

NuLeAF: NUCLEAR LEGACY ADVISORY FORUM

LGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held online on 10th June, 2020

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 Southward	Cumbria County Council
Cllr David Blackburn	Leeds City Council
Cllr Mike Caswell	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Suffolk County Council
Richard Griffin	Allerdale Borough Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Jerry Smith	Dorset County Council
Lisa Chandler	East Suffolk Council
Terry Burns	Essex County Council
Tess Luetchford	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Linda Townsend	Gloucestershire County Council
Sean Morris	Manchester City Council
Lucy Atkinson	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
Doug Bamsey	Sedgemoor District Council
Louise Martin	Somerset County Council
John Burton	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Gillian Ellis-King	South Gloucestershire Council
Cameron Clow	Suffolk County Council
Dylan Llewellyn Jones	Ynys Mon County Council
Philip Matthews	NuLeAF
Catherine Draper	NuLeAF
Murdo Allen	NDA
John McNamara	NDA
Alyson Morris	NDA
<i>Observer</i>	
Simon Napper	RWM

	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	ACTION
	Cllr Riddle welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through protocols for running the meeting online. Apologies were received from: Cllr Craig Rivett – East Suffolk Council, Graham Hammond- Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Jon Beckett – Stroud District Council.	

2.	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH MARCH 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.	UPDATE ON NDA ACTIVITIES, JOHN McNAMARA, HEAD OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	
4.1	The Chair welcomed John McNamara (JMcN) to the meeting.	
4.2	JMcN provided an update on NDA activities to date during the Covid-19 crisis:	
4.2.1	At the start of lockdown, NDA worked with the regulators to pause the majority of work on sites. Many of their 16,000 staff now work from home, where it is possible to do so. Social media is used to keep in touch with those staff who do not have laptops.	
4.2.2	A recovery group has been set up, headed by Richard Green, and a recovery plan has been drawn up.	
4.2.3	Some work has restarted at Sellafield, and work will soon restart at Dounreay and Magnox sites. This will be low key and low scale. Initially work will be health and safety related and also look at how sites can be made to conform to social distancing rules while being operational. NDA has engaged with staff and unions and recognises that some staff will be reticent about returning.	
4.2.4	The recovery group, with input from Paul Vallance and JMcN, is also considering how NDA will engage with its stakeholders in the coming months. The decision on whether the supply chain event and the stakeholder summit will go ahead will be made in the next few weeks.	
4.2.5	SSGs have been given the opportunity engage online or via teleconference. There has been a mixed response on the need to hold meetings. Hunterston SSG held a meeting via teleconference which was judged successful. An NGO webinar is being held later this month, and an SSG chairs meeting is being considered.	
4.2.6	NDA has identified a way to engage with stakeholders on the development of Strategy 4. Consultation will be held in	

	the autumn and a tool kit to permit engagement is being developed.	
4.2.7	NDA will be rolling out Windows 10 enabled IT to its staff which will enable more flexibility in the manner of engagement. Microsoft Teams will become accessible. At present staff are having to use personal equipment to join Teams meetings.	
4.2.8	NDA has recognised that there may be a need to review the Local Economic and Social Impact Strategy in light of the Covid-19 pandemic as communities reassess what they need.	
4.2.9	The new socio-economic website should go live on 1 st July.	
4.3	The meeting opened to questions:	
4.3.1	<i>Q: Given that the Magnox reprocessing plant was due to close at the end of this year, will it restart?</i> A: I will speak to Sellafield and come back to you on this.	JMcN
4.3.2	<i>Q: Given the nature of the site, what was the staffing situation at Sellafield?</i> A: Workforce arrangement were agreed with the regulator to ensure safety requirements were met.	
4.3.3	<i>Q: What support is being given to the supply chain as it is almost shutdown, and the locality cannot afford to lose the jobs?</i> A: We agree the long term effects on the supply chain is worrying.	
4.3.4	<i>Q: What are your plans for redrawing the socio-economic strategy?</i> A: We are considering the options which include a complete rewrite, or implementing the strategy as it stands but from a post Covid-19 point of view.	
4.3.5	<i>Comment:</i> We'd like to thank Sellafield and NDA for the support during the Covid-19 crisis, both in terms of funding and resources.	
4.3.6	<i>Q: What is the latest position on the decommissioning of the AGR fleet? What engagement with the SSGs is there on this?</i> A: Hunterston and Hinkley Point B will be the first two AGR reactors to decommission. BEIS is working with EDF and NDA. No decisions have yet been made. The first step will be defueling which will take a number of years and there is some merit in the operator undertaking this. Once this stage is completed the skills required and level of workforce changes. NDA and EDF pushed for the Hunterston meeting	

