

NDA Monthly Update

July 2011

Summary

- Accelerated schedule proposed for operational GDF
- Oldbury closes one reactor and extends life of second reactor
- Dounreay Head of Programme announced
- £1.2 million of socio-economic support in the Scottish Borders
- Underground facility will create hundreds of jobs
- The national engagement plan is now published on the website
- The latest edition of the NDA's Insight magazine is now available
- The Business Plan for 2011/12 is now published on the website

Diary Dates

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| • Dounreay fuel movements options papers published | July |
| • Annual Report and Accounts laid Parliament | July (provisional) |
| • Sellafield Plan published | August |
| • RSRL credible & preferred option paper published | Mid-August |
| • Engineering Skills Centre opens in North Highlands | August |

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Geological disposal acceleration goal

The NDA has welcomed the a new Government report that outlines an ambition to see the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) accept its first waste by 2029, around 10 years ahead of the current indicative timeline. Published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Implementing Geological Disposal Annual Report explains the background to the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme as well as actions and updates since the publication of the 2008 White Paper.

Bruce McKirdy, Managing Director of the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) that has responsibility for design and implementation of the facility, said that all options to accelerate the programme would be explored. DECC also published a consultation document yesterday on how potential sites for the GDF would be identified and assessed. The Government, which is leading on selection of a suitable site, is committed to a process based on seeking a volunteer community to host the facility and has received three 'expressions of interest' for two areas in west Cumbria.

[Weblink: Implementing Geological Disposal Annual Report](#)

One reactor shuts down, one extends generating life

One of the reactors at Oldbury Power Station, near Bristol, has been given permission to continue generating until the end of 2012, while the second has shut down after reaching the end of its operational life. Oldbury was originally scheduled to close at the end of 2008, and has successfully extended its operating life on two occasions. It now has the opportunity to continue producing electricity for a further final period, following a review with the site's regulators.

Brian Burnett, the NDA's Head of Programme, said: "Oldbury's continued generation is good news as it ensures further benefit from one of the NDA's valuable assets. The income generated over the extension period will be utilised to support our clean-up mission. I would like to thank Magnox for all the work they have done to help make this happen."

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](#)

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£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 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 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 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.

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

Engagement plan published

The 2011/12 UK National Engagement Plan is now published on our website.

[Weblink: http://www.nda.gov.uk/stakeholders/engagement-plan.cfm](http://www.nda.gov.uk/stakeholders/engagement-plan.cfm)

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](#)

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.

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