

NuLeAF Annual Report

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Summary and Recommendation:

This paper provides a summary of the annual report of NuLeAF published in October 2012

1. Background

NuLeaf is a Special Interest Group on Radioactive Waste Management and Nuclear Decommissioning established in 2003 under the auspices of the Local Government Association. The Borough Council was one of the original members of the organization when it was recognized that there was a need to develop an organization that could speak for Local Government at a national level on nuclear legacy management. The forum 'seeks to ensure effective communication and information sharing amongst local authorities'. It consults its members on issues of national nuclear waste and legacy management that are brought forward from such bodies as the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

A Steering Group meets 4 times a year. Additional sub-group meetings and topic specific meetings are also arranged along with an annual seminar. Annual membership costs relate to the size of population in a local authority area and the fee for Copeland is currently £665 per year.

2. Annual Report 2011/12

Attached as Appendix a to this report is a copy of the Annual Report of NuLeaf for 2011/12 which was presented to the AGM on 24th October.

Significant events include:

- the departure of Fred Barker as Executive Director and the engagement of Stewart Kemp and Philip Matthews as Executive Co-Directors.

- continued participation in the West Cumbria MRWS¹ Partnership, which has now published its final report. The report will assist the Decision Making Bodies (DMBs) (Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council & Cumbria County Council) in deciding whether to engage in the next stage of the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility. It had been anticipated that a decision would be made on 11 October; however Government has agreed with the DMBs that a pause of three months before a final decision is made will enable resolution or clarification of a number of issues.
- consultation by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) on its Business Plan 2012-15 and revised Strategy, and discussion with member authorities about key aspects of strategy implementation;
- consultation by the Ministry of Defence on the proposals for taking forward the Submarine Dismantling Project, and subsequent publication of the Post Consultation Report;
- development of a protocol to give guidance to the working relationship between NuLeAF and the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG);
- publication of the government response to the Weightman Report on the Fukushima nuclear accident;
- publication of the Final Report by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on the EC Stress Tests Report; and
- government consultation on the management of the UK civil plutonium stockpile.

¹ MRWS stands for Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely, which is the name given to the Government programme to manage higher activity radioactive wastes in the long-term. The central feature of the MRWS programme is the work to find a site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Meeting:	NuLeAF Annual General Meeting, 24 October, 2012
Agenda Item:	3
Subject:	Annual Report
Author:	Catherine Draper
Purpose:	To provide an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2011

Introduction

This report provides an overview of organisational developments and activities since the AGM in 2011.

Context

The last year has seen significant changes in NuLeAF staffing and developments in nuclear legacy and radioactive waste management and in NuLeAF's associated work programme.

2. Overview of Organisational Developments and Activities

Organisational developments and activities have included:

Staffing

After six years with NuLeAF, Fred Barker decided not to renew his contract when it expired in June 2012. Working closely with the Chair and Vice-Chair, Suffolk County Council undertook the recruitment process and Philip Matthew and Stewart Kemp were duly appointed on two year contracts on a job-share basis. Philip is an energy and climate change specialist with CAG Consultants and was previously a Senior Policy Advisor and Acting Director of the Sustainable Development Commission in Scotland. Stewart was Nuclear Issues Manager with Cumbria County Council, with over 25 years experience of working on nuclear issues within local government.

Steering Group

Four meetings of the Steering Group (SG) have been held in: London (25 January), Manchester (25 April and 20 July), and Birmingham (24 October). Guest speakers came from:

- Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) (on the status of the MRWS programme, including a viewing of the DVD produced by the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership on their participation in the process).
- Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) (about the work of ONR, an update on the outcomes from the report on the Fukushima nuclear accident, emergency planning and European stress tests).
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) (as part of the ongoing engagement between local authorities, NDA, Site Licensee Companies and regulators a meeting was held to discuss developments in the Integrated Waste Management programme).

Member Authorities

NuLeAF now has 103 member authorities comprising: 17 contributing authorities, 82 corresponding members and 4 NFLA co-optees. The list of member authorities is attached. South Ribble Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council joined as corresponding members. The contact at West Lindsey District Council left office, and to date we have not been able to secure another contact point.

The Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)

The RWPG has met three times since the last AGM. It continues to provide a mechanism for officer review and discussion of key issues prior to preparation of reports for the Steering Group. During the course of the year issues it has considered include:

- NDA Low Level Waste Strategy implementation
- NDA Strategy development on Integrated Waste Management and Site Restoration
- Outcome of the Somerset County Council Waste Core Strategy Hearing in Public and the implications for other local authorities

- Storage of spent fuel for new nuclear power stations
- Scope of review of Briefing Paper 21 (interim advice on approaches to radioactive waste management in MWDFs) in light of outcomes of NuLeAF seminar.

The meetings continue to be well attended, with current attendance at around 11 officers, plus NuLeAF. Core membership includes: Cumbria County Council, Dorset County Council, Essex County Council, Hampshire County Council, Kent County Council, Lancashire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Somerset County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and Suffolk County Council.

Engagement Meetings with NDA, SLCs and Regulators

A new forum was set up in 2011 to facilitate improved engagement between NDA, site licensee companies (SLCs), the regulatory bodies and local authorities with Magnox and RSRL sites. In 2012, meetings were held on 25 September and 24 October. The key issues addressed were:

- Magnox Optimised Decommissioning Programme (MODP);
- integrated waste management;
- NDA strategy;
- community benefits;
- engagement with local authorities; and
- site restoration.

Minutes and presentations from the meetings can be found on a [dedicated section](#) of the NuLeAF website.

Input to the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Wastes Safely Partnership

NuLeAF has continued to have a substantial input to the Partnership, including participation in the Public & Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) Sub-group and the Technical Review Group. The previous Executive Director was involved in the preparation of initial drafts of assessment papers including:

- the framework for desk based identification and assessment of potential candidate sites for geological disposal,
- commenting on the siting chapter,
- work on consultation documentation,
- comments on PSE reporting proposals and drafting of the bridging paper,
- commenting on the draft inventory chapter,
- reviewing DECC stage 4 material, and
- input to draft final report.

The costs of staff time for this input are charged to the Partnership (see the Finance Report at AGM item 5).

Potential Input to Somerset and Suffolk Local Authorities on Radioactive Waste Management and New Nuclear Stations

The former Executive Director responded to a series of questions raised by Somerset County Council concerning EDF's radioactive waste management proposals for Hinkley Point C. In addition, comments were made on the draft waste topic paper and its subsequent revisions. To date, no work has been undertaken on behalf of Suffolk County Council as submission of the application for Sizewell C has been delayed. It is likely that this will now take place in 2013.

New Nuclear Local Authority Group (NNLAG)

A [protocol](#) establishing the working relationship between NuLeAF and NNLAG has been agreed, and input has been given on the proposed community benefits protocol.

Services to Member Authorities

Services to member authorities continue to be maintained.

The website features a series of case studies to promote understanding, learning and good practice. These include NuLeAF case studies, links to planning reports on specific applications, and industry projects.

One new NuLeAF [case study](#) was published during the course of the year on the Dungeness Economic Impact Study and Socio-Economic Plan.

Other material published on the NuLeAF website since the last AGM includes: four [e-bulletins](#), a Policy Statement on Strategic Objectives for 2012 ([PS9](#)); and Briefing Papers on Interim Advice on Approaches to Radioactive Waste Management in MWDFs ([BP21](#)) and Radioactive Waste Management and New Nuclear Power Stations ([BP22](#)).

A newsletter rounding up items of interest, dates for the diary and current consultations is sent out to contributing member authorities in those months when an e-bulletin is not issued.

Seminar

NuLeAF ran a seminar 'Radioactive Waste Management and Spatial Planning' on March 9th at Local Government House. Forty-six people attended the seminar, the majority from local authorities, with representatives also from regulatory bodies and from industry. A full report on the seminar is published on the NuLeAF [website](#).

