

Welcome to Issue 53 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

- Socio-economic issues;
- Submarine Dismantling Project;
- Decommissioning the AGR fleet;
- UK Government Consultation;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- NDA update;
- International engagement;
- Outcomes from NuLeAF Annual General Meeting on 20th March 2019;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Socio-economic issues

NuLeAF position paper: NuLeAF is developing a socio-economic position paper to help inform engagement with the NDA as they develop their planned socio-economic strategy (see below).

A draft paper setting out the main areas of interest for local authorities was discussed at the Steering Group meeting on 20th March¹. The meeting felt that, generally, the NDA was not delivering on its socio-economic commitments. There was little understanding in member authorities of the impacts of NDA's socio-economic spend in their areas; how, if at all, NDA measured the impacts of its spend; and what the specific outcomes were. Members felt there was a lack of clarity on the strategy or criteria for awarding funding and what happens to any underspend at the end of the financial year. The discussions from the meeting will be used to inform a position paper which will be submitted for comment and approval at the Steering Group meeting on 12th June. This position paper will inform engagement with:

Review of NDA socio-economic strategy: Following a critical Public Accounts Committee report² the NDA has committed to preparing a socio-economic strategy. NuLeAF understands that there will be consultation on the draft document in the autumn, with final publication in January 2020. The March Steering Group meeting received a presentation from Jacq Longrigg, Head of Nuclear Skills and Talent at NDA on nuclear skills and the development of the Strategy. Her presentation is available on the NuLeAF website. Further information on NDA's socio-economic activities can be found in the report for 2018 published on NDAs website³, and Magnox has also produced information on its socio-economic spend⁴.

NDA Stakeholder Summit 2019: NuLeAF understands that the NDA Stakeholder Summit, which is being held at Coleg Menai, Llangefni on 9th and 10th July, will focus on socio-economics and looks forward to taking the opportunity to engage with NDA further on this important topic.

1 <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/steering-group-papers-minutes/steering-group-papers-2019>

2 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmpubacc/1375/137503.htm>

3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/socio-economic-report-2017-to-2018/socio-economic-report-201718>

4 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/730711/FIN-AL-201718-Magnox-Infographic-English.pdf

Submarine Dismantling Project

NuLeAF understands that MoD is reviewing the outcomes of its project⁵ to find a solution for the management of radioactive waste from the decommissioning of the UK's out of service nuclear powered submarines. Currently located at Rosyth and Devonport, these submarines contain some Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) within their Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV), and some Low-Level Waste (LLW).

Following a 10 year project and considerable stakeholder engagement, it was decided in 2016 that the ILW waste arising would be stored at Capenhurst awaiting final disposal in a GDF and, subsequent to this decision, the Advisory Group was disbanded. A contract was signed with Capenhurst, understood to be worth around £3million per year, but as yet no ILW has been transported to the site.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD), working with the regulators, has now indicated it is considering alternative options for the management of the waste. It is understood that they are in discussion with the NDA who will be managing an engagement process to gain stakeholder input. NuLeAF, local authorities and the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) will be involved in the planned engagement and we will notify members we receive more information.

NuLeAF has already noted to the MOD our concerns about the re-opening of this process and the need to engage local authorities fully. This is particularly the case in West Cumbria given that one option under consideration may be to store the ILW at Sellafield.

Decommissioning the AGR fleet

NuLeAF has been concerned for sometime about the lack of engagement from EDF and central government regarding the decommissioning of the current fleet of AGR stations. The first stations, Hinkley Point B in Somerset and Hunterston on the west coast of Scotland, are due to cease operation in 2023, with Heysham 1 in Lancashire and Hartlepool following in 2024. It is NuLeAF's understanding that UK Government is "currently considering the commercial approach for early stage decommissioning of the UK's operating nuclear power stations." and "An announcement will be made in due course." However, this on-going delay with no indication that there will be any stakeholder engagement, fails to address local authority needs. Greater clarity is required to help councils develop appropriate Local Plans and address the socio-economic impacts which arise when a station moves from operating to decommissioning.

NuLeAF is considering organising a workshop bringing together BEIS, EDF, NDA and local authorities in order to better understand what the issues are, and how we can work together to resolve them. Further information will be circulated when available.

Consultations

A consultation⁶ on Social Value in Government Procurement has been opened by the Cabinet Office. NuLeAF believes that central government must integrate the requirements of the Energy Act and the Social Value Act to help underpin an effective approach to socio-economics in the nuclear sector. NuLeAF would welcome dialogue with government on how this could be achieved, and how the benefits are properly and rigorously measured and monitored. We would encourage member authorities to consider a response to the consultation.

5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/submarine-dismantling-project>

6 <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/social-value-in-government-procurement>

The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process

Over the past few months, RWM has been consulting on the Site Evaluation process in England and Wales. A number of stakeholder events have been held and, following discussion with members, NuLeAF has submitted responses to the consultations⁷, as have individual local authorities.

There have been concerns raised in local press regarding the siting process, mostly through misunderstanding of the process. This has led to a number of local authorities in Wales and Northern Ireland issuing resolutions that the GDF will not be sited in their area.

NuLeAF is currently revising its Policy Statement 3 on the geological disposal of higher activity wastes to take into consideration developments since the original statement was written in 2007. A new Policy Statement, along with a Briefing Paper providing guidance on the Working with Communities policy and the National Policy Statement (NPS) will be published in the coming months.

CoRWM has now published the last of its suite of papers on geological disposal. These address why the Committee believes that geological disposal is the foremost effective approach to dealing with higher activity wastes⁸ and set out CoRWM's views on retrievability⁹.

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 update

NDA has announced¹⁰ that Gwen Parry-Jones OBE will be CEO of Magnox Ltd following the end of the contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership. This will see Magnox returning to NDA as a subsidiary in September 2019.

NDA has published its Business Plan 2019-22¹¹. The document supports the One NDA agenda which is seeking to create greater integration across Sellafield, LLWR, RWM and Magnox. The Plan highlights how it has addressed some of the points raised in responses to the consultation on the draft Plan, including socio-economic reporting, and provides an overview of NDA's plans and targets. Disappointingly, there is no reference to accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors, an area of interest to NuLeAF member authorities.

An Overview of the Management and Disposition of Plutonium¹² was published this month. The UK Government is committed to finding a long-term solution for the management of the UK's plutonium stockpile. The report focuses on consolidation, safe and secure storage, and disposition. It also sets out next steps, but also states that "a decision cannot be taken quickly, and when taken, must be underpinned by the right evidence."

⁷ <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/consultation-responses/consultation-responses-2019>

⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773648/corwm-position-paper-why-geological-disposal.pdf

⁹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777402/corwm-position-paper-retrievability-considerations-for-geological-disposal.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gwen-parry-jones-obe-announced-as-magnox-chief-executive-officer>

¹¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790526/NDABusinessPlan2019-2022.pdf

¹² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790954/Plute_Story_FINAL.pdf

International engagement

NuLeAF continues its membership of the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF), a predominantly European group of local authorities. The group provides NuLeAF the opportunity to engage with and understand the issues other communities face, and the interactions between central and local government elsewhere in the world. NuLeAF's Executive Director attended a GMF meeting in March 2019 which considered how to take forward and enhance the network following the retirement of the current General Secretary. NuLeAF will continue to work with colleagues in the network to identify areas of mutually beneficial work. This may include the development of connections between local authorities entering the UK GDF siting process and those elsewhere: also research to understand the socio-economic offer available to communities in different countries.

Outcomes of NuLeAF AGM, 20th March 2019

NuLeAF held its Annual General Meeting on 20th March 2019. All the papers for the Steering Group and AGM meeting can be found on the NuLeAF website¹³. The meeting considered the Annual Report and Finance Report and it was agreed that the contributing membership fees would again be held at the rate set in 2009 in recognition of the financial struggles faced by member authorities.

The meeting expressed its thanks to its Chair, Cllr Brendan Sweeney, who is standing down as a councillor at the local elections in May. It should be noted that the election of a New Chair and Vice Chair will be held on 12th June.

Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for early 2019. 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.

DATE	MEETING	VENUE
30 th April 2019	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	18 Smith Square, London
12 th June 2019	Steering Group and EGM	18 Smith Square, London
3 rd September 2019	Steering Group	Leaf, 113 Portland Street, Manchester
24 th October 2019	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	18 Smith Square, London
11 th December 2019	Steering Group	Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 12 Bloomsbury 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 management 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 current and future 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

¹³ <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/document-library/steering-group-papers-minutes/steering-group-papers-2019>

officers in our Steering Group and in the officer Radioactive Waste Planning Group. If your authority would like to join NuLeAF, 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. Our Twitter account alerts members to 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
E: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk