

Welcome to Issue 40 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group and AGM held in London on 28 January and other items:

- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process
- Revised UK Strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste from the nuclear industry;
- Consultation on the requirements for the release of nuclear licensed sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation; and
- joining NuLeAF and dates for the diary.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

At the Steering Group meeting on 28 January, the Executive Director provided an update on recent developments in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process¹.

Community Representation Working Group (CRWG)

The meeting scheduled for November 2015 did not take place as DECC felt that not enough progress had been made in analysing the results of the Call for Evidence or developing the evidence base required for the Group to consider its view on key questions. The CRWG meeting on February the 4th began the process of trying to agree the Group's views on all the key questions that need to be resolved.

DECC feels that the three remaining planned meetings of the CRWG will be sufficient to complete the programme of work, with the final meeting in April drawing together the work and a public consultation on the proposed framework taking place over the summer.

DECC has brought the administrative and research support functions for the CRWG back in-house and the support team has been increased in size to help ensure that the CRWG and other strands of work on geology and planning are delivered on time.

GDF siting process in Wales

Following a consultation over the summer of 2015, Welsh Government has now published its adopted policy on Community Engagement and Siting Processes. The paper sets out the context for the policy, planned engagement processes for potential host communities in Wales and arrangement to ensure that any interested is able to engage in the GDF siting process in a fair and open way.

You can read the full report in the paper presented to the Steering Group which can be found on NuLeAF's website².

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.**

1 Information on the Geological Disposal Facility siting process is available on the RWM [website](#).

2 [Item 4, GDF Update, 28 January 2016](#)

Revised UK Strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste from the nuclear industry

UK Government has published a revised [UK Strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste](#) from the non-nuclear industry. NuLeAF responded to the consultation on the draft Strategy in April 2015³.

The draft Strategy revision had considered the drawing together of the three Strategies for managing low level waste (LLW) (nuclear industry, non-nuclear industry, and naturally occurring radioactive waste or NORM) as they have similar strategic themes and often rely on the same waste management routes. However, it was recognised that there were significant challenges to integration and the three separate Strategies remain for the time being. NuLeAF supports any move towards a single Strategy as a way of providing clearer guidance for local authorities on waste management issues.

Since the publication of the original Strategy in 2010, there has been considerable change in the arena of LLW management, with a dramatic increase in the amount of LLW which has been diverted away from the Low Level Waste Repository through the successful application of the waste hierarchy and the opening up of treatment and alternative disposal routes. The National LLW Programme, which was established to implement the Strategy is managed by Low Level Waste Repository Ltd on behalf of NDA.

NuLeAF welcomes the direction that waste producers and managers should seek early engagement with local government decision makers and engender a constructive working relationship.

NuLeAF will review the new Strategy and amend and update Briefing Paper 19⁴ as necessary.

Regulatory consultation

SEPA is conducting a 12 week consultation on behalf of [UK Government on Guidance on requirements for release of a nuclear licensed site from radioactive substances regulation](#). The consultation runs until 9 May 2016.

While the document mainly addresses the technical requirements for an operator to seek the surrender of a nuclear site license there are some areas of relevance to a local authority audience including: section 5.25 engagement with local communities and others; 5.4.18 transfer of knowledge to others; section 7 Waste Management Plan, and 8.2.4 requiring the operator to demonstrate that appropriate controls are in place to permit surrender of the license. Members of NuLeAF's Radioactive Waste Planning Group met with SEPA and the Environment Agency to give input on early thoughts on how institutional controls could be used following the surrender of a nuclear site license. Further discussions will take place at the next meeting of the group on 12 April and a presentation/discussion will be given by John Garraway of Environment Agency on the consultation document. NuLeAF will submit a response to the consultation and will circulate its draft response for comment in due course.

³ [Response to the review of the UK strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste from the nuclear industry](#).

⁴ [Briefing Paper 19, UK nuclear industry LLW Strategy and LA planning, October 2010](#)

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](https://www.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 [@nuleaforguk](https://twitter.com/nuleaforguk).

Diary dates

The next meeting of **the NuLeAF Steering Group** will take place on **10 March** at The Town Hall, Manchester, 11.00 – 2.45. The meeting will be joined by Paul Lonsdale of Magnox who will be giving a presentation and taking questions on their Care and Maintenance Programme.

The next meeting of **NuLeAF Radioactive Waste Planning Group** (an officer working group) will take place on **12th April 2016** at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.30 – 3.15. The meeting will take presentations from James McKinney, NDA on proposals for a single radioactive waste policy, and by John Garraway, Environment Agency as part of their consultation on the Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation.

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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