

Meeting:	NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 11 th March 2020
Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Review of GMF Membership
Author:	Phil Matthews
Purpose:	To consult members on NuLeAF's continued membership of GMF Europe.

Introduction

This report provides a review of NuLeAF's membership of the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF), a pan-European network that NuLeAF first affiliated to in 2017.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the AGM agree to extend NuLeAF's membership of the GMF for a further year, after which it will again be subject to review.

1. Introduction

Over the years, NuLeAF has engaged on radioactive waste management with a range of European projects and networks. These have included IPPA (Implementing Public Participation Processes in radioactive waste disposal), E-Track (Energy Transparency Centre of Knowledge) and events run by EURADWASTE (European Commission conferences on Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal and Decommissioning). More recently, NuLeAF has had a prominent role in work on local perspectives on radioactive waste management led by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

GMF (Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities) is the main European representative body for nuclear local authorities. NuLeAF joined in 2017 following agreement by the Steering Group.

The last year has seen significant change within the GMF, with the appointment of a new General Secretary and the election of NuLeAF's Executive Director and others to the Presidium (Board).

Looking forward it is expected that the new leadership will re-invigorate the network. Membership has increased and further councils and national networks are in discussion with a view to joining. GMF will hold two meetings per year in different locations and also plans to increase its engagement with pan-European institutions.

3. Benefits and costs of membership

Involvement in the GMF has a number of advantages for NuLeAF. These include:

- The identification of good practice in socio-economics, engagement and planning. Our involvement has already provided examples from elsewhere that are useful in advancing NuLeAF's agenda – for example, knowledge of community benefit packages in Spain.
- The strengthening of engagement with transnational companies i.e. those with nuclear operations in a number of nations such as EDF. With EDF moving towards closure and decommissioning of its UK sites, the benefits of international connections is likely to become more significant in future.
- The 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. In terms of the UK GDF siting process, this could be a useful way of enabling local councils and communities to understand both the technical aspects of GDF development and the political and socio-economic challenges and opportunities

NuLeAF's involvement in the GMF, and in particular the connections and opportunities it gives UK municipalities in terms of the GDF process, is also beneficial in securing financial support for our work. International engagement was identified as a critical factor by RWM in the recent tender process through which NuLeAF hopes to secure funding.

The maintaining of dialogue with other European countries post-Brexit is also viewed as important by the UK Government (BEIS) and NuLeAF has been in discussion with officials in recent months regarding GMF and other European networks.

The costs of membership for this year have been set at 2000 Euros (c. £1,700) and NuLeAF's Director, as a member of the Presidium, will have his costs for meeting participation covered by GMF. As NuLeAF's future funding from RWM is in part conditional on continued engagement, membership costs incurred will be covered by any settlement awarded by RWM.

The time commitment involved is limited to the two meetings per year plus a monthly phone conference in which the Executive Director takes part.