

**October 2014,
Issue 35**

Welcome to Issue 35 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM held in London on 15 October and other items:

- the Geological Disposal Facility siting process,
- update on NDA strategy and operations
- the outcomes of the NuLeAF AGM
- joining NuLeAF; and
- dates for the diary.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

On 24 July the UK Government published the White Paper setting out the revised approach to the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility for the disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Wastes.

NuLeAF has published a [Briefing Paper](#) which outlines the key elements of the new White Paper and highlights important areas which NuLeAF/local government believe should be addressed as the policy develops over the coming years.

Since publication of the White Paper, a national technical geological screening workshop took place at the Geological Society of London. The presentations given can be found on Radioactive Waste Management Ltd's [website](#). A recording of the event will also be posted there shortly. Radioactive Waste Management Ltd has indicated that they are planning further geological screening workshops and issued an email via the Office for Nuclear Development to ascertain interest amongst stakeholders. Outputs from the geological screening exercise will be made available in 2016 to communities who wish to consider the possibility of hosting the Geological Disposal Facility.

During discussions at the Steering Group meeting, members affirmed their view that NuLeAF was the appropriate body to represent local government on the Community Relationship Working Group, and would, if necessary, lobby Radioactive Waste Management Ltd at an appropriate level.

NuLeAF will continue to work to inform and advise both central and local government on the pertinent issues around this complex process. **Any local authority wishing to have informal discussions or seeking further information should contact the Executive Director, Philip Matthews on 07949 209126 or philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk.**

NDA strategy and operations

A paper to the NuLeAF Steering Group on 15 October on NDA Strategy and Operations reported on: discussions at NDA Site Restoration, Integrated Waste Management and Critical Enabler Theme Overview Group; the decommissioning strategy for Sellafield; publication of the Sellafield Excellence Plan and issue of an improvement notice, and the management of overseas fuel and uranium. The paper can be found on the [NuLeAF website](#). Members of the Steering Group expressed concern that despite assurances from NDA CEO

John Clarke that the organisation was actively seeking to ensure that synergies between A, B and where applicable C sites were exploited, there was little evidence that this was happening in practice.

The Steering Group agreed that it would approach the Low Level Waste Repository with the view of arranging a site visit in 2015.

Presentation by Cavendish Fluor Partnership

Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP), the new Parent Body Organisation for the Magnox and RSRL nuclear licensed sites gave a [presentation](#) to the Steering Group on their approach to socio-economic support for the communities around the sites, and their aspirations for the sites. Members of the Steering Group were impressed by the open and transparent approach taken by CFP and look forward to establishing a productive working relationship. Anyone wishing to discuss socio-economic issues with CFP should contact Communications Director, Kelly Duane, kelly.duane@magnoxsites.com.

SDP shortlist

MOD has announced the shortlist of sites which are being considered for storage of the Pressurised Reactor Vessels from dismantled nuclear submarines. Stakeholder engagement workshops are being held in the locality of each of the shortlisted sites and you can find details and the booking forms on the [MOD website](#), along with [documents](#) which detail their approach to shortlisting and provide information for the forthcoming public consultation.

The Annual General Meeting 2014

The main outcomes of the AGM were:

- the appointment of Cllr Richard Smith, MVO from Suffolk County Council as Chair, and the election of Cllr Brendan Sweeney from Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council as Vice-Chair;
- the approval of the [Annual Report](#);
- the approval of a [Service Plan for 2014-16](#); and
- the approval of the [Finance and Funding report](#).

The AGM discussed the format of NuLeAF meetings, content of papers and the website, and considered ways in which the group could work more effectively. A number of constructive suggestions were made including the provision of teleconferencing for meetings where possible. The group hoped that local authorities who are currently corresponding members could be encouraged to make some level of financial contribution in recognition of the support they received from NuLeAF. These will be considered by the Chair, Vice-Chair and NuLeAF officers and implemented.

The AGM agreed to hold the level of membership contributions for local authorities for FY 2015-16 to the current rates.

Other news

Government has published its responses the consultations it ran on the [UK NORM \(Naturally Occurring Radioactive Wastes\) Strategy](#), [Strategy for the Management of Overseas Nuclear Fuels](#), and [National Planning Policy for Waste](#).

Magnox has published Strategic Environmental Assessments for its sites. These can be found on its [website](#). Also published is an [Integrated Decommissioning and Waste Management Strategy](#).

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 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 meeting of NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group (an officer working group) will take place on 10 December, at London School of Economics, Kingsway, London, 12.30 – 3.15. Radioactive Waste management Ltd has been invited to attend to have early discussions on planning issues around the Geological Disposal Facility.

The next Steering Group meeting will be held on 29 October at Manchester Town Hall, by kind invitation of Manchester City Council. The meeting will run 11.00 – 13.00. The afternoon presentation and discussion will be given by James McKinney, Integrated Waste Manager, NDA on the Strategy for the management of Higher Activity Wastes.

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
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