

E-BULLETIN

July 2009,
Issue 15



Welcome to Issue 15 of the e-bulletin. This reports on the outcome of the meeting of the NuLeAF Steering Group (SG) on 15 July and contains news about:

- the next meeting of NuLeAF's Strategy Review Group on 23 September
- the NuLeAF SG and AGM on 15 October
- the international workshop in West Cumbria between 20-21 October
- current consultations
- future consultations
- NDA developments
- NuLeAF case studies and
- a summary of dates for the diary.

Strategy Review Group (SRG)

The next meeting of the SRG is on 23 September (12.30 – 3.30) in Manchester (note that the date of the meeting has been changed from 9 September).

The meeting will have a two part agenda:

- The NDA has been invited to share its thoughts on potential interactions between new nuclear build and nuclear legacy management. The SRG will review whether it would be appropriate to recommend that further work be undertaken on this issue.
- A review of progress towards achieving NuLeAF's strategic objectives for 2009, and identification of objectives to recommend to the AGM for 2010.

Representatives from member authorities are welcome to attend the SRG meeting. Please let the secretariat know if you wish to attend (catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk).

NuLeAF SG and AGM

These are taking place on 15 October at the Strand Campus, King's College, London (11.00 – 3.30).

The Chair, Councillor Holliday from Copeland Borough Council, has indicated his willingness to continue in that role. However, the Vice Chair, Councillor Swainson from Suffolk County Council, was not re-elected to that authority in the June elections. Nominations, therefore, for the position of Vice-Chair would be particularly welcome.

The procedure for nominations is as follows:

- a councillor from any contributing member authority may be nominated for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair;
- candidates may be nominated by any member authority, and should be seconded by another member authority; and
- nominations should be submitted in writing to reach the NuLeAF secretariat before 5.00pm on Monday 12 October 2009.

Any member that wishes to discuss what is involved in the role of Chair or Vice-Chair should contact the Executive Director, Fred Barker (07803 905430).

In addition to SG and AGM business, the meeting will hear a presentation by the NDA on its 'value framework' and the way it will be used to inform decisions on its bid to the next Government spending review, and how it has been used in other worked examples eg in assessing business cases for specific projects.

Member authorities are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting.

Finally, the SG recorded its thanks to Councillor Swainson who had played an important role in NuLeAF from its establishment in 2003.

International Workshop

NDA and LLWR Ltd are sponsoring an international workshop on 20-21 October in West Cumbria. The workshop will provide a major opportunity to discuss nuclear legacy management with colleagues from local communities in other countries. The formal agenda is focusing on four themes: updates on international programmes; regeneration and development opportunities; how to make technical issues open and accessible; and opportunities for promoting interactions between local stakeholders from different countries.

The workshop is being held at Energus in West Cumbria, and will be a mixture of presentations, plenary panel sessions and discussion groups. An optional site visit will be organised to the Low Level Waste Repository near the village of Drigg in West Cumbria on the 22 October.

More information is available at [Stakeholder Workshop - International Perspectives on Radioactive Waste Management](#).

NuLeAF has been allocated a small number of places at the workshop. If you are interested in attending please contact the secretariat asap.

Current Consultations

The SG meeting on 15 July considered reports on:

- the NDA's proposed UK strategy for managing Low Level Wastes (LLW) (see [NDA launches the UK Low Level Waste Strategy Consultation](#))
- proposals for changes to the regulation of radioactive substances

The report on the proposed LLW strategy ([SG item 4](#)) summarises:

- the key drivers of the strategy

- the outcome of pre-consultation discussion between NDA and NuLeAF;
- the outcome of the three NuLeAF seminars on LLW strategy in May;
- the outcome of the NuLeAF Officer Working Group meeting on 9 June;
- reporting to the LGA Environment Board; and
- the key points for a consultation response.

The Steering Group discussed the key points to make in response to the consultation, identifying a number of amendments and additions. It delegated authority to a sub-group to finalise the response. This will be published on the NuLeAF website during August. The closing date for comments is 11 September.

The report on radioactive substances regulation (SG item 8) provides an outline of current consultations covering:

- Government guidance on Radioactive Substances Regulation under the Environmental Permitting Programme (closing date 29 July)
- Proposals for a future Exemptions Regime under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 (closing date 4 September)
- Proposals for restructuring the HSE's Nuclear Directorate (closing date 22 September)

The Executive Director (ED) provided verbal updates on the first two consultations based on attendance at workshops in early July. The SG agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and ED to submit responses, based on points made during discussion. These responses will also be published on the NuLeAF website.

Future Consultations

The SG considered reports on:

- Scottish Government policy on the management of higher activity wastes
- The Submarine Dismantling Project (formerly known as ISOLUS)

The report on Scottish Government policy (SG item 5) outlined the way in which policy is being developed and the intention to publish a consultation paper in late summer. The SG agreed to write to the Scottish Government to suggest that the forthcoming consultation include a question about whether Vitrified High Level Waste from reprocessing spent fuel from nuclear power stations in Scotland should be included within the scope of its policy.

The report on the Submarine Dismantling Project (SG item 6) explained that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken with plans for consultation towards the end of the year. It is anticipated that potential sites for dismantling and storage of the resultant radioactive wastes will be named in the SEA, and that local consultations will take place in affected areas. The SG agreed to arrange, or assist with arranging, a pre-consultation briefing for potentially affected local authorities and delegate authority to the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements.

NDA Developments

The SG considered a report (SG item 7) that covered:

- The NDA response to NuLeAF's request that it consider ways of increasing stakeholder understanding of, and confidence in, the Value Framework.

- The discussion at the National Stakeholder Group on 17-18 June, including the strategy review, socio-economic support and inter-site transfers of radioactive waste.
- The appointment of the NDA's new CEO.

Following discussion, the SG agreed:

- the preparation of a Briefing Paper on opportunities for socio-economic support from the NDA; and
- to consider a report at its next meeting on the NDA's approach to the concentration of waste management at a smaller number of sites.

NuLeAF Case Studies

Three new case studies have been published on the NuLeAF website ([Case Studies](#)):

- Case Study 6, 'The Outcome of the Inspector's Examination of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework', May 09.
- Case Study 7, 'The LLW Disposal Facility – Caithness and North Sutherland Community Fund', July 09
- Case Study 8, 'Chapelcross Industrial Park and Incubation Centre – A Successful Bid to the NDA Socio-Economic Fund', July 09.

Dates for the Diary

10 September	LLW Officer Working Group, Local Government House, London (12.30 – 3.30)
23 September	Strategy Review Group, Manchester Town Hall (12.30-3.30)
15 October	Steering Group and AGM, King's College, London (11.00 – 3.30)
20-21 October	International Workshop, West Cumbria

Member authorities that wish to be represented at any of these meetings should contact the secretariat.

Contact Points

All member authorities are also asked to ensure that NuLeAF is kept informed of any changes to officer or councillor contacts. It is important that these are kept up-to-date, so that the right people receive e-bulletins, invitations to NuLeAF meetings and other information.

NuLeAF can be contacted via the Secretariat c/o Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, Tel: 01473 264833 e-mail: catherine.draper@nuleaf.org.uk.