

NuLeAF NEWS

March, 2010



Here is a summary of what has been hitting the headlines, recently issued reports, consultations in progress, forthcoming meeting dates and other items of note. This is a monthly service which we are providing to those of our members who financially support our work.

Dates for your diary

The next Low Level Waste Officer's Working Group meeting will be held at the London School of Economics on 10 March, 12.30 to 3.30. The agenda will cover:

- updates on proposals for LLW disposal
- review of the outcome of discussions with regional planners and the NDA on 5 March
- review of the outcome of the NDA's LLW Strategy Group on 3 March
- LLW disposal to landfill – possible coverage in MWDFs.

The next Steering Group will be held on 20 April, 2010 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 11.00 to 3.30. The afternoon session of will be taken up with a presentation and pre-consultation discussion with NDA on the proposals it intends to make for its revised over-arching strategy.

To register for either meeting contact catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk

In the press...

"NDA boss accused of 'scaremongering'" [Whitehaven News](#)

"Sellafield is like BP's Texas City before the fire, says NDA boss" [The Guardian](#)

"London 2012: Radioactive waste? No problem, we've got a plastic sheet" [The Sunday Express](#)

"Site visit over nuclear waste plans" [Whitehaven News](#)

"We'll consult on nuclear submarine dismantling: minister" [Plymouth Herald](#)

"Underground dump not a 'done deal'" [Whitehaven News](#)

"MP opposes Keekle Head for nuclear waste site" [Whitehaven News](#)

"Radioactive waste plant proposed" [BBC News](#)

"Navy dock in danger of becoming a 'nuclear dumping ground'" [The Guardian](#)

NDA News

The Environment Agency has published a [report](#) scrutinising the NDA's work on geological disposal in 2008/09 and outlines the Agency's plans for 2009/10.

Other News

A Blue Ribbon Commission has been established to provide recommendations for developing a safe, long-term solution for managing the USA's spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. To read more about the Commissions composition and remit click [here](#).

The [final summary report](#) for the ARGONA project has now been published. The project investigated how approaches of transparency and deliberation relate to each other and to the political system in which decisions, for example on the final disposal of nuclear waste, are ultimately taken. The project also studied how good risk communication could be undertaken and the conduct of public consultations.

New on NuLeAF's website

- NuLeAF's comments on the [nuclear draft National Policy Statement](#) and [the proposed justification decision on new nuclear build](#) have been posted on the website.
- You can view the West Berkshire Council [planning committee report](#) on the application for a replacement storage and handling facility for enriched uranium at Aldermaston.
- The overview of proposed LLW disposal facilities in Cumbria, Lancashire and Northamptonshire has been updated ([overview of LLW developments](#)).

Consultations

The Scottish Government is consulting on its proposed policy for managing Higher Activity Waste (HAW). The consultation document can be viewed [here](#) and closes on 9 April, 2010. The proposed policy is to support long term near surface, near site storage and disposal facilities so that the waste is monitorable and retrievable and the need for transporting it over long distances is minimal.

As the proposed policy could have some implications for waste management in England and Wales, the NuLeAF Steering Group has agreed to submit comments (see the [report](#) presented to the Steering Group at its meeting on 27 January, 2010). One of the key issues is the lack of discussion about the sort of strategy that might be used to site near surface disposal facilities.

NuLeAF NEWS

April, 2010



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Dates for your diary

The next Steering Group will be held on 20 April, 2010 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 11.00 to 3.30. The afternoon session of will be taken up with a presentation and pre-consultation discussion with NDA on the proposals it intends to make for its revised over-arching strategy. Steering Group papers will be available on the NuLeAF [website](#) no later than 13 April.

The next meeting of the Low Level Waste Officer's Working Group will be held on 8 June, 2010 at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, 12.30 to 3.30.

To register for either of these meetings contact catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk

In the press...

"Isle of Man to oppose nuclear waste dump plan" [Isle of Man Today](#)

"Appeal over radioactive dump plan for Northamptonshire" [BBC News](#)

"Plans to dump radioactive waste at Northamptonshire landfill site rejected" [Northampton Chronicle and Echo](#)

"Waste plans hit by cash squeeze" [John O'Groat Journal](#)

"Select Committee hears of nuclear waste options" [Whitehaven News](#)

"Parish Council opposed to waste plans" [Whitehaven News](#)

NDA News

NDA has published their Business Plan 2010-13. More information and a copy of the full Business Plan can be found on their [website](#). NDA has also published a discussion paper on developing a strategy for the management of spent oxide fuels. The paper can be viewed on their website [here](#) and details are also given of how to comment. The final version of the UK Strategy for Low Level Radioactive Waste will be published shortly.

The second issue of NDA's newsletter '[Insight](#)' has been published. It includes: an update from the NDA CE, Tony Fountain, an article on the return of high level waste to overseas customers and a round up of what's happening at individual sites.

CoRWM

CoRWM has submitted its comments on the draft National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure. You can read them [here](#).

They have also published a [statement](#) on their position with regard to new nuclear build wastes.

The Committee's [draft response](#) to the Scottish Government consultation on Higher Activity Wastes is being discussed at their plenary meeting on 22-23 March.

West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

The February issue of the Partnership newsletter is available to download on their [website](#). See the document library for a complete listing of meeting reports.

New on NuLeAF's website

The overview of proposed LLW disposal facilities in Cumbria, Lancashire and Northamptonshire has been updated to reflect the outcome of the Northamptonshire Development Control Committee meeting and other developments. The proposal for the disposal of NORM (naturally occurring radioactive materials) at the Stoneyhill landfill site near Peterhead has also been included ([overview of LLW developments](#)). See also below for NuLeAF's response to the Scottish Government consultation on Higher Activity Wastes.

Consultations

The Scottish Government is consulting on its proposed policy for managing Higher Activity Waste (HAW). The consultation document can be viewed [here](#) and closes on 9 April, 2010. NuLeAF has submitted a response which can be viewed [our website](#).

DECC has launched consultations on [financing arrangements for nuclear decommissioning and waste handling regulations](#) and on a [methodology for determining a fixed unit price for waste disposal and updated cost estimates for nuclear decommissioning waste management and waste disposal](#). Both consultations end on 18 June, 2010. These consultations will be considered by the Steering Group at its meeting on 20 April.

A consultation on [planning obligations](#) has been published by DCLG. The closing date is 21 June.

Other News

The House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee has published its [report](#) on the proposals for the national policy statements on energy.

DCLG has published an [overview](#) and [guidance](#) on charge setting and charge scheduling procedures for the Community Infrastructure Levy.