

Projects Update

LEAD OFFICER: John Groves
REPORT AUTHOR: Denice Gallen

Summary and Recommendation:

This paper provides a summary update of key projects relating to the Councils nuclear activities and Members are asked to note the current position and way forward.

1. NUCLEAR NEW BUILD

Toshiba and GDF SUEZ have completed a deal on the 30th June for Toshiba to buy a 60% share in the NuGen Ltd Company who are responsible for developing the nuclear new build plan at the Moorside site to the north of Sellafield.

The Council will be working with NuGen to develop their planning application known as a Development Consent Order (DCO). NuGen hope to have permission granted by 2018 with the first reactor coming on line in 2024.

A final investment decisions should be made in about four years.

The Council aims to work with NuGen to help them deliver their project in a way that minimises the impact on the environment, whilst maximising the opportunities for local people and securing a positive lasting legacy for the wider area.

The Council has signed a planning performance agreement (PPA) with NuGen to insure we can recover all costs of managing the DCO.

NuGen have been asked to come and meet all Members and give a presentation on the proposed project.

2. NORTH WEST COAST CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The National Grid are hosting a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) meeting in the castle green hotel on the 9th July where they will provide an update on the next stage of the consultation process expected to take place in Autumn 2014.

After a pause in the process last year National Grid are keen to progress to the next stage in the consultation, which is expected to take place in early autumn and will include a number of workshops held throughout the County where members of the public can come and see the proposed routes and offer feedback. The consultation will also be available on line and the National grid will be directly leafleting houses and business in close proximity to the preferred route.

The National Grid will also be coming to the Copeland Centre on the 16th September to give all Members a briefing on the proposal. All Members are encouraged to attend and to promote awareness of the workshops within their localities to members of the public to encourage feedback.

Full details and information is also available on the project website: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

3. Geological Disposal Facility

DECC is still reviewing the revised process and it is still expected to be announced before Government summer recess.

The Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM) was established as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on the 1 April 2014. Radioactive Waste Management Limited is responsible for implementing geological disposal of higher activity radioactive wastes in the UK. Stakeholders and regulators raise issues during the lifecycle of any project and we have a process for managing these issues.

Following on from feedback last year, Radioactive Waste Management Ltd has reviewed and produced a new version of the risk register for the Geological Disposal Facility, which can be viewed at: <http://www.nda.gov.uk/rwm/issues/introduction/>

The risk register records any 'issues' raised and how they have dealt with them. You can also raise an issue through the above website.

4. Nuclear Legacy Advisor Forum (NuLeAF)

The next Steering Group meeting will be held on 24 July in Preston, by invitation of Lancashire County Council. Topics to be discussed during the meeting include:

- Update on the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) process;
- NuLeAF and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS);
- Update on NDA strategy and operations; and
- NuLeAF meetings – maintaining and encouraging participation.

Clive Nixon of NDA will make the afternoon presentation/discussion on developments in the management of the UK civil plutonium stockpile.

The next meeting of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group (officer working group) will take place on 3 September at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.30 – 3.30. We are hoping that a representative from the Environment Agency will attend and take questions on their approach to coastal erosion around nuclear licensed sites.