

NDA Monthly Update

April 2011

Summary

- The latest Business Plan has now been published
- The 2010 Radioactive Waste Inventory is now available on the website
- UK Government and Scottish Ministers have approved Strategy II
- Safety documents produced for Geological Disposal Facility
- Revised plutonium options paper published.
- The latest edition of the [NDA's Insight](#) magazine is now available.
- Work has started on construction of a new £20 million nuclear research facility in Cumbria.
- Magnox North and Magnox South have completed their reintegration into Magnox Ltd.

Diary Dates

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| • National Engagement Plan published | 7 April |
| • Sellafield Plan finalised | End of May |
| • SSG Chairs' Forum | Late June |
| • Annual Report and Accounts laid before Parliament | July (provisional) |

Business Plan 2011/2012 published

The NDA 2011/12 Business Plan sets out planned annual expenditure of £2.9 billion as part of a four-year total of approximately £12 billion, in line with the UK Government's spending review announced last October. This represents a strong and sustained investment in the UK nuclear clean-up programme.

The priority continues to be tackling the highest hazards, with an accelerated programme of risk and hazard reduction underway at Sellafield as well as challenging targets set for reprocessing and vitrification of highly active liquors. Annual expenditure at Sellafield is planned at £1.55 billion and includes the continued construction of Evaporator D, currently the largest single project in the UK nuclear estate.

[NDA Business Plan 2011 - 2014](#)

Latest Radioactive Waste Inventory published

The latest UK Radioactive Waste Inventory has been published. Provided by the NDA and Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and currently updated every three years, the 2010 Inventory describes the stocks of radioactive waste and radioactive materials held in the UK at 1 April 2010. It also predicts wastes and materials that could arise from the operation and decommissioning of current facilities in the future. Existing stocks and future estimates change over time as waste is treated and packaged, regulations are amended, technology and plans change and forecasts are refined.

[UK Radioactive Waste Inventory \(as at 1 April 2010\) Website](#)

Updated Strategy approved

The UK Government and the Scottish Ministers have approved the NDA's new Strategy which sets the direction for delivering the nuclear clean-up programme. The approval of the Strategy follows an extensive period of engagement with stakeholders during 2009 and 2010, including a formal consultation exercise undertaken between September and November 2010. The Strategy has been approved by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, jointly with the Scottish Ministers as required by the Energy Act 2004.

[Strategy - Effective from April 2011 \(full colour version\)](#)

Reports outline safety factors for geological disposal

Safeguards for the public, the workforce and the environment against exposure to radiation through a multi-barrier approach are vital to the safe disposal of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste. These are the major considerations for the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate's (RWMD) scientists and engineers who are working on plans to safely and securely build a deep underground disposal facility which will keep the radioactive materials isolated from the environment for hundreds of thousands of

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years. RWMD has now published a suite of scientific and technical reports, known as the Disposal System Safety Case, which explain all the safety factors that need to be considered when an application is submitted to the nuclear regulators for permission to operate such a facility.

[More information on the generic Disposal System Safety Case \(DSSC\) for geological disposal of radioactive waste](#)

Plutonium options paper published

The NDA has published an updated version of the Plutonium Credible Options Analysis which takes account of a number of new developments since the original paper published in January 2009. In particular, a further option has been added, of reuse of plutonium as MOX fuel in UK new nuclear power stations for consideration. This updated report has been forwarded to Government with the aim of informing its consideration of the future policy framework which will facilitate decision-making in this area. To this end the Government has also launched a public consultation.

[NDA Plutonium Strategy - Current Position January 2011](#)

[Plutonium Credible Options Analysis 2010 \(redacted\)](#)

Newsletter available

The latest edition of the NDA's stakeholder magazine Insight is now published, available on the website or as hard copy.

[Insight into Nuclear Decommissioning - Newsletter Edition 5](#)

Work starts on research facility

Construction work has started on the foundations for a new £20 million nuclear research centre in West Cumbria. The Dalton Cumbrian Facility (DCF) is being constructed on the Westlakes Science and Technology Park, near Whitehaven, and is scheduled to open in September 2011. DCF will be a new research base for The University of Manchester's Dalton Nuclear Institute and is the result of joint investment by the University and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). DCF is designed to expand the nuclear research and education capability of the UK's university sector and has the overall aim of delivering world-class nuclear research and transferring knowledge to industry.

[Dalton Cumbrian Facility Brochure](#)

Magnox reintegration

Magnox North and Magnox South have completed their reintegration into a single legal entity, named Magnox Ltd. In the short term, the Magnox South and Magnox North groups will become separate business groups of Magnox Ltd. In the longer term, they will transition to three groups that better fit with their plans to take forward operations and decommissioning.