

Meeting:	NuLeAF AGM, 11 th March 2020
Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	NuLeAF member survey 2019
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Purpose:	To report the findings of the biennial member survey

1. Introduction:

NuLeAF carries out a biennial survey of members to obtain feedback on its performance. Members interviewed are selected to be geographically representative of NuLeAF membership as a whole, and not interviewed in two consecutive surveys. NuLeAF would like to express its appreciation to those who took part in the 2019 survey.

2. Summary of responses in 2019

Q1. Do you use the NuLeAF website?

25% of respondents never use the website as a resource. 75% of respondents sometimes use the website. It was suggested that NuLeAF should do more to highlight the website and its content.

Action: Highlight the website and what it contains in e-bulletins more prominently

Q2. Do you read NuLeAF briefings, Steering Group papers, E-bulletin, etc?

13% of respondents sometimes read the information circulated, 87% regularly read the information circulated. The general view was that the Briefing Papers, meeting papers and e-bulletin were a useful resource, pitched at the correct level, clearly written and easy to understand. They were, in some instances, passed on by survey respondents to others within their council, highlighting issues of interest in their area. The links to further reading are helpful if you want to dig deeper into a topic. The e-bulletin is a useful way of keeping up to date if you are unable to attend a Steering Group meeting.

Q3. Could NuLeAF change meetings of the Steering Group or Radioactive Waste Planning Group in a way that would make you, or your Elected Member be more likely to attend? For example:

- Changing meeting location

- Changing meeting times
- Offering a different format to meetings (e.g. more presentations, guest speakers, etc)

Please note that any alternative meeting location would have to be accessible to members from across England and Wales.

It was felt that the meetings were generally well timed (though an 11.00 start can be difficult for travellers from the South West to get to London) and in locations accessible to all. It may be possible to attract more elected members from the South West if meetings were held in Bristol or Birmingham, but this could not be guaranteed as it was felt that other Members were not in general interested in these issues. If video/ teleconferencing is available there may be some interest in taking this up.

Action: advise if teleconferencing available in meeting invitations.

Q4. The Government has recently launched the GDF siting process in England and Wales. We appreciate that only some local authorities will enter the process but, regardless of whether your council has a direct interest, is there anything that NuLeAF could do to that would help your authority in relation to the GDF?

A comment was made that academic proof demonstrating that geological disposal is the correct approach to take would be of interest.

In some councils there is a reluctance to engage on this topic and officers are unsure if there is anything NuLeAF could do to address this. The issue is political.

It was suggested that trips organized by NuLeAF to international sites where work on geological disposal is already in progress would be helpful to both officers and elected members in understanding the issues faced by local communities and local government.

Action: Circulate links to CoRWM papers on geological disposal.

Action: Look at feasibility of organizing international trips.

Q5. In your experience, what has been the impact of local government financial constraints on your ability to address nuclear related issues on behalf of your authority? Is there anything NuLeAF could do to help you?

In some councils attending the NuLeAF meetings has not raised any problems, whereas in others, officers have to demonstrate the value for each meeting. Teleconferencing may be of interest to some.

Q6. Do you have any other comments on how NuLeAF could improve its support to your local authority? For example; in terms of other types of meetings/engagement events, online resources, etc.

For some councils, where elected members do not engage, it may be beneficial if NuLeAF could give a presentation, however, this needs to be at an appropriate point.

It was good to broaden officer engagement with the involvement of economic development officers in the meetings with NDA to discuss skills and socio-economic issues.

A query was raised re addressing decommissioning skills in Local Industrial Strategies, and whether there was a role for NuLeAF to coordinate this across local governments?

A: Consider feasibility of engaging with LEPs and local authorities on development of Local Industrial Strategies with particular reference to decommissioning skills. There was good attendance of such officers at joint meetings on socio-economics and skills organized by NuLeAF and NDA in 2019.