	to go ahead, but it is up to individual SSG Chairs whether meetings take place under current circumstances.	
4.3.7	<p><i>Q: Have you considered the implications for the GDF inventory if the Magnox reprocessing plant is unable to restart?</i></p> <p>A: I will arrange for a member of staff to brief you on this at your next meeting.</p>	JMcN
4.3.8	<i>Comment:</i> We would also like to register our thanks to NDA and Magnox for the support of the community around Wylfa, and reiterate that the impact of Covid-19 in local communities is of concern all over the county and any updates on the approach your socio-economic strategy will take in tackling this would be appreciated.	
4.3.9	<i>Comment:</i> A clear commitment from NDA to work with recovery plans is important.	
4.3.10	<i>Comment:</i> We do not yet know the full implications the impact of Covid-19 will have on communities. Whatever approach NDA takes, it needs to have built in flexibility so it can respond to a changing situation.	
4.3.11	<p><i>Q: In your draft socio-economic strategy you talk about working with local authorities, but will you also work with groups further down the hierarchy – parish councils and community groups?</i></p> <p>A: We will engage with regional and local groups. SSGs echo your comments and want to see support for local projects.</p>	
4.13	The Chair thanked JMcN for his contribution.	
5.	DISCUSSION WITH NDA ON DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY	
5.1	The Chair welcomed Alyson Morris and Murdo Allen to the meeting.	
5.2	MA gave an overview of the work being carried out. NDA is working to put sustainability at the heart of Strategy 4 and is being guided by engagement by external agencies. In addition, NDA is working to set out a pathway towards net carbon zero in line with UK government policy.	
5.2.1	Oversight of the work is with Alan Cumming, NDA Director of Operations and Gwen Parry-Jones, Magnox CEO. MA sits below them, though a new Head of Sustainability is currently being recruited. A group of 'rising stars' is bringing a different perspective, and overall a group-wide task team helps decide how to take the work forward.	

A specialist contractor has been engaged to develop a carbon emissions report based on 2018-19 data, and the 2019-20 data is being drawn together. This is focussed in the first instance on direct emissions, but they are also looking at the more challenging issue of emissions from the supply chain. A further specialist is being sought to help NDA look at this issue and help them decide how far down the supply chain they go.

5.2.2 Key areas of focus are:

- Understanding the current carbon footprint
- Stakeholder engagement (at present they are only a month into the project so this has been limited)
- Understanding how the baseline will change with mission progress
- Considering the options for carbon reduction
- Establishing carbon reduction targets
- Developing the roadmap – set targets for the group to achieve and create a carbon management plan to achieve the targets.

5.2.3 Progress to date includes:

- Recruitment process for a Sustainability Director is under way
- Data gathering is taking place
- Summary report has been commissioned
- Expert support for the project has been sought
- Initial meeting with the NDA component organisations has taken place

Refining the carbon footprint will take time, particularly in relation to how the impact of businesses and services NDA procures is accounted for.

5.3 The Chair thanked MA for his presentation and opened the meeting to questions:

5.3.1 *Q: One of the biggest contributors to the carbon footprint is the use of cars and deliveries to site. We encourage the use of rail and are awaiting the development of a transport and movement plan. Resolving this issue could be a quick win.*

A: We don't identify travel as a big contributor – electricity use is our largest factor. But that doesn't mean we can't address transport as it does have an impact. The change in format for meetings enforced by the Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to change the way we meet longer term, cutting travel emissions.

5.3.2 *Comment:* It is key that there is engagement with NuLeAF, local authorities and the SSGs. Councils have developed climate change plans and are working to achieve carbon reduction through the planning process.

5.3.3	<p><i>Q: As part of your move towards zero carbon, will you be looking at opportunities to retro-fit buildings with solar panels, or put a solar farm on land which is not in use. Your sites have good electricity connections and so would be suitable for battery storage development. This can be an interim use for a site.</i></p> <p>A: One of our actions is to produce a list of opportunities across the sites.</p>	
5.3.4	<p><i>Q: Will the targets set be NDA wide, or will it be the responsibility of Magnox and the other subsidiaries/PBOs to deliver and report?</i></p> <p>A: The intention is that all NDA companies will have their own targets which feed into the overall target.</p>	
5.3.5	<p><i>Q: Will there be a formal consultation or further opportunities to provide input?</i></p> <p>A: We need to give further thought to our engagement programme. Input from others going through the same process will be helpful.</p>	
5.3.6	<p><i>Comment:</i> engagement with local authorities needs to happen quickly because we are developing our plans now. Delay could result in the loss of opportunity to influence and engage.</p>	
5.3.7	<p><i>Q: How will this link with the NDA socio-economic strategy? We need to highlight the economic opportunity of carbon reduction and 'green recovery' in that.</i></p> <p>A: Our intention is to produce a list of clean energy projects and potential site uses. We will take this to the Executive and hopefully projects will develop from this. We are considering engaging the local supply chain, but there is further work to be done in this area.</p>	
5.3.8	<p><i>Comment:</i> Work in Copeland on climate change is being led by staff within the nuclear team – I would be happy to provide you with their contact details so you can understand what we are doing.</p>	SS
5.4	<p>AM gave an overview of the Sustainability Report which is currently in preparation. This will be the first groupwide report produced. The aim is to publish at the end of September, and NDA has engaged specialist help to develop a high-level storyboard. AM took the meeting through the planned layout of the document. The final report will be publicly available. She is keen that it is informative and engaging. It is a pilot and so may not contain everything people would like, but omissions can be addressed in future years. AM would welcome ideas of what NuLeAF members would like to see included in the report and details of any particular case.</p>	

5.4.1	<p><i>Q: How will a national organisation such as NDA make the report relatable to local sites?</i></p>	
	<p>A: We will endeavour to reflect the local perspective, but we recognise that there is the potential for Sellafield to dominate the data. We may not be able to address this in this report, but hopefully in later iterations.</p>	
5.4.2	<p><i>Q: Can we pass your details on to our climate change teams?</i></p>	
	<p>A: Yes</p>	
5.4.3	<p><i>Q: How will you get sites to deliver on the benchmarks you set?</i></p>	
	<p>A: Responsibility for implementing the report will sit with a senior director. There will also be engagement with staff which will help engender ownership.</p>	
5.4.4	<p><i>Q: NDA has been challenged by the Public Accounts Committee and others on how it meets its social license to operate. Is there an intention not just to develop indicators but to develop a robust set of targets across a wider set of economic, social and environmental objectives that will drive positive change?</i></p>	
	<p>A: We intend to set indicators. I think we would have an ambition to set targets, but I will take your comment away.</p>	
5.4.5	<p><i>Q: Case studies will be a good way of seeing best practice across the group. How will you communicate the monitoring indicators for each group within NDA?</i></p>	
	<p>A: In this report we may not have all the data on the Key Performance Indicators, but it is something we would hope to address in later revisions.</p>	
5.4.6	<p><i>Q: Will other companies within NDA produce their own reports?</i></p>	
	<p>A: Sellafield already produces their own. If there is the desire for Magnox to produce a report then we could consider that if this report doesn't produce the level of detail required.</p>	
5.4.7	<p><i>Q: Will the Magnox sites each have someone who take responsibility for delivering the sustainability agenda?</i></p>	
	<p>A: Magnox is currently working towards greater clarity on understanding sustainability within its business.</p>	
5.4.8	<p><i>Q: It may help if you consider what your report will look like to us and what it would mean to us at a local level and thus what we can do to help you deliver your commitments locally.</i></p>	AM/All

