

Welcome to Issue 49 of the e-bulletin, which reports on topics and discussions at the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held in Manchester on 21st March 2018 and other items:

- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- NDA Stakeholder Summit 2018
- NDA Socio-economic Report
- Revision of National Planning Policy Framework;
- Reports on Magnox Parent Body Organisation contract process;
- Accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

The Geological Disposal Facility siting process

Consultations on Working with Communities and the National Policy Statement for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) are currently open. The deadline for responses is 19th April (England and Northern Ireland), with the Welsh Government's consultation on the community aspects of the GDF siting process in Wales closing on the 20th April.

NuLeAF has prepared draft responses which were circulated for comment to members and discussed at the Steering Group meeting held in Manchester on 21st March.

A key issue for members is whether or not a veto should be held at any level of local government. Member views on this differ and NuLeAF will reflect this in its final response. Members also felt there needed to be greater assurances on the funding statements to dispel fears that promised funding would not materialise.

Other areas of concern were: the documents and process need to accommodate the potential for changes in the political landscape, and reflect the differing types of local government and combined authorities in England; there needs to be momentum and demonstrable progress in the process; examples of a Community Partnership Agreement should be provided as a guideline; and the public should be made aware of what the dis-benefits of hosting a GDF could be.

Any further comments on the draft responses should be submitted to NuLeAF by the end of March. NuLeAF's Director is also happy to discuss the consultations with any member authority. 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.**

NDA Stakeholder Summit 2018

Following the success of last year's Stakeholder Summit, NDA will be holding another event on 10th and 11th July at South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (Berkeley Campus). Details of the full programme have yet to be released, but we understand that the event will provide an opportunity for delegates to hear from David Peattie, NDA Chief Executive, on his 'view from the bridge'. Other sessions will be held on the role of Research and Development in delivering the NDA mission; progress being made at Sellafield; building a socio-economic legacy; and the crucial role of local government and Site Stakeholder Groups. The key note address on the second day of the summit will be given by [Professor Jim Al-Khalili](#).

NuLeAF members wishing to attend the event should, in the first instance, contact the secretariat at catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk. We will circulate registration details and further information once they become available.

NDA Socio-economic Report and Business Plan 2018-2021

A [report](#) has been published by NDA which sets out information on its socio-economic spend in the financial year 2016-17. A total of £20.2 million was spent on socio-economic work by the NDA group as a whole, with the largest contributor being Sellafield Ltd which gave £10.5 million to the Whitehaven Campus project. The report provides an overview on where funds have been spent by individual NDA companies, and provides a breakdown on spend from Magnox on the differing sites, which ranges from £396,853 at Wylfa to £3,444 at Oldbury.

The NDA Business Plan covering the years 2018-2021 has now been published following consultation earlier in the year.

Draft revised National Planning Policy Framework

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is currently consulting on a [revision of the National Planning Policy Framework](#). NuLeAF has for many years been concerned about the lack of a joined-up approach to waste planning by central government, with radioactive waste falling within the purview of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. In consultation with its Radioactive Waste Planning Group, NuLeAF will review the revised document, and consider whether it is appropriate to ask that the statement of common ground be amended to include radioactive waste. The consultation closes on 10th May.

Magnox Parent Body Organisation competition

The Public Accounts Committee has published its [report](#) on the failure of the Magnox Parent Body Organisation competition. The Committee found significant flaws in the tendering process and in the NDA's understanding of the scale and cost of work required on the Magnox estate. The report was also critical of the role of BEIS in overseeing the tender process. Legal challenges resulted in a cost of £122 million to the UK taxpayer in redress. Secretary of State, Greg Clark, has asked Stephen Holliday to review the way in which the competition was carried out. An [interim report](#) was published in October 2017, and the final report is expected in June this year.

NuLeAF understands that a new management model for Magnox will be announced in late spring. Concerns were expressed by members at the Steering Group meeting on 21st March that there has been no opportunity to engage with either the Holliday enquiry or NDA on the new management model. NuLeAF will write to NDA to ask what opportunity there will be to comment on the new management model before it is finalised and will consider inviting Stephen Holliday to a future meeting.

Accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors

At the Steering Group meeting held on 6th December, NuLeAF members heard a presentation from Simon Boniface of NDA on proposals to accelerate decommissioning of Magnox reactors. At present, NDA's policy is for sites to be decommissioned to a state where they can enter a period of quiescence (Care & Maintenance) which will last 60+ years. In order to change policy to accelerated decommissioning there are a number of stages NDA will need to go through to obtain government and stakeholder support. At present we are in the early stages of this process, and NuLeAF understands that NDA will be undertaking a programme of engagement later this year.

Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for 2018. Please note these dates in your diary for future reference. Meetings of the Steering Group are open to elected members and officers from NuLeAF member authorities. The Radioactive Waste Planning Group is officer only.

The next meeting of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group on 9th May will include the annual meeting with Low Level Waste Repository Ltd and representatives from the supply chain to discuss waste movements over the coming year and other issues. We will also be hearing from BEIS on their proposals to amend the Nuclear Installations Act to accommodate in-situ disposal.

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
9 th May, 2018	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	18 Smith Square, London
6 th June, 2018	Steering Group and AGM (please note this meeting may be re-arranged to coincide with NDA National Stakeholder meeting)	18 Smith Square, London
8 th August, 2018	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Venue tbc
12 th September, 2018	Steering Group	Leaf, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester
24 th October, 2018	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Coram Campus, Brunswick Square, London
5 th December, 2018	Steering Group	Coram Campus, 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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