

Meeting: Nuleaf Steering Group
Date: 9th December 2020
Item: 5
Subject: Renewal of GMF membership
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Background

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

That the Steering Group 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. Our level of engagement has grown over time, reflecting the greater interest amongst international organisations in addressing the local and stakeholder dimensions of legacy waste and disposal. We are now an active participant in the work of the IAEA and the Forum for Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) of the NEA, and are a member of the Civil Society Group of the EURAD programme.

GMF¹ (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.

2019 saw a refresh of GMF's presidium and secretariat resulting a more energised organisation and the appointment of Nuleaf's Executive Director as a Vice-President.

¹ <https://gmfeurope.org/>

2. Benefits and costs of membership

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

- The identification of international 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. The maintaining of dialogue with other European countries post-Brexit is also viewed as important by the UK Government (BEIS).

The costs of membership for this year have been set at 2000 Euros (c. £1,800) 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 influenced by our ability to engage on an international stage, membership of GMF helps support our funding discussions.

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