

Welcome to Issue 38 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group held in Whitehaven on 23 July and other items:

- the Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- NuLeAF seminar 2015;
- NDA Strategy 3;
- responses to consultations by the Scottish and Welsh government; and
- joining NuLeAF and dates for the diary.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

Government published the White Paper¹ outlining the revised process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in July 2014. Between now and late 2016, some key aspects of the siting process are being considered through expert groups and engagement with local government and other stakeholders.

Communities

On 1st July 2015, Government launched a [Call for Evidence](#) on working with communities in the GDF siting process. Individuals and organisations are asked to submit evidence and information on the issues of community, community investment and the test of public support. The evidence submitted will be used to help the Communities Representation Working Group (CRWG) develop policy proposals for how each of these areas will work in practice during the siting process. The CRWG is a group of people with skills and expertise relevant to helping Government develop processes for working with communities drawn together by Government, and the Executive Director of NuLeAF is a member. NuLeAF would encourage member authorities to either submit evidence direct to Government or to NuLeAF to form part of its submission on behalf of our member authorities. The closing date for the consultation is 4th September. Please submit any evidence to us by 3rd August.

Geology

The Independent Review Panel, established at the behest of Government by the Geological Society of London, has met to consider the draft guidance produced for the national geological screening exercise. You can view the meeting on [YouTube](#). The draft document considered is available [online](#), as is a [report](#) of the meeting. The draft guidance will now be amended in light of comments made and a public consultation will be carried out on the updated document in early autumn. NuLeAF will alert its members to the consultation and will submit its own response which will be circulated to member authorities for comment.

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.** More updates on developments in the GDF siting process can be found in the paper ([item 5](#)) presented to the Steering Group meeting on 23 July.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-geological-disposal>

NuLeAF Seminar 2015

NuLeAF will be holding its annual seminar at Local Government House Smith Square on **Wednesday, 30th September, 11.00 – 3.30**. The day will be split into two sections: the focus of the morning session will be the consultation on **NDA Strategy 3**, and the afternoon session will consider the issues being discussed around community representation and definition, the timing for the right of withdrawal, and the mechanism for disbursing the community investment associated with the **Geological Disposal Facility siting process**.

The draft programme for the seminar is included in the paper to the Steering Group meeting on 23rd July ([item 8](#)). The full programme will be produced shortly and circulated to all our contacts.

NDA Strategy 3

NDA will launch the consultation on its revised strategy – Strategy 3 – on 8th September. The topic will also be the main focus of the NDA National Stakeholder Event on 24th September, being held this year in West Cumbria. NuLeAF will circulate a link to the consultation when it is launched and also our draft response for comment.

Consultations

The Scottish Government is consulting on an [implementation strategy for its Higher Activity Waste policy](#). The consultation closes on 7th August. Our draft response has been circulated, if you wish to comment on our response please get back to us by 5th August.

Welsh Government is consulting on the [Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Wastes: Community Engagement and Implementation Processes](#). We have circulated our draft response and if you wish to comment please get back to us by 14th August.

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 and Twitter

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. We have also recently set up a Twitter account which we are using to alert members of consultations, news and other items of interest as they happen. Our Twitter handle is [@nuleaforuk](#).

Diary dates

The next meeting of **NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group** (an officer working group) will take place on **2nd September 2015** at the New Academic Building, London School of Economics, Kingsway, London, 11.00 – 1.00. It will be followed by a meeting with the Low Level Waste Repository and representatives of the supply chain to discuss waste movements in the coming year.

The next meeting of **the NuLeAF Steering Group** will take place on Thursday **15th October** at Local Government House, Smith Square, London and will include the **NuLeAF AGM**. The afternoon will comprise a presentation and discussion with RWM on the national geological screening project.

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
E: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk