

E-BULLETIN

September 2019, Issue 55

Welcome to Issue 55 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

- Development of Planning Guidance for on-site disposal;
- Development of NDA Accommodation Strategy;
- Update on Euratom;
- Update on NDA Strategy and operations;
- Magnox Ltd update;
- The Geological Disposal Facility siting process;
- Other news;
- Dates for the diary; and
- Joining NuLeAF and participating in our work.

Development of Planning Guidance for on-site disposal

Working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is developing guidance for planners to assist them in handling applications for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste on-site. Such applications are expected to be made as part of the final site clearance process. Approval will only be given for waste to be left on site where removing the waste will be of greater risk to people or the environment than leaving it where it is. A draft specification of the guidance and its contents was considered by the NuLeAF Steering Group on 3rd September, and a number of individual local authorities have provided comments to Avison Young who are carrying out this work on behalf of BEIS. Avison Young has undertaken to share the draft guidance for comment with NuLeAF prior to its submission to BEIS. The presentation given at the meeting on 3rd September is available to view on NuLeAF's website at <http://www.nuleaf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NuLEAF-Presentation-draft-02.09.19.pdf>

Development of NDA Group Accommodation Strategy

At its meeting on 3rd September, NuLeAF's Steering Group heard about the development of a groupwide accommodation strategy for NDA from Tony Smithers, Head of Property. The strategy will cover people, places, transport and accommodation. It will include looking at the interim use and disposal of non-core assets. NDA is keen to engage with local communities and will be working with the socio-economic team to contact local authorities and communities around NDA sites to discuss site end states and opportunities for land or buildings not required for the decommissioning process. Whilst the work is in early stages, Mr Smithers would welcome contact from interested parties (tony.smithers@nda.gov.uk)

Update on Euratom

UK Government has been updating its advice to businesses and industry in the event of a no deal Brexit. This includes the impact of the UK leaving the Euratom Treaty. Guidance is available on a number of nuclear related topics:

- Licensing requirements for the importation of 'relevant' nuclear materials <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-to-import-relevant-nuclear-materials-from-the-eu-after-brexit-licensing-requirements>
- Exporting nuclear related items after Brexit. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-nuclear-related-items-after-brexit>

- Shipping radioactive waste and spent fuel after Brexit. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/shipping-radioactive-waste-and-spent-fuel-after-brexit>
- Shipping radioactive waste sources between the UK and EU. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/shipping-radioactive-sources-between-the-uk-and-eu-after-brexit>
- Transboundary impacts of radioactive waste disposal: reporting and notification obligations. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/radioactive-waste-disposal-reporting-and-notification-obligations-after-brexit>
- Nuclear co-operation agreements: implementation guidelines for operators <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-cooperation-agreements-implementation-guidelines-for-operators>
- Nuclear research after Brexit. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nuclear-research-after-brexit>
- Draft guidance for inspectors and Nuclear Material accountants. <http://www.onr.org.uk/safeguards/draft-guidance-for-inspectors-and-nuclear-material-accountants.htm>
- Nuclear Safeguard (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/196/contents/made>

More general information for businesses can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/brexit>

NDA Strategy and Operations

NDA has published a new **Radioactive Waste Strategy** document which replaces the previous NDA strategy for Higher Activity Wastes and is consistent with the current UK Low Level Waste Strategy. It applies to all radioactive wastes produced on the NDA estate. NuLeAF will review the new strategy and update its Briefing Papers as necessary.

July saw the publication of the **NDA's Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19**. This notes the achievement of some milestones such as the entry of the first Magnox site (Bradwell) into Care and Maintenance, the ending of the reprocessing at one of the two sites at Sellafield, and the launch of the GDF siting process. It also reports on the work underway in developing closer working under the 'One NDA' banner.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-annual-report-and-accounts-2018-to-2019/nda-annual-report-and-accounts-2018-to-2019>

NDA has published a **Mission Progress Report** which sets out how much it has accomplished since it was established in 2005, and how much remains to be done over the next 120 years. The Report focuses on four themes: spent fuels, nuclear materials, integrated waste management, and site decommissioning and remediation. The format is easy to read with lots of graphics and bite size information. However, it would benefit from links to further information so the reader can dig down into a topic.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-mission-progress-report>

Under the Energy Act, the **NDA** is required to review its Strategy every five years. The current strategy runs 2016-2021 and the NDA has begun the process of preparing the new strategy – **Strategy 4**. NuLeAF has been invited to join the **Strategy 4 Development Group** that will oversee the preparation of the new strategy. We will keep members informed of progress and opportunities to engage.

Although the NDA Stakeholder Summit is a distant memory, you can view the highlights and the presentations on their website <https://ndastakeholdersummit.co.uk/>

Magnox Ltd

On 1st September 2019, Magnox became a wholly owned subsidiary of NDA. This follows the decision to end the previous operating model, where Magnox was overseen by a Parent Body Organisation (PBO), after a successful legal challenge to the NDA's tendering process. As NDA promotes its One NDA model, NuLeAF hope the organisation will take the opportunity to present a more co-ordinated approach across all sites and businesses. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/magnox-ltd-becomes-a-subsiidiary-of-the-nda>

The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process

Since the publication of the last e-bulletin NuLeAF has agreed a **new Policy Statement** on Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Wastes and a **range of information materials** to provide information and guidance to local authorities, all of which are available on the NuLeAF website:

- **Policy Statement 3 on Geological Disposal** has been revised and will help guide NuLeAF's future engagement with geological disposal at a national and local level. It also sets out NuLeAF's view on the associated areas of long-term storage and near surface disposal.
- **Briefing Paper 17: The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Siting Process** has been updated. It explains the context for and development of the final English and Welsh policies for geological disposal and the geological information that is available. This paper will be further reviewed and updated when the final approach to Site Evaluation is available later this year.
- **A new Briefing Paper 19: Guidance on Geological Disposal from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)** has been published. This sets out the views of CoRWM on geological disposal, based on their 2006 report and recent statements on aspects of the overall proposals.

Any local authority wishing to have informal discussions or seeking further information on the Geological Disposal Facility siting process should contact the Executive Director, Philip Matthews on 07949 209126 or philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk.

And in other news...

Helen Gordon, a contributing writer to Mosaic Science (<https://mosaicscience.com/>) has written an interesting and informative article on the case for geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste, and on the issues faced in ensuring that the disposal facility remains unbreached in centuries and millennia to come. <https://phys.org/news/2019-09-nuclear.html>

BEIS has published a short notice regarding the decommissioning of the AGR fleet of nuclear power stations. It is working with EDF and the NDA to draw up plans, which it hopes to have completed by summer 2020. NuLeAF is looking for government to engage with local authorities, and is actively looking at setting up a meeting with the parties concerned in early 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-gas-cooled-reactor-agr-decommissioning>

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
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
29 th January 2020	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	18 Smith Square, London
11 th March 2020	Steering Group	Central Library, Manchester

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 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/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. 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
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