attendance**

Representatives of local authorities associated with Magnox and RSRL sites in England and Wales were invited to the meeting.

Attendance was as follows:

Mike Garrity, Dorset County Council  
Lesley Stenhouse, Essex County Council  
Jamie Simpson, Maldon District Council  
Peter Day, Oxfordshire County Council  
John Hamilton, Oxfordshire County Council  
Doug Bamsey, Sedgemoor District Council  
Aled Sturkey, Snowdonia National Park Authority  
Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council  
Bob Chamberlain, Suffolk Coastal District Council  
David Palk, Suffolk County Council  
Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council  
Fred Barker, NuLeAF  
Catherine Draper, NuLeAF  
Bill Hamilton, NDA  
James McKinney, NDA  
Graham Johnson, NDA  
Dave Wilson, Magnox Ltd  
Andy Staples, RSRL Ltd  
Chris Lloyd, Environment Agency

Apologies were received from: Charlotte Lewis, Dorset County Council – John Prosser, Kent County Council – Robert Niblett, Gloucestershire County Council - Sasha Wynn Davies, Isle of Anglesey County Council – Steve Griffiths, Office for Nuclear Regulation - Richard Conway, Purbeck District Council - Dave Illsley, Shepway District Council – Iwan Jones, Snowdonia National Park Authority – Barry James, Somerset County Council - Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal District Council – John Pitchford, Suffolk County Council - Tim Williams, Vale of White Horse District Council

## **2. Note and Actions from the June meetings**

The note of the previous meetings had been agreed electronically and posted on the NuLeAF website.

A table of actions from the previous meetings had been circulated. Verbal updates were given at the meeting and an updated table is attached at Annex A.

The following points were made in relation to actions in the appended table:

- 1 *Site restoration*: FB pointed to the importance of direct discussion with local authorities when milestones and options for next planned uses were being developed or circumstances change significantly.
- 5 *Integrated waste management*: FB circulated a note summarising NuLeAF's interim advice on addressing waste imports in MWDFs. This will be further updated in the spring. MG asked for clarification of expectations about how the advice should be used. FB explained that this is at the discretion of individual authorities. JM asked whether more specific advice was needed to take account of the differences between treatment, storage and disposal. FB suggested that this should be considered in further discussions. **Action: FB/JM**
- 6 *Integrated waste management*: re the implications for waste transfers of planning permissions at recipient sites, BH suggested that this be addressed through further discussions. **Action: BH/FB**
- 7 *Integrated waste management*: re the proposed Community Benefits Protocol, FB reported that a note on key points would be discussed with BH later in November. **Action: FB/BH**
- 8 *Integrated waste management*: re local authority participation in the Topic Overview Group (IWMTOG), JM reported that discussion with FB/DP was needed to explain the role and work of the group, and to identify the most appropriate forms of input. **Action: JM/FB/DP.**

### **3. Updates**

#### ***NDA***

BH gave an overview of key updates:

- *Management of UK plutonium*: a government announcement is expected shortly, which is likely to require NDA to develop a business case for proposals for managing the UK plutonium stockpile. FB asked what the implications for MOX fuel use in new build reactors might be. BH stressed that this question was not being addressed at this stage, and the work on plutonium management options was being taken forward separately to new nuclear build. DB asked what the implications of potential MOX fuel use would be for licensing new build reactors. BH clarified that MOX fuel use is not currently within the scope of the Generic Design Assessment process.
- *Materials movement*: following consultation on credible and preferred option papers, a decision on the movement of materials from Harwell and Dounreay to Sellafield will be published on 21 November. If the decision is to proceed, then the projects will go ahead to the delivery phase.

- *Oxide spent fuel*: the intention is to publish a credible options paper addressing the future of THORP. Although not a formal consultation, there will be stakeholder engagement.
- *Planning policies and community benefits*: NDA is working to align aspirations with local authority planning policies and community benefits. Sellafield is a pathfinder on this topic, and discussions with the relevant local authorities are taking place at a high level. It was pointed out that the NDA's discussion on community benefits may be relevant to developing thinking on community benefits associated with new build, as well as radioactive waste management. BH undertook to keep FB informed of developments. **Action: BH**
- *Site restoration*: the promised work programme priorities paper is in the pipeline and will be supplied when available. **Action: BH**
- *Socio-economics*: work is still being carried out on the socio-economic delivery model and implementation plan. The socio-economic delivery board has now been abolished and SLCs are taking the lead. Good quality projects would be considered from any NDA site.

### **RSRL**

AS gave a presentation which is available on the [NuLeAF website](#). Key points included:

- *Proposals to transfer radioactive waste and nuclear material from Harwell to Sellafield*: a business case has been developed and submitted to NDA for approval along with responses to a credible and preferred options consultation. Technical and operational solutions have been identified. If approval is given, work will be required on gaining appropriate planning permissions and concluding transport logistics.
- *Early closure of the Winfrith site*: a business case has been produced for options for achieving early closure of the Winfrith site. The 'end point' of the site is likely to involve free access, although the site may not be fully delicensed. DP asked for clarification. AS indicated that it may be possible to have free access to areas with low contamination at depth, without full de-licensing of such areas. This is to be discussed with the regulators. A credible and preferred options paper is also being prepared on the management of ILW from the site. The preferred option is likely to involve ILW transfer to Harwell for interim storage.

### **Magnox**

DW gave a presentation which outlined the Magnox Optimised Decommissioning Programme (MODP). This is available on the [NuLeAF website](#). Key points from the presentation and discussion included:

- Oldbury is to continue generating until end February 2012. Magnox is looking to extend operation at Wylfa until 2014. Funding of the MODP is not dependent on the income generated by extended generation.

- The MODP is well funded and building effectively on lessons learnt at individual sites. Magnox North and South had been re-integrated and the company restructured for delivery.
- Defueling of reactors is in-line with the Magnox Operating Plan (MOP). RS pointed out that the defueling programme is reliant on Sellafield reprocessing and provision of spent fuel flasks and there had been difficulties in the past. Assurances were provided that problems with previous MOPs had been overcome. If reprocessing is unavailable spent fuel will be kept on site either in the reactor or ponds.
- The MODP involves an accelerated approach at Trawsfynydd and Bradwell to achieve early Care and Maintenance (C&M). Arrangements for C&M are being assessed. Options include a fully 'de-manned' site with remote surveillance. Sites with B & C stations will require different approaches.
- It is proposed that some Fuel Element Debris (FED) waste from Trawsfynydd will be transferred to Dungeness for treatment.
- Opportunities for co-operation between decommissioning, generating and new build sites are being considered. For example, void space on the Hinkley A site will be used to take spoil from preparations at the proposed Hinkley C site.
- The optimised programme should result in a reduction of liabilities of £1.1Bn. Discussion about the employment impacts of the MODP is taking place with the workforce. Consideration of the socio-economic impacts is focusing on Trawsfynydd and Bradwell and discussion is taking place with local communities.

### ***Regulators***

CL reported that:

- The King's Cliffe landfill site is expected to take the first consignment of LLW from Harwell in November. The EA anticipates that all nuclear sites will eventually use landfill routes resulting in savings that can be fed back into decommissioning programmes.
- New risk based Exemption Orders were introduced by DECC wef 31 October, 2011. Existing orders will be revoked and replaced.

### ***Individual local authorities***

Additional points made around the table included:

*Sedgemoor DC* – NDA's approach to local socio-economic support has been positive  
*Dorset CC* – intend to develop planning policy on radioactive waste management in light of experience with planning issues at Winfrith.

*Snowdonia NPA* – disappointed that the reactor building will not be reduced in height in accordance with original intentions.

*S. Gloucestershire C* – need for integrated solutions with A/B/C sites where possible. S. Glos is developing planning policy on nuclear waste within the context of its Core Strategy.

