

Welcome to Issue 47 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in West Cumbria on 18th September 2017 and other items:

- Euratom;
- NDA Stakeholder Summit;
- Reports on Magnox PBO contract;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- Engaging with international municipal authorities;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Euratom

In September, NuLeAF's Chair and Executive Director attended the first meeting of the Euratom Exit Industry Forum, organised by BEIS. As noted in the last edition of this publication, there has been a great deal of interest and debate around the issue of the UK withdrawal from Euratom as part of Brexit. The forum was well attended by the nuclear industry as well as academics, though NuLeAF was the sole local government representative present.

Updates were given on the current situation, the challenges faced by the UK and their aspirations for negotiations. Both the civil servants present, and Richard Harrington MP, Minister of State for Energy and Industrial Strategy, who hosted the event, felt that negotiations thus far had been amicable, and reasonable progress had been made. However, progress is limited until the EU is satisfied that acceptable progress has been made on wider issues about the UK withdrawal from the EU, such as the financial settlement.

ONR has a team of seven working full time on ensuring that their organisation will be in a position to operate effectively whatever the outcome of negotiations. On October 10th, the Nuclear Safeguards Bill¹ was introduced to parliament. This Bill bolsters the role and responsibilities of ONR once the UK leaves Euratom.

You can read more about the discussions in [Paper 8](#) to the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in West Cumbria on 18th September.

NDA Stakeholder Summit

On Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th September, a considerable contingent of NuLeAF members attended the first NDA Stakeholder Summit held at Energus in West Cumbria. The event combined a mixture of talks and presentations, with a number of display stands from organisations involved in NDA's work. On the opening day, keynote speeches were given by

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nuclear-safeguards-bill-introduced-today>

Tom Smith and David Peattie, NDA's new Chair and CEO. There were a series of presentations and a debate on integrated waste management which focussed on plans for a GDF; and speeches by both the former and current local MPs, Jamie Reed (who now works at Sellafield) and Trudy Harrison. Both focussed on the strength of the local community and the scope for developing new employment and opportunities, building on the significant skills base of the area.

Possibly the most notable event was the announcement by Magnox that they are looking again at continuous decommissioning of reactors. Whilst this change is in early stages, and has yet to be signed off by government, its announcement provoked considerable comment by members of the audience. A few days after the event, NuLeAF's Executive Director met with Simon Boniface, Head of Decommissioning Strategy at NDA to discuss these proposals, and opportunities for NDA and Magnox to engage with local stakeholders. As a result, Simon will attend both the Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting on 15th November and Steering Group meeting on 6th December to discuss the proposals with NuLeAF members and receive their input.

NuLeAF understands that NDA will be posting the presentations given at the summit on their website in due course and will circulate a link when that happens.

Reports on Magnox PBO contract

Following the legal challenge to the award of the contract for decommissioning Magnox sites to Cavendish Fluor Partnership, the tendering and award process was the subject of review by the National Audit Office. They have now published their report which is critical of NDA and BEIS (then DECC) in the way the process was handled. A copy of the full report together with a summary is available on the NAO website²

The interim report of the Holliday inquiry into the handling of the Magnox competition by NDA has also been published and can be found here³

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

NuLeAF's understanding is 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.

In expectation that the launch will take place, NuLeAF is planning a workshop on the working with communities issues at the Steering Group meeting on 6th December, and the Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting will consider the land use NPS on 15th November.

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.**

2 <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-nuclear-decommissioning-authoritys-magnox-contract/>

3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/magnox-inquiry-interim-findings>

European Local Network for Radioactive Waste Dialogue (ENWD)

At the meeting on 18th September, a paper was submitted to the Steering Group providing background information on the ENWD, and the possible benefits for NuLeAF of joining the organisation.

ENWD is a network of European municipalities near nuclear facilities. The objectives with the network are to:

- exchange knowledge and experiences among politicians and civil servants
- share and spread "best practice" or good examples for citizen dialogues
- empower municipalities by improving the processes in each nation
- be a speaking partner and a platform to the EU Commission

NuLeAF believes that the potential benefits envisaged of involvement in ENWD/GMF include:

- The sharing of information around socio-economics, engagement and planning to enable best practice examples to be used to advance local outcomes;
- The strengthening of engagement with transnational companies i.e. those with nuclear operations in several nations such as EDF;
- The development of better information tools and a community of interest;
- The strengthening of ties to provide a stronger voice to the European Union and Commission;
- The maintaining of dialogue and UK influence with other European countries post-Brexit; and
- Development of visits and exchanges, to enable UK local authorities to learn from and share information with others that host a decommissioning site or a potential GDF.

The Steering Group agreed that NuLeAF should take up membership for one year and report back on developments.

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.

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
15 th November, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
6 th December, 2017	Steering Group and mini-workshop on GDF siting process	Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
24 th January, 2017	Radioactive Waste Planning 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). 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
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