5.4.9	<p>A: We would be happy to share a draft of the document with you and would welcome thoughts on topics for case studies.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> It may be useful if the report could contain pointers to indicate what future iterations of the report would include.</p>	
5.	The Chair thanked AM and MA. NuLeAF is enthusiastic to work with you in this area.	
6.	UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS	
6.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and covered; Geological Disposal and Covid-19, an update on activities at RWM, NuLeAF Briefing Paper on Retrievability, and an update on NuLeAF's international activities.	
6.2	The Chair welcomed Simon Napper as an observer to the meeting and asked if he had any comments.	
6.3	SN thanked NuLeAF for the opportunity to review the Briefing Paper and hoped the comments submitted had been useful. RWM is aware of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 crisis to local authorities and is grateful for their continued involvement in the GDF siting process.	
6.4	A question was raised regarding the selection of the UK representatives on the EURAD project. PM responded that he understood a balance of national and local level representatives had been sought from both east and west Europe, but was not sure why the particular individuals from the UK had been chosen.	
6.5	The meeting agreed that the Briefing Paper on Retrievability should be adopted. Proposed by Cllr Matthew Riddle, seconded by Cllr David Moore, unanimously agreed. The paper will now be posted on the NuLeAF website.	CD
6.6	PM advised the meeting that he was also developing a Briefing Paper on the inventory for the Geological Disposal Facility. He also hoped to get Danny Fox from NDA to speak at a future meeting on the range of nuclear materials which NDA manages.	
7.	UPDATE ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT	
7.1	PM introduced the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting and provided updates on; NDA, NDA	

	Strategy 4, NDA Group meetings, Magnox, BEIS, Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP), and CoRWM.	
7.2	The meeting welcomed the proposal to ask MoD to open up the opportunity to visit Rosyth to other members.	
7.3	It was noted that the NDA Business Plan now referred to the GDF opening in the 2040s rather than in 2040.	
8	REFRESHING NuLeAF WEBSITE AND PUBLICATION MATERIALS	
8.1	PM took the members through the paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting.	
8.2	The meeting agreed with the proposal to review the website and publication materials.	PM/CD
8.3	The Chair encouraged members to view the website and submit comments to the secretariat.	All
9	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
9.1	The next meeting will be held on 9 th September 2020.	
9.2	The Chair advised members that NuLeAF was considering how meetings would be held in the future. A hybrid meeting where some attend in person and some via video is being considered. No decision will be made now, but further thought will be given in light of Covid-19 restrictions.	
9.3	It was noted that consideration should be given to the balance of presentations and papers, as lately consideration of the papers has been shortened due to the time taken on presentations.	
9.4	The Chair encouraged members to send comments on meeting format to the secretariat.	All
10	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10.1	There was no further business. The meeting closed at 12.14.	

ACTION LIST

<i>10th June 2020</i>			
2.1	Post Minutes of the meeting held on 29 th January 2020 on NuLeAF website.	CD	Done
4.3.1	Advise NuLeAF re whether Magnox reprocessing plant will restart.	JMcN	Reprocessing to restart before the end of the year.
4.3.7	Arrange briefing from NDA to NuLeAF on implications for GDF inventory of Magnox reprocessing not restarting.	JMcN	Reprocess has restarted.
5.3.8	Send contact details for staff working on climate change to AM/MA	SS	
5.4.8	Share draft report with NuLeAF for comment	AM	Meeting held 25 th August
5.4.8	Suggest topics for case studies	All	None received.
6.5	Post Briefing Paper on website	CD	Done
8.2	Commission review of website and materials.	PM/CD	Material review commissioned 13 July.
8.3	Submit comments on the website.	All	One comment received
9.4	Consider meeting format and submit any suggestions to secretariat.	All	A paper outlining proposals submitted to September meeting
<i>6th June, 2018</i>			
3.3	Follow up with Mike Caswell re meeting	DB	Report provided to SG under item 7.