*Suffolk Coastal DC* – endeavouring to ensure discussions with proposed C site include A & B as appropriate.

*Suffolk CC* – reduction in height of A site reactor building also unlikely. On-site disposal of LLW is less likely because of King's Cliffe decision.

*Essex CC* – consulting shortly on waste plan, which includes policies relating to management of Bradwell only wastes at the site.

#### **4. Integrated Waste Management, Waste Consolidation and Material Movements**

JM gave a presentation which is available on the [NuLeAF website](#). Key points included:

- Consolidation of waste – options could be regional, NDA-wide or UK-wide.
- Benefits of consolidation need to be clearly established. They could relate to: early site clearance; reduction in site footprint; hazard, risk and security level reduction; and infrastructure optimisation.
- Form and amount of ILW varies from site to site depending on factors such as length of time operated.
- Current baseline is for ILW stores to be constructed at all sites. A consolidated approach could: help develop coherent waste, nuclear materials, spent fuel and site restoration strategies; support or align to other strategic initiatives; and be on a case by case basis, supported by overall national programme. Consolidation will need to be underpinned by business cases which follow the value framework process and consider the balance between cost reduction and hazard, risk and security management, affordability, and alignment with NDA Strategy and overall decommissioning and clean-up mission.
- Consideration is being given to the potential for consolidation on the basis of grouping sites regionally: this could involve the two Magnox sites in Wales, the Magnox sites in England, and the two RSRL sites in England.

Key points in discussion included:

- JM highlighted that emphasis is placed on implementing the waste hierarchy and much is being done to reduce waste volumes (for example FED treatment helps reduce volumes significantly). This needs to be taken into account when considering the case for consolidation.
- Currently at early stages of consideration, but once decision taken whether or not to move away from current baseline, progress would pick up speed.
- At present, only Hunterston and Trawsfynydd have shielded stores constructed. Construction costs for these are c. £30M in comparison to total costs of c. £2.5M at Sizewell A, for example, covering the cost of ILW 'yellow boxes' and an unshielded storage building.
- There is potential to transfer ILW from Wylfa to Trawsfynydd for interim storage. This would require planning permission because an existing planning condition at Trawsfynydd limits storage to ILW arising at the Trawsfynydd site.
- There is potential to transfer ILW from Winfrith to Harwell. This could be consistent with proposed waste planning policy in Oxfordshire.

- The potential for consolidation of ILW storage across Magnox sites in England is less straightforward. A case for changing the base case is yet to be established and credible options have not been developed.
- It was suggested that approaches to consolidation should also consider the potential for combined stores at sites where there are A, B & C stations, though at present this would be outside NDA remit.
- NDA is working with MoD to consider the case for storing ILW from dismantled nuclear powered submarines at NDA sites. It was suggested that MoD should be involved in discussions with NDA and potentially affected local authorities.
- DW pointed out that the consolidation of waste treatment also needs to be considered.
- JM reminded the meeting that the IWMTOG is the group taking forward discussion of the implications of moving away from the current baseline.
- FB highlighted the importance of involving potentially affected local authorities in discussion as thinking is developed and welcomed the opportunity for input to the IWMTOG.

## **5. Next steps**

FB stated that the draft note of the meeting will be circulated for comment and the agreed note will be posted on NuLeAF website. **Action: FB/CD**

Future meeting – the next meeting of the group would take place at some time after the NuLeAF seminar on 9 March on LLW Management and Spatial Planning. Participants were invited to make suggestions for appropriate topics for discussion. The timing and agenda for the next meeting would be agreed in discussion with NDA. **Action: FB/BH**

