

Welcome to Issue 46 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in London on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and other items:

- Euratom;
- NDA Stakeholder Summit;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- Inquiry into Parent Body Organisation competition for Magnox sites;
- NDA stakeholder review;
- Review of UK radioactive waste policy and infrastructure;
- Government reports;
- Engaging with international municipal authorities;
- STEM skills
- Outcomes from NuLeAF AGM;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

## Euratom

There has been considerable media interest in the UK leaving the Euratom Treaty as a result of triggering Article 50, and the subject has been a topic for debate in both the House of Commons and House of Lords.

The Euratom Treaty provides the basis for the UK's cooperation with the Euratom Community (which is wider than just EU member states) on civil nuclear issues including: cooperation in nuclear research and development, mobility of workers and trade in the nuclear sector, and wider nuclear regulatory cooperation.

The Government has stated that, as Euratom is legally joined to the EU, the decision to leave the EU requires that the UK leave Euratom, but that it remains committed to the highest standards of nuclear safety through the establishment of a domestic nuclear safeguards regime. The Government has committed to the UK remaining a strong and active member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and that it will continue to meet international standards for nuclear safeguards and nuclear non-proliferation. To oversee the transition, it has been announced that a Euratom Exit Team has been established by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). A Position Paper: nuclear materials and safeguards issues<sup>1</sup> was published in July 2017.

Priority issues set out in the EU negotiating directives for the withdrawal of the UK from the EU include the requirement of a suitable agreement in relation to the ownership of 'special fissile materials' and the safeguarding of equipment in the UK which is currently the property of Euratom. Other priority areas for the UK government are to maintain the UK's prominent

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[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/627909/FINAL\\_OFF\\_SEN\\_Position\\_Paper\\_HMG\\_Nuclear\\_materials\\_and\\_safeguards\\_issues\\_Position\\_Paper\\_FINAL\\_120717\\_3.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627909/FINAL_OFF_SEN_Position_Paper_HMG_Nuclear_materials_and_safeguards_issues_Position_Paper_FINAL_120717_3.pdf)

role in nuclear research and development, to fulfil commitments around nuclear non-proliferation and to support the nuclear industry as one of strategic importance.

The UK has identified four key partner nations with which agreement is needed as a priority – these being the USA, Canada, Japan and Australia. The aim is to deliver Nuclear Co-operation Agreements with each of these four nations alongside a satisfactory conclusion to the EU exit negotiations. Beyond this, agreement with other countries will also be required as there are additional nations that the UK deals with in relation to nuclear matters.

Discussions are ongoing with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) to determine what additional resources it will require to take on the role and responsibilities to meet international safeguards, and nuclear non-proliferation, obligations. The exact arrangements for nuclear safeguards will be subject to detailed consultation with the regulator, industry and international partners.

Concerns have been raised by industry whether it is possible to have effect arrangements in place by March 2019. NuLeAF will continue to monitor progress and advise its members of developments as and when they occur.

## NDA Stakeholder Summit

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, NDA will be holding a 'Stakeholder Summit' at Energus in West Cumbria. In addition to offering the opportunity to meet their new Chair and Chief Executive, the summit will also show case successful projects which have benefited from NDA socio-economic funding. There will be the opportunity to review case studies on how successful bids were made and to speak to those who made them. There will also be discussion on NDA Waste Strategy. Invitations have been sent to stakeholders including all local authorities who host an NDA site.

## The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

Following the elections held in May and June, NuLeAF understands that BEIS is expecting to consult on the NPS and Working with Communities policy this Autumn, subject to Government business. A series of consultation events around the country is planned and further details will follow nearer the time. NuLeAF also hopes to use our Steering Group and RWPG meetings to engage with government on these consultations and to help prepare NuLeAF responses to both consultations.

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](mailto:philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk).**

## Inquiry into Parent Body Organisation contract for Magnox sites

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clarke, issued a written ministerial statement (<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/nda-settlement-contract-termination-and-inquiry>) announcing the termination of the contract for the decommissioning of the 12 UK Magnox and research reactors, the settlement of a related legal case, and an inquiry.

The inquiry into the operation of the 2012 contracting process is led by Steve Holliday, former Chief Executive of National Grid. The inquiry is tasked with looking at the whole process of tendering and contract award, and at the time it was announced, an interim report was expected in autumn 2017.

