

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

**Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held
on 11th March 2020 at Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester**

Present:

Cllr Matthew Riddle	South Gloucestershire Council (Chair)
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Eddy Newman	Manchester City Council (Vice-Chair NFLA)
Cllr David Godfrey	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Cllr David Wimble	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Cllr Michael Green	Lancashire County Council
Cllr David Blackburn	Leeds City Council
Cllr Mike Caswell	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Chris Morgan	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council
Rob Ward	Copeland Borough Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Charlie Pope	Devon County Council
Sean Morris	Manchester City Council
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
John Burton	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Philip Matthews	NuLeAF
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Brendan Sweeney	Observer
Phil Edge	NDA
Tony Smithers	NDA
Andrew Edwards	NDA
Gavin Smith	ONR
Steve Reece	RWM
Bruce Cairns	RWM
Matthew Pixton	RWM
Simon Napper	RWM
Kelly Anderson	NDA
Jacq Longrigg	NDA

	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	Cllr Riddle welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that Brendan Sweeney, former Chair of NuLeAF was attending as an observer. Round the table introductions were made.	

	Apologies were received from: Richard Griffin – Allerdale Borough Council, Cllr David Southward – Cumbria County Council, Cllr Craig Hackett & Lisa Chandler – East Suffolk Council, Terry Burns – Essex County Council, Graham Hammond- Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Linda Townsend – Gloucestershire County Council, Cllr Sean Chaytor – Hull City Council, Doug Bamsey – Sedgemoor District Council, Sion Roberts – Snowdonia National Park Authority, Jon Beckett – Stroud District Council, Dylan Llewelyn Jones – Ynys Mon County Council.	
2.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29th JANUARY 2020.	
2.1	The Minutes were approved as a true record and will be posted on the NuLeAF website.	CD
3.	MATTERS ARISING	
3.1	All matters arising had been addressed or were in hand. Comments were noted on the action list at the end of the Minutes.	
4.	TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND PEOPLE	
4.1	The Chair welcomed Phil Edge and Tony Smithers of NDA, and Gavin Smith of ONR.	
4.2	Mr Edge gave an overview of the transport activities of NDA. NDA has recently taken the decision to amalgamate its transport and logistic businesses: Direct Rail Services (DRS), International Nuclear Services and Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd (PNT). In addition to moving radioactive materials, DRS also has contracts with Tesco, Stobarts and Ford, it also does snow clearance in winter. Because the vessels owned by PNT are of a specific design for the transport of nuclear materials, they are not suitable for general freight transport.	
4.2.1	The largest project on the horizon is the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). There will be considerable transport during the construction phase: movement of materials to the site, and spoil from the site, followed by transport of the waste for disposal. Use of rail is expected, but depending on the location, transport by ship may be viable.	
4.2.2	NDA's transport activities are regulated by ONR, who fulfil the role of 'competent authority' as defined in IAEA regulations governing the transport of radioactive materials. Good practice is shared and safety standards are driven up via participation in nuclear industry groups.	

- 4.2.3 NDA is engaging with the regulators to review whether the current regulations, which were originally designed for the transportation of new fuel, remain appropriate for decommissioning and waste management.
- 4.3 The meeting opened up to questions:
- 4.3.1 *Q: Transport of radioactive materials affects local authorities which do not have nuclear licensed sites. What reassurance can you give about the quality of packaging, and the steps you take to reduce the risk from accidents or terrorist attack?*
A: All radioactive material is packaged in containers which have been licensed by the regulator. They are rigorously tested. Movement of material is monitored and depending on the content appropriate security measures are taken.
- 4.3.2 *Q: You have 8 rail paths on the West Cumbrian line, of which you use only a few. Can others be freed for passenger service use?*
A: Once a rail path is surrendered it is difficult to get back, therefore we would be unlikely to consider giving them up.
- 4.3.3 *Q: If the volume of material shipped by INS is reducing, do you still need the specialist vessels?*
A: There is, probably, sufficient business for the ships for the next 20 years, but after that no further use has been identified. It is unlikely we would replace them when they come to the end of their working life.
- 4.3.4 *Q: The West Cumbrian line is in need of investment and upgrading both for track and signalling. Investment would have significant economic impact for the communities, what can you do to help secure that?*
A: We are starting to engage with groups on this. We need to understand what the long term need for the line is.
- 4.3.5 *Q: There was a report that an empty fuel flask had been returned to Sellafield and was found to still contain nuclear material. Are the same steps taken to ensure safe transport of empty flasks as when they are full?*
A: Yes, the safety checks are the same. They are checked by remote cameras on their return which is where the nuclear material would have been identified.
- 4.3.6 *Q: Now that transport of fuel from the former Magnox stations has ceased what is happening to the flasks used for transport?*
A: Some have been used for moving material from Dounreay. It is possible they may be used for interim storage for waste until it can be treated and sent to the GDF. These are robust and useful items, and there is a world market for them. They have a future life for at least

- 20 years, whereafter they will be treated, cut up and waste sent for disposal.
- 4.3.7 *Q: Do the risk assessments you carry out reflect that the transport of wastes from decommissioning is a new experience?*
A: One of the drivers for bringing the various transport businesses together is to improve coherence of approach.
- 4.4 Mr Smithers gave an update on the development of the NDA groupwide accommodation strategy. Since Mr Smithers outlined the proposals to the Steering Group meeting in September 2019, this has now received approval from the NDA Board to implement the strategy across OneNDA.
- 4.5 The Accommodation Strategy is not just about people: its prime function is to make sure that the Site License Companies have the land and property they need to deliver their mission. At present, NDA needs to build 107 new facilities to support decommissioning. We wish to avoid increasing the footprint of sites and so are looking at moving non-essential functions off site to free space for decommissioning purposes. This will be a culture change for the industry as people move off sites into the surrounding area.
- 4.6 NDA has engaged with its local councils in West Cumbria on this topic and will be looking to engage with local authorities around its other sites.
- 4.7 We will be working with One Public Estate to identify opportunities to drive local projects, and are looking to support government aspirations such as Net Zero 2050 and the delivery of additional services. At some sites the impact may be minimal, but at others significant. I would be happy to visit local authorities to explain the opportunity.
- 4.8 Mr Edwards provided an overview of the numbers of people employed and their location: 16,000 directly employed across the whole NDA estate, plus a large number of contractors, with around 4500 of these working at the Warrington Office or in West Cumbria. Approximately 5,000 staff will need to stay where they are currently located, and around 3,800 need to be consolidated into new hubs, predominantly from the Sellafield sites. 2,700 need to be relocated from nuclear licensed site, most from the Cumbria area. NDA needs to find a replacement for Hinton House and will probably look at building accommodation.
- 4.9 The meeting opened up to questions:

- 4.9.1 *Q: Hinton House has poor public transport connections. In the choice of site for its replacement how much will you be guided by sustainable transport principles?*
A: We are working closely with the government property agency and will take these into consideration.
- 4.9.2 *Q: Are you considering climate change when looking at alternate uses for your sites. Solar power would help sites become carbon neutral.*
A: We are working towards being carbon neutral in 2050. Many of our sites have infrastructure which could be used for alternative power generation. Frank Wigley at NDA is looking at land use and site end states.
- 4.10 Mr Smith gave an overview of the work of ONR and its role regulating the transport of nuclear materials. It is the enforcing authority for the civil transport of radioactive materials by road, rail and inland waterway in Great Britain. It also regulates the non-nuclear sector such as approval of transport package design assessment.
- 4.11 There is legislation to cover all aspects of transport of radioactive materials. The consignor has a duty to liaise with local authorities for the provision of assistance in case of an emergency. Information is available on the ONR website.
- 4.12 The meeting opened up to questions:
- 4.12.1 *Q: It was reported that graphite debris had been found in a fuel flask. What would ONR's role be in this?*
A: The incident relates to a consignment from Scotland and SEPA are leading on the investigation, and any enforcement necessary. They will advise us if they need our support.
- 4.12.2 *Q: The transport of radioactive waste by road is an issue of concern to some – as the regulator are you trying to encourage use of rail to a greater extent?*
A: We do not take a view on this. The consignor is required to demonstrate that whatever transport mode they use is safe.
- 4.12.3 *Q: How does ONR deal with the threat of drone attack on the transport of radioactive material?*
A: I am unable to discuss the specifics, but we do consider security in relation to transport of radioactive materials.
- 4.12.4 *Q: The importation of Intermediate Level Waste to Hinkley Point A (HPA) for treatment was refused by Somerset County Council recently. One of the reasons given was that it was by road-based transport, which is predominantly used for the transport of Low Level Waste and so not considered suitable by the councillors.*

4.12.5	<p>At this point Cllr Mike Caswell excused himself from the meeting as he sits on the Regulation Committee of Somerset County Council.</p> <p>A: There is a very well-defined process to demonstrate that the packaging and method of transport meet legal requirements. If approval for the packaging or movement was required, ONR would grant it unless the stipulations were met.</p> <p><i>Q: The three sites generating the waste going to HPA were all on the coast. Given that the objection from the council was the use of road transport, would ONR be supportive of shipment by sea?</i></p> <p>A: It would be the responsibility of the consignor to demonstrate the suitability of this.</p>	
4.13	The Chair thanked the presenters for their contribution.	
5.	SITE EVALUATION PROCESS FOR THE GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY	
5.1	The Chair welcomed Steve Reece, Bruce Cairns, Matthew Pixton & Simon Napper to the meeting.	
5.2	Mr Reece thanked the Chair for inviting RWM to the meeting. He reviewed the development of the Site Evaluation process. Following consultation in 2019, the final Site Evaluation documents for England and Wales had been published. Mr Reece summarised the nature of the comments which had been made on the draft documents and how they were reflected in the revised documents.	
5.3	The meeting opened up to questions:	
5.3.1	<p><i>Q: How have the lessons learnt from the previous Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process informed the current process?</i></p> <p>A: This is a very different journey from the previous process. We are working to raise awareness and understanding. At this stage the emphasis is on getting people to have discussions rather than committing to engagement. We are having discussions with some individuals and organisations. If they say that they will engage then we will set up a working group.</p> <p>Local authorities do not need to be involved in the working group from inception but can allow the discussion to start and then make a decision whether to participate. However, the process cannot proceed without local authority involvement. The community needs to build a vision of what it wants for the next 50 – 100 years.</p>	

5.3.2	<p><i>Q: The Key messages in the Site Evaluation document do not refer to Community Benefits, but this would be a priority for any community considering engaging.</i></p> <p>A: That aspect is articulated in the Community Guidance. The Site Evaluation document is more technical in aspect.</p>	
5.4	The Chair thanked RWM for attending the meeting.	
6.	UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS	
6.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and provided an update on the activities of RWM.	
6.2	No comments arose and the paper was noted.	
7.	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
7.1	<p>PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and provided updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from Theme Overview Group (TOG) meetings; • NDA; • Strategy 4; • Magnox; • Sellafield; • BEIS; • ONR; and • Decommissioning AGR fleet meeting. 	
7.2	A member asked that NuLeAF review the practice of taking presentations in the morning session as this limited the amount of time available for consideration of papers.	PM
7.3	An update was requested on NuLeAF's engagement with the Spent Nuclear Fuels and Materials Theme Overview Group. PM advised the meeting that he had not made contact with Danny Fox at NDA for some time, but would do so in the near future, and would invite Danny to speak to the Steering Group at an appropriate point.	PM
7.4	Discussion turned to the NDA Stakeholder Summit which will be held in Edinburgh on Monday 19 th and Tuesday 20 th October. Members felt it was important that NuLeAF held a meeting with David Peattie and other senior staff at NDA and RWM in the morning of the first day and asked that NuLeAF raise this with John McNamara who is organising the summit. This will require that most NuLeAF members travel to Edinburgh on Sunday 18 th October. It was also suggested that NuLeAF could hold a joint meeting with SCCORS.	PM

8	DRAFT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON NDA LOCAL ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACT STRATEGY	
8.1	NuLeAF's draft response to the consultation had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting seeking input and comments. Comments received would be incorporated into the final response before submission.	
8.2	It was agreed that reference to the possible acquisition of the AGR fleet for decommissioning purposes and the impacts arising should be included in the response.	PM
8.3	The Chair thanked PM for drafting the consultation response and those who had contributed comments.	
9	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
9.1	The next meeting will be held on 10 th June 2020, 11.00 to 3.00. The venue has yet to be decided.	
10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10.1	There was no further business.	
11	PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH KELLY ANDERSON AND JACQ LONGRIGG ON STAKEHOLDER AND PEOPLE AND SKILLS ASPECTS OF DEVELOPING NDA STRATEGY 4 (2021-2026)	
11.1	The Chair welcomed Kelly Anderson and Jacq Longrigg to the meeting.	
11.2	Ms Anderson gave an overview of the work being undertaken on drafting NDA Strategy 4. She is responsible for preparing the text on Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE). The formal consultation will take place between August and November 2020, but she would like to ensure that before the document goes out there will be no surprises and to that end is happy to share the draft text with NuLeAF for comment.	
11.3	The PSE section of Strategy 4 will consider the following differences from Strategy 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A move to a more proactive approach; • A more diverse range of stakeholders will be encouraged to participate; • Closer working with local authorities and NuLeAF; • Co-ordinated engagement across NDA; and • The use of vehicles such as. 	
11.4	The meeting opened up to questions:	