Responses to Consultation

During the course of the year [consultation responses](#) have been submitted on:

- NDA consultation on credible options for the storage of ILW in Central and Southern Scotland;
- the proposal to dispose of LLW in a near-surface repository at Dounreay;
- the proposed justification process for the reuse of the UK civil plutonium stockpile;
- the Submarine Dismantling Project consultation;
- NDA proposals for Integrated Waste Management Strategy Development; and
- NDA Business Plan 2012-15

Events and Representation at Meetings

Officers have arranged or attended a large number of meetings and workshops on MRWS and other nuclear legacy management issues. These include:

- regular MRWS liaison meetings with Government and NDA;
- the MRWS Regulatory Interface Management Group;
- participation in the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership;
- the NDA's Integrated Waste Management and Site Restoration Topic Overview Groups;
- the LLWR's Integrated LLW Programme Delivery Overview Group, Regulatory Group, and Alternative Disposal Routes for VLLW Group
- the Consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment Sub-Groups of the MoD's Submarine Dismantling Project;
- NDA MRWS Stage 4 Environmental Assessment Workshop;
- 13th International Congress of International Radiation Protection Association;
- the Geological Disposal Implementation Board;
- meeting with Environment Agency to discuss environmental permitting and LLW disposal; and
- Nuclear Environmental Discharges Conference.

NULEAF MEMBER AUTHORITIES

Contributing members:

1. Allerdale Borough Council
2. Copeland Borough Council
3. Cumbria County Council
4. Dorset County Council
5. Hampshire County Council
6. Hartlepool Borough Council
7. Manchester City Council
8. Oxfordshire County Council
9. Plymouth City Council
10. Sedgemoor District Council
11. Shepway District Council
12. Somerset County Council
13. South Gloucester Council
14. Suffolk Coastal District Council
15. Suffolk County Council
16. West Somerset District Council
17. Ynys Mon County Council

Corresponding members

18. Arun District Council
19. Ashford District Council
20. Barrow Borough Council
21. Birmingham City Council
22. Blackpool Borough Council
23. Braintree Borough Council
24. Breckland District Council
25. Broadland District Council
26. Bromsgrove District Council
27. Caerphilly County Borough Council
28. Carlisle City Council
29. Cornwall Council
30. Chelmsford Borough Council
31. Chesterfield Borough Council
32. Cheshire West and Chester Council
33. Dacorum District Council
34. Denbighshire County Council
35. Derby City Council
36. Derbyshire Dales District Council
37. Dorset Fire and Rescue
38. Durham County Council
39. Eden District Council
40. Essex County Council
41. Forest of Dean District Council
42. Forest Heath District Council

43. Fylde Borough Council
44. Gosport Borough Council
45. Great Yarmouth Borough Council
46. Greater London Authority
47. Gwynedd County Council
48. Halton Borough Council
49. Harlow District Council
50. Hyndburn Borough Council
51. Kent County Council
52. Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council
53. Lancashire County Council
54. Lancaster City Council
55. Leeds City Council
56. Leicestershire County Council
57. Lewes District Council
58. Liverpool City Council
59. London Borough of Bromley
60. London Borough of Harrow
61. London Borough of Newham
62. London Borough of Tower Hamlets
63. Maldon District Council
64. Melton Borough Council
65. Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
66. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
67. Norfolk County Council
68. Northamptonshire County Council
69. North East Derbyshire District Council
70. North Norfolk District Council
71. Norwich City Council
72. Nottinghamshire County Council
73. Northumberland County Council
74. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
75. Pembrokeshire County Council
76. Purbeck District Council
77. Rutland County Council
78. Scarborough District Council
79. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
80. South Lakeland District Council
81. South Ribble Borough Council
82. Southampton City Council
83. South Norfolk District Council
84. Stroud District Council
85. Spelthorne Borough Council
86. Staffordshire County Council
87. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
88. Taunton Deane Borough Council
89. Tendring District Council
90. Tunbridge Wells District Council
91. Vale of the White Horse District Council
92. Wansbeck District Council
93. Waveney District Council
94. West Berkshire District Council

- 95. West Lancashire District Council
- 96. Worcestershire County Council

NFLA authorities

- 97. Preston City Council
- 98. Flintshire County Council
- 99. Newport City Council
- 100. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

National Parks Authorities

- 101. Lake District National Park Authority
- 102. North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority
- 103. Snowdonia National Park Authority