

**January 2014,  
Issue 33**

Welcome to Issue 33 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

- the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme,
- community benefits and radioactive waste management;
- developments in NDA strategy and operations,
- outcome of the PBO competition for Magnox and RSRL sites;
- Office for Nuclear Regulation becomes a Public Corporation;
- Update on NuLeAF seminar 2014
- the new NuLeAF website
- NuLeAF staffing;
- joining NuLeAF; and
- dates for the diary.

## The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) process

Following the closure of the consultation by Government on the revised Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process, the responses submitted have now been [published online](#), as have the reports of the national workshops organised by DECC. A summary of the overarching themes of the responses is included in the paper to the April NuLeAF Steering Group meeting and can be found on [our website](#). It remains DECC's intention to publish a revised GDF siting policy before the summer Parliamentary recess in July, with the publication of its formal response to the evidence submitted published later in the year.

As of 1 April 2014, Radioactive Waste Management Directorate has become a wholly-owned subsidiary of NDA and hence forth will be known as Radioactive Waste Management Ltd. Based at Harwell in Oxfordshire it will be responsible for delivering Government policy for geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste and for developing waste management solutions.

## Community benefits and radioactive waste management

A [revised Briefing Paper](#) incorporating comments from the previous Steering Group meeting and NuLeAF's Radioactive Waste Planning Group was submitted. Subject to a few final amendments the meeting agreed that, the paper set out the position NuLeAF should take on community benefits, and it should form the basis for dialogue with government and NDA to aid development of a national community benefits framework.

## NDA strategy and operations

The Steering Group [considered a report](#) which proposed responses to DECC's consultation on the management of overseas origin nuclear fuels held in the UK, and NDA's credible options paper for uranic materials. The report also addressed NDA's progress on approaches to the management of separated plutonium, and publication of papers on Magnox fuel strategy contingency options and strategic position on the management of graphite wastes.

The meeting noted that government had previously indicated that a new MOX reprocessing plant would be available as early as 2018, but it was now indicated that this would now not

take place until 2030-35. NuLeAF officers undertook to seek clarification on the reason for the slippage and its implications, if any, on decommission work at Sellafield; along with the implications for the re-use of the stockpiled plutonium following the delay in reprocessing.

Clarification would also be sought on the reported inclusion of 800Kg of plutonium from Sweden in the UK stockpile.

With regard to graphite waste, it was pointed out that the strategic position paper indicated that whilst graphite would form a significant part of the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) inventory, it was expected to occupy only 2% of the GDF. NuLeAF officers will raise this issue with NDA.

At the end of February DECC and NDA jointly published the [2013 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory \(UKRWI\)](#). The inventory is published triennially and provides a 'snap shot' in time of radioactive waste arisings in the UK.

NDA has now published its [Business Plan](#) for the financial years 2014-17.

### Parent Body Organisation (PBO) competition for Magnox/RSRL sites

NDA has [announced the preferred bidder](#) in its competition to find a new PBO for the Magnox and RSRL sites. Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) was chosen from 4 tender submissions and subject to successful completion of all legal processes will take ownership of the 12 nuclear licensed sites on 1 September 2014.

It has been reported in the press that at least 1 of the unsuccessful bidders has written to government concerning the outcome of the bidding process. If they decide to launch a legal challenge it may potentially delay the handover process.

### Office for Nuclear Regulation

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has been established as a Public Corporation, under the Energy Act 2013. This change in status puts the UK independent regulator in a stronger position to fulfil its mission to provide efficient and effective regulation of the nuclear industry, holding it to account on behalf of the public. A [new website](#) provides information and resources.

### NuLeAF seminar 2014

A seminar on the regulatory aspects of radioactive waste management will be held at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 11.00 – 3.30 on 16 June. Programme details will be circulated shortly, along with booking information. Speakers have already been secured from ONR, Environment Agency and NDA. Please put the date in your diary.

### NuLeAF staffing

Following almost two years with NuLeAF as Co-Executive Director, Stewart Kemp has decided he will not renew his contract and will be leaving at the end of April. We wish Stewart well in his retirement. Philip Matthews will become full time Executive Director from 1 May 2014.

## NuLeAF website

As our old website was getting rather dated and the host was no longer able to support the management system, we bowed to the inevitable and commissioned a [new website](#) from Community Action Suffolk, with thanks to NDA and LLWR Ltd for permission to use some of their photographs. We hope you will still find it easy to use. Past papers, meeting notes, minutes and presentations can all be found in the document library. If you have any feedback please contact the secretariat – details at the bottom of the page.

## Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work

Nuclear waste and legacy issues are major concerns for local authorities across the country. Critical issues include decisions about disposal of Low and Very Low Level Waste to landfill, changes to planning guidance, considerations on the siting of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), the need to maximise community benefits from nuclear legacy operations and the impacts of the decommissioning of many nuclear power stations.

NuLeAF continues to be an effective voice for local authorities on all these issues. We welcome new member authorities and the active participation of Elected Members and officers in our Steering Group and in the officer Radioactive Waste Planning Group. If your authority would like to join NuLeAF, if you would like to participate in the work of the organisation, or find out more then please contact Catherine Draper at the address below.

## NuLeAF on LinkedIn

NuLeAF has a group on [Linkedin.com](#). We hope that members will use this as a forum to discuss issues and seek advice with other members. We also post regular items of news.

## Diary dates

The next Steering Group meeting will be held on 24 July at County Hall, Preston by kind invitation of Lancashire County Council.

A full calendar of meetings can be found on the [NuLeAF website](#).

## Contact point

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.

The NuLeAF Secretariat can be contacted at *T*: 01473 264833 *W*: [www.nuleaf.org.uk](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk)  
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