

# NDA Monthly Update

## June 2011

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### Summary

- Dounreay Head of Programme named
- £1.2 million of socio-economic support in the Scottish Borders
- Underground facility will create hundreds of jobs
- The latest edition of the NDA's Insight magazine is now available
- The Business Plan for 2011/12 is now published on the website
- The 2010 Radioactive Waste Inventory is available on the website
- UK Government and Scottish Ministers have approved Strategy II
- Safety documents produced for the Geological Disposal Facility

### Diary Dates

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|--|--------------------|
| • Sellafield Plan published                                      | Early summer       |
| • SSG Chairs' Forum  | Late June          |
| • Fuel movements options papers published (Dounreay and Harwell) | Mid-June           |
| • Annual Report and Accounts laid Parliament                     | July (provisional) |
| • Engineering Skills Centre opens in North Highlands             | August             |

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### Dounreay Head of Programme announced

Nigel Lowe, currently with the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, will be joining the NDA as the Head of Programme - DSRL, Dounreay. A Chartered Engineer, Nigel has more than 20 years of contract and commercial experience gained not only in the nuclear industry, where he began his career, but in highly regulated industries such as pharmaceuticals and petrochemical. He is a member of the I.Mech.E and a Fellow of the IET.

[Weblink: Nigel Lowe joins NDA](#)

### £1.2 million socio-economic support

The NDA has awarded a £1.2 million funding package from its Socio-Economic Fund to stimulate the local economy in Annandale and Eskdale. The announcement, made by the Corridor Regeneration Steering (CoReS) Group, marks the culmination of almost two years work on developing a five-year transition support project to help offset the impacts of the eventual closure of the former Chapelcross nuclear power station. 'Beyond Chapelcross' will be delivered by Magnox Limited, Chapelcross, in partnership with the Economic Development Department of Dumfries & Galloway Council.

[Weblink: Funding support around Chapelcross site](#)

### Underground facility will sustain hundreds of jobs

An average of 500 jobs will be created over the 140-year lifespan of the underground engineered facility built for the disposal of UK's higher activity radioactive waste, according to a new NDA study. The highest levels of employment will be generated during the construction stage and early operations of the £12 billion project, when workforce numbers will rise to more than 1,000. The manpower numbers revealed in the study were produced using benchmarking against other similar programmes around the world, including Sweden and Finland; through analysing typical underground construction activities such as sinking shafts and tunnelling and using references from the construction industry. The Government is leading on the site selection process, which is based on the internationally accepted approach of voluntarism and partnership with local communities. The NDA is responsible, through its Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, for the design and planning of the facility itself.

Weblink: [Full Manpower and Skills report](#)

### Latest edition of Insight published

The sixth edition of the NDA's news magazine Insight has now been published and is available in printed or electronic format.

[Weblink: Insight into Nuclear Decommissioning – Newsletter Edition 6](#)

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### Business Plan 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 last year's Government's spending review. This represents a 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 at Sellafield as well as challenging targets for reprocessing and vitrification of highly active liquors. Annual Sellafield expenditure is planned at £1.55 billion and includes the continued construction of Evaporator D, currently the largest single project in the UK nuclear estate.

Weblink: [NDA Business Plan 2011 - 2014](#)

### Latest Radioactive Waste Inventory published

The latest UK Radioactive Waste Inventory is now 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 future operation and decommissioning of current facilities. 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.

Weblink: [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. Their approval follows an extensive period of engagement with stakeholders during 2009 and 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.

Weblink: [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 for a deep underground disposal facility which will keep the radioactive materials isolated from the environment for hundreds of thousands of years. RWMD has now published a suite of 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.

Weblink: [More information on the generic Disposal System Safety Case \(DSSC\)](#)