14.4.1	Comment: Your presentation talks about how you will engage, but it is important that you also demonstrate how what you have heard and learnt is implemented.	
14.4.2	<p><i>Q: The NDA Stakeholder Summit has, to date, been very much a case of NDA talking to stakeholders. What steps will you take to engage groups such as this?</i></p> <p>A: John McNamara, who will be organising this year's event, is keen hold a number of sessions run by stakeholders.</p>	
14.4.3	Comment was made that while discussions at these meetings was generally positive, at a local level engagement could break down. It would be helpful if Strategy 4 included a statement which local authorities could use to get SLCs to engage.	
14.4.4	<p><i>Q: Do you consider your Site Stakeholder Group accurately reflect the diversity of the local community they represent?</i></p> <p>A: We are aware that the SSGs are not as representative as they could be or we would like. We are looking at the use of vehicles such as Citizen Panels to address this issue.</p>	
14.5	Ms Anderson advised the meeting that an event would be held in Manchester on 14 th May to discuss Strategy 4, and invitations would be issued shortly (Note: in the light of covid-19 this event has since been postponed).	
14.6	Ms Anderson handed over to Ms Longrigg to speak on the People Strategy aspect of Strategy 4.	
14.7	<p>Ms Longrigg gave an overview of the development of the People Strategy which will be supported by an HR Strategy. There are three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right people, right place, right time; • Creating a culture in which NDA staff can thrive; and • How NDA works with stakeholders. 	
14.8	NDA would like local authorities to provide input to what the People Strategy should cover.	All
14.9	The meeting opened up to questions:	
14.9.1	<p><i>Q: How will the NDA and the People Strategy adapt to deal with the NDA taking over the decommissioning of the AGR fleet, if that happens?</i></p> <p>A: I think the Strategy covers this eventuality. We already have one of the People Strategy team working on this. It will create new opportunities for NDA and allow us to use our expertise. There will be a culture change in the</p>	

	<p>potential shift from operating to decommissioning, and from commercial sector to public sector, but there is also an opportunity for us to learn from each other. It will also provide greater socio-economic security for the communities around the sites.</p> <p>Comment: It would be beneficial for NDA to have a paper prepared for when the announcement is made which could be sent to local authorities around the station sites.</p>	
14.9.2	<p>Q: Where does commercial enterprise sit within NDA? A: A Commercial Strategy is being developed.</p>	
14.9.3	<p><i>Q: How does the Local Economic & Social Impact Strategy dovetail with the People Strategy?</i> A: We are working closely with Andrew van der Lem and his team.</p>	
14.9.4	<p>Comment: We would encourage you to work with councillors at ward level because they have intimate knowledge of the issues in their area. Every community is different.</p>	
14.9.5	<p><i>Q: If you have submitted comments on the Local Economic & Social Impact Strategy do we need to pass them on to you as well?</i> A: No we will cross reference</p>	
15	<p>The Chair thanked the presenters and the meeting closed at 14.56.</p>	

ACTION LIST

11th March 2020			
2.1	Post Minutes of the meeting held on 29 th January 2020 on NuLeAF website	CD	Done
7.2	Review incorporation of presentations in morning session.	PM	While meetings are online the proposal is for shorter sessions. Longer term plans for the balance of presentations and papers will be reviewed once face to face meetings are possible
7.3	Contact Danny Fox	PM	We propose to invite Danny to speak on the Inventory, Plutonium,

			Uranics and Spent Fuel. PM to contact him when we are clear we have a slot available.
7.4	Speak to John McNamara re NuLeAF meeting on morning of 19 th October	PM	This issue has been raised with John. The current Covid-19 situation means the Stakeholder Summit is still under review.
7.4	Consider holding joint meeting with SCCORS at Stakeholder Summit.	PM	As above
8.2	Include reference to AGR fleet decommissioning in socio-economic strategy consultation response	PM	Response amended and submitted on 12 th March 2020.
14.8	Provide input to NDA on what People Strategy should cover	All	Responses requested.
29th January 2020			
9.5	Write to Ian Booth at SDA reiterating points raised at the meeting on 14 January 2020	PM	Letter sent 7 th February. Response received 11 March 2020. Further contact made to request that others might also participate in visit to Rosyth.
12th June 2019			
10.4.4	Feedback to NDA need to engage with other energy sector companies especially in terms of socio-economic impact.	JM	Awaiting update.
12th September, 2018			
9.10	Provide feedback to NDA/NuLeAF on what topics local authorities wish to see covered in combined outcomes report.	All	Awaiting clarification from NDA and will then consult members.
6th June, 2018			
3.3	Follow up with Mike Caswell re meeting	DB	Email sent 21 June and MC said he would follow this up with Aled Morris Jones.
9.13	Raise issue of need for Magnox to communicate with sites receiving Magnox waste.	PM	To be done once new Magnox structure in place post September.