NuLeAF welcomed the inquiry when it was announced, but to date there has been no visible activity. NuLeAF has written to the Secretary of State asking how for clarification on the timetable for the inquiry and how it may participate.

## NDA stakeholder survey

The NDA stakeholder survey is still open for comment until 11<sup>th</sup> August. You can access the survey here [www.opinionresearch.co.uk/NDASTakeholders](http://www.opinionresearch.co.uk/NDASTakeholders).

## Review of UK radioactive waste policy and infrastructure

A review of UK radioactive waste policy and infrastructure is being carried out by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). A discussion was held with Dr Juliet Long at the Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting in April, and the topic was further considered at the Steering Group meeting in July.

Whilst NuLeAF welcomes the review and has long supported a more integrated approach to radioactive waste management, members have raised a number of issues that they hope it can address.

The lack of national planning policy on radioactive waste makes integration difficult at a local level. There is also a lack of a co-ordinated approach within central government, with general waste being dealt with by DCLG, but radioactive waste by BEIS. There is a lack of clarity as to how national policy guides action at individual sites. Finally, there is a lack of certainty in terms of the scale and timing of waste arisings, and this can be an obstacle to the private sector coming forward with applications to extend existing facilities or develop new ones.

Concerns were also raised that DCLG seemed to no longer address planning issues outside housing and fracking, and that despite a history of positive communication with government, little seemed to change.

NuLeAF will write to BEIS seeking the opportunity to comment on the draft report, and highlighting the need for further consultation.

## Publication of reports

There has been a number of publications recently published which may be of interest to NuLeAF members. Please find hyperlinks below to the relevant webpages.

- BEIS Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beis-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-to-2017>
- NDA Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-to-2017>
- Nuclear Provision: explaining the costs of cleaning up Britain's nuclear legacy  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-provision-explaining-the-cost-of-cleaning-up-britains-nuclear-legacy>
- ONR Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17, and plan for the coming year  
<http://news.onr.org.uk/2017/07/onr-publishes-annual-report-and-plan/>
- Sellafield Corporate Strategy  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/627537/FINAL\\_PDF\\_Corporate\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627537/FINAL_PDF_Corporate_Strategy.pdf)

## European Local Network for Radioactive Waste Dialogue (ENWD)

At the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July, the Steering Group heard that the NuLeAF Chair, Cllr Brendan Sweeney (Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council) had represented NuLeAF at a meeting in Brussels of international municipalities in the guise of the European Local Network for Radioactive Waste Dialogue (ENWD). The group was part of a wider group (GMF) which represented nuclear communities – the ENWD had a focus on decommissioning and legacy waste management and had been set up as it felt that there was a lack of dialogue between the EU and local authorities on these issues. The meeting had been positive and well attended – however there was an acceptance that the network was in need of reinvigoration. Those present had been very welcoming and encouraged greater British involvement. There would be merit in NuLeAF working with international partners, and the Steering Group agreed that the secretariat should investigate the opportunities and associated costs of greater involvement.

## STEM skills

Concerns about the number of young people taking STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects at school was raised at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting following earlier discussion at the NDA Critical Enablers Theme Overview Group meeting. Whilst, with the introduction of academies, local authority influence over schools is no longer as strong as it once was, the potential impact of the shortfall of suitably trained staff for the many nuclear related industries around the country is of considerable importance. NuLeAF will be contacting its members asking for examples of good practice of where local businesses and organisations have encouraged and engaged with schools. It will draw these together and submit a paper to NDA, which is in the process of developing its approach to supporting STEM at school and university level

## NuLeAF AGM outcomes

The NuLeAF Annual General Meeting was held in London on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017. An amendment to the constitution was passed by a vote of 5 to 3 to permit the creation of a second post of Vice-Chair which will be filled by a contributing member from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities. This post was created in recognition of the important role NFLA had in the founding of NuLeAF. Cllr Brendan Sweeney (Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council) was elected for a second term as Chair, and Cllr David Monk (Shepway District Council) as Vice-Chair.

## Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for 2017. Please note these dates in your diary for future reference. The date of the RWPG meeting has been changed from October to November to increase the likelihood that this will enable members to discuss the planned consultation on the NPS for the GDF.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	Steering Group	Energus, West Cumbria
15 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2017	Steering Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London

## 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/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. We have 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).

## 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)  
*E*: [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk)