

# E-BULLETIN

September 2020, Issue 59

Welcome to Issue 59 of the e-bulletin, which reports on:

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- Dates for your diary

You can find the papers which were submitted to the NuLeAF Steering Group meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September in the document library on [our website](#).

## CoRWM

On 9<sup>th</sup> September, NuLeAF's Steering Group was joined by the Chair and three members of CoRWM who spoke about their role as an independent advisory body to the UK government and devolved administrations. Discussions covered the implications of the planning review (see below), the international implications of geological disposal, the need for joined up thinking at both a local and national level and the transportation of radioactive waste. CoRWM will be publishing further position papers in the coming months, and NuLeAF looks forward to continued engagement with CoRWM as the geological disposal siting process continues.

You can find the slides from CoRWM's presentation posted on our website [here](#).

## The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process

Following a vote by the council's executive, Copeland Borough Council has become the first local authority to open discussions with RWM Ltd about forming a Working Group in relation to the geological disposal facility (GDF). A number of interested parties had emerged within Copeland and given this the Council felt that it was right to engage with RWM on the project. The Council has excluded the Lake District National Park from consideration for the facility and also noted their significance to the siting process regardless of where the GDF is sited, given that most of the UK's HAW is located in the area.

RWM Ltd has published a new report entitled '[Doing the right thing: a permanent solution for higher activity radioactive waste](#)'. In it RWM CEO Karen Wheeler stresses the need to deal with the issue now and not leave it for future generations. RWM has also published its [Annual Review](#) setting out progress on mission delivery and plans for the future.

In partnership with the Universities of Manchester and Sheffield, RWM has launched the [Research Support Office](#) to provide RWM with independent and robust evidence to guide its work around safety and design in support of the delivery of a UK Geological Disposal Facility.

If you've ever wondered what radioactive waste actually looks like, Cherry Tweed, Chief Scientific Officer at RWM can enlighten you in her [blog](#).

NuLeAF has published a [Briefing Paper](#) on the issues around inventory of wastes for disposal in a GDF.

**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](mailto:philip.matthews@nuleaf.org.uk).**

## NDA

NDA is required to review its Strategy every five years and consultation is currently underway on Draft Strategy 4. NuLeAF is holding a workshop for members on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. to discuss issues of interest to local authorities. If you haven't already registered and would like to attend please contact [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk). NuLeAF will be preparing a response to the strategy which it will circulate to members for comment. We would encourage members to also submit their own response.

NDA has appointed former MP Hazel Blears as their [Social Value Specialist](#). Ms Blears' role will be to advise One NDA on how to increase the social, economic and environmental impact of its work to decommission and clean up the UK's oldest nuclear sites.

NDA has announced it is working in partnership with [the Nuclear Institutes Young Generation Network](#) to support young professionals through a series of events and in supporting personal and professional development.

## Planning

The UK government is currently consulting on major reform of the planning system which include proposals to introduce a new Infrastructure Levy to replace Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Planning reform is largely focussed on the housing sector, and NuLeAF is concerned that the proposals are not clear in how they will affect major infrastructure projects such as the provision of near-surface disposal facilities and the geological disposal facility. We will be preparing a response and circulating it to members for comment.

Following consultation with members NuLeAF has prepared a [Briefing Paper on Planning Obligations](#). This will be updated in due course to take account of any changes arising from the above review of the planning system.

## Decommissioning of Hinkley Point B

On 31<sup>st</sup> July EDF gave a presentation to the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group on their plans for decommissioning Hinkley Point B station. Power generation will cease in 2023, and prior to that EDF has begun discussions with the local authorities and regulators. Planning applications for the demolition of ancillary buildings have been received and this will pave the way for construction of facilities in 2021 -2023 to support decommissioning. De-fuelling will take place from 2023-2027, followed by further decommissioning with the site entering care and maintenance in 2035. At present the decommissioning of all the AGR stations rests with EDF. Discussions have been held regarding the role of NDA in decommissioning the AGR stations and an announcement is expected in 2021.

## Radioactive Waste Planning Group meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The next meeting of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group will be held online on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 10.00 – 12.30. This will include the annual meeting with Low Level Waste Repository to discuss waste arisings and movement, and a discussion with NDA and Magnox

on master-planning. Officers from NuLeAF member authorities wishing to participate should contact [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk).

## Dates for the Diary

Here is the NuLeAF meeting timetable for the second half of 2020 and early 2021. 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
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020	Workshop on NDA Draft Strategy 4	Online
9 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Briefing on SMR programme for local authorities with Rolls Royce	Online
12 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	Online
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Steering Group	TBA
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Radioactive Waste Planning Group	TBA

Members wishing to attend any of the above meetings should contact the secretariat at [catherine.draper@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@suffolk.gov.uk)

## 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). 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](http://www.nuleaf.org.uk)  
*E:* [catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk](mailto:catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk)