

**February 2015,
Issue 36**

Welcome to Issue 36 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group held in Manchester on 29 January and other items:

- the Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- changes to the management model at Sellafield;
- update on NDA strategy and operations;
- outcomes from the review of NuLeAF engagement with its members;
- current consultations;
- joining NuLeAF; and
- dates for the diary.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

Since the publication of the White Paper in July 2014, the NuLeAF secretariat has met and held telephone conferences with DECC and RWM on a number of issues.

In December, RWM held a workshop with members of NuLeAF's Radioactive Waste Planning Group on the national geological screening exercise with the aim of understanding the local authority view point. Both sides found the event useful and the presentations given can be found on the NuLeAF [website](#).

Further events are being organised: in London on 12 February; and elsewhere around the country. For further information contact john.dalton@nda.gov.uk.

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.**

Changes to the management model at Sellafield

In January 2015, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change told Parliament that the current management model at Sellafield Ltd was being changed, and the contract with Nuclear Management Partners would be terminated. Sellafield Ltd will be directly managed by NDA and there will be 15 month handover period. The change is a result of recognising that the peculiar complexities at Sellafield do not lend themselves to management through a private consortium.

NuLeAF feels that the change in management model offers the potential for better engagement between Sellafield Ltd and local government, and will be writing to the new management with the view of establishing a good working relationship early on.

You can read more about the changes in the paper to the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting on 29 January.¹

¹ <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/29-January-2015-SG-Item-5-Sellafield-Updatedfinal.pdf>

NDA strategy and operations

At the Steering Group meeting on 29 January, the delegates heard about the work of the NDA Theme Overview Groups (TOG)². Concern was expressed that there had been a lack of recent communication from the Site Restoration TOG on progress in identifying site interim states and site end states. It was felt that NuLeAF should seek clarity on the short term (10-15 years) plans for sites from NDA.

A number of member authorities had met with representatives from Magnox regarding their proposals for storage of Intermediate Level Waste and treatment of Fuel Element Debris. NuLeAF agreed that it would invite Cavendish Fluor Partnership, the Parent Body Organisation for Magnox and RSRL Ltd to give a presentation at the next Steering Group meeting in order that an overview and co-ordinated approach could be considered.

Outcomes from the review of NuLeAF's engagement with its members

Over recent months NuLeAF has been engaging with members, through discussion at the AGM and via phone interviews, to get feedback on the service provided and the scope for enhancement. The engagement showed that members feel that NuLeAF provides an important service that is useful in building their knowledge and understanding.

A paper was presented to the January 2015 meeting which outlined member suggestions as to how further improvements in the service could be made and proposed how these could be implemented. Based on this, NuLeAF will be trialling telephone conferencing for up to 3 participants at Steering Group meetings, improving social media engagement and including the consideration of the impact of the transportation of nuclear materials in its work. The Steering Group agreed that all the recommendations should be implemented (you can read all the recommendations in SG Paper 7³)

Consultations

The Department for Energy and Climate Change is running two consultations:

- As part of the [Triennial review of Committee on Radioactive Waste Management \(CoRWM\)](#), government is seeking the views of stakeholders on the role of the body. The review will examine whether there is a continuing need for CoRWM's function and whether it should continue to exist in its current form and at arms length from government. The consultation closes on 10 March.

A consultation is being carried out on proposed changes to the [UK Strategy for the management of solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the nuclear industry](#). The consultation closes on 21 April 2015.

2 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/29-January-2015-SG-Item-6-NDA-Strategy-Operations.pdf>

3 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/29-January-2015-SG-Item-7-Report-on-member-engagement.pdf>

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](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nuleaf). 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 4 March 2015 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.30 – 3.00.

Because of the local and national elections the next Steering Group meeting has been put back until 14 May and will be held in London at Local Government House. The meeting will run 11.00 – 13.00.

A full calendar of meetings can be found on the [NuLeAF website](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk).

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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