## Annex A

<b>ACTIONS FROM JUNE MEETINGS WITH NDA, SLCs AND REGULATORS</b>			
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>STATUS 11 November</b>
Site restoration	1 Check existing local development plans at sites with advanced restoration programmes (eg Harwell) to see whether they address milestones for restoration.	NuLeAF	FB had checked Vale of White Horse development plan documentation (covering the Harwell area). As anticipated, these did not contain explicit references to milestones to restoring the Harwell site.
Site restoration	2 Circulate links to appropriate explanatory material about decommissioning and restoration to LA participants.	NuLeAF	Done with e-mail with note of meetings 11/7/11. NuLeAF is also compiling a basic fact sheet as result of a request of October Steering Group.
Site restoration	3 Send further details about the Site Restoration Topic Overview Group to NuLeAF and liaise with member LAs to identify a suitable person.	NDA/NuLeAF	Detail received. Andrew C Smith, County Analyst at Lancashire County Council will attend the Site Restoration Topic Overview Group.
Site restoration	4 Circulate links to NDA website for information about its value framework.	NDA/NuLeAF	A paper on the NDA Value Framework supplied by BH will be circulated with the note of the November meeting
Integrated waste management	5 Take issue of addressing co-location/consolidation in waste planning to Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG).	NuLeAF	Discussed by RWPG at its meeting on 8/9/11. Interim advice endorsed by NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) on 21/10/11 (see p7 in the paper on the NuLeAF website at <a href="#">SG item 4</a> ).
Integrated waste management	6 Consider implications for waste transfers of planning permissions at recipient sites and advise SLCs.	NDA	To be clarified through further discussion.
Integrated waste management	7 Provide NDA with paper on proposed Community Benefits Protocol.	NuLeAF	Sent to BH 7/7/11. On 21/10/11 the NuLeAF SG approved a note on key points as basis for discussion with NDA (see paper on NuLeAF website at <a href="#">SG item 6</a> ). This note will be discussed with NDA later in November.
Integrated waste management	8 Send further details about the Integrated Waste Strategy Topic Overview Group to NuLeAF and liaise with member LAs to identify a suitable person.	NDA/NuLeAF	David Palk, Development Manager at Suffolk County Council, identified as suitable person.
Engagement with LAs	9 Check whether local regulatory fora exist across the NDA estate and whether terms of reference appropriate for LA engagement.	NDA	Local regulatory fora do not exist right across the NDA estate. Direct engagement between a LA and a site is preferred.
Engagement with LAs	10 Check with contacts in the relevant LAs that they are happy	NuLeAF	Done with e-mail with note of meetings 11/7/11

	for details to be passed to SLCs.		
Engagement with LAs	11 Provide documentation re strategy development and implementation as appropriate for LA comment	NDA/SLCs	None provided to date. NuLeAF happy to circulate materials as appropriate.
Next steps	12 Consider dates, topics and format for the next meeting/s.	NDA/NuLeAF	Covered in e-mail to BH 7/7/11. Next meeting took place on 11 November.
Next steps	13 Draft note of meeting for comment	NuLeAF	June meetings note agreed and published on NuLeAF website.

## Annex B

<b>ACTIONS FROM 11 NOVEMBER MEETING WITH NDA, MAGNOX, RSRL AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY</b>		
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOR</b>
Planning policies	1 Further discussion to consider whether more specific NuLeAF advice was needed to take account of the differences between treatment, storage and disposal.	FB/JM
Development control	2 Further discussions to consider the implications for waste transfers of planning permissions at recipient sites.	BH/JM/FB
Community benefits	3 FB to discuss key points re proposed Community Benefits Protocol with BH later in November	FB/BH
Integrated waste management	4 JM to discuss role and work of IWMTOG with FB/DP and identify the most appropriate forms of input.	JM/FB/DP
Planning policies and community benefits	5 BH to keep FB informed of developments of discussions between Sellafield and Cumbrian local authorities.	BH
Site restoration	6 To supply work programme priorities paper when available.	BH
Next steps	7 Draft note of the meeting to be circulated for comment and the agreed note to be posted on NuLeAF website.	CD
Next steps	8 Future meeting – participants invited to make suggestions for appropriate topics for discussion. The timing and agenda for the next meeting would be agreed in discussion with NDA.	All FB/BH