

# NDA Monthly Update

## November 2011

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### Summary

- Oldbury to end generation in 2012
- MOD consultations start on submarine dismantling
- NDA Chief Executive stepping down
- Insight magazine edition 7 now available
- Latest version of Engagement Plan published
- Options for moving material from Harwell and Dounreay
- New online format tracks performance of sites and NDA
- Sellafield MOX Plant to close
- Sellafield Performance Plan published
- NDA's annual report and accounts published

### Diary Dates

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|---|-----------------|
| • National stakeholder event, Manchester        | 23-24 November  |
| • Announcement on Preferred Bidder for Dounreay | End of November |
| • Draft Business Plan consultation starts       | Early December  |

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### Oldbury closure date announced

Magnox Ltd has announced that Oldbury's remaining operating reactor will close in February 2012, after generating electricity safely for 44 years. The income from electricity sales has provided an important contribution to funding of the decommissioning programme. The proactive decision to shut Reactor One was made on the grounds that further operation of one of the world's oldest nuclear reactors is no longer economically viable. Reactor Two closed in June. The original closure date for both reactors was 2008.

[Weblink: Oldbury to close](#)

### MoD starts consultation on submarine dismantling

The MOD has launched a public consultation on the options for dismantling of the UK's defuelled nuclear-powered submarines. MOD is seeking views on how radioactive material is removed from the submarines, where this is undertaken (Devonport and/or Rosyth Dockyards) and which type of site is used for the storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) arising. The types of site being considered for storage of ILW are those owned by the MOD, industry and the NDA and this will lead to further stakeholder engagement, at a later stage, to determine specific sites. The current consultation ends on 17 February 2012.

[Weblink: www.mod.uk/submarine dismantling](http://www.mod.uk/submarine-dismantling)

### Chief Executive to step down

The NDA announced that Chief Executive Tony Fountain has decided to step down from his role as Chief Executive Officer and return to a career in the oil and gas sector. Tony, who joined the NDA in October 2009 following a 25-year career at BP, said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years with the NDA and it has been a very difficult decision to make because I believe strongly in the role of the NDA and its mission. I firmly believe the organisation is well placed to achieve further success. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside our many stakeholders and I would like to thank them for their important contribution to our progress."

[Weblink: CEO moving on](#)

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### Insight magazine published

The seventh edition of the NDA's news magazine for stakeholders has now been published and is available on the website.

[Weblink: Insight edition 7](#)

### Updated National Engagement Plan

The NDA has published the second version of its National Stakeholder Engagement Plans that identify opportunities for stakeholders to inform the development and implementation of our Strategy over the next year.

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/stakeholders/engagement-plan.cfm>

### Options for moving material from Harwell and Dounreay

Following a period of engagement and further consideration, the NDA is due to publish its decisions later this month on the proposed transfer to Sellafield of various nuclear fuels and materials currently held at the Harwell and Dounreay sites. Recent options papers demonstrated the strategic and economic case for the materials to be managed at Sellafield and the NDA has been engaging with local communities and other stakeholders around both sites in order to take their views into account before reaching its decisions.

[Weblink: Harwell Credible and Preferred Options Paper](#)  
[Dounreay Credible and Preferred Options Paper](#)

### Keeping track of progress

The NDA has launched a revised format for the online recording of sites' progress towards their decommissioning targets. Targets detailed in the recently published Business Plan 2011-2014 will be used to measure progress with a simple traffic light system of green (on target), amber (behind target with some possibility of recovery) and red (behind target). Web users will be able to check the performance of individual sites against specific targets, or browse by key themes. The new format reflects a stronger focus on delivery and will be updated on a quarterly basis, replacing the previous system which reported progress using more general indicators. As well as the sites, progress will be reported for the NDA and its Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD).

[Weblink: Our progress](#)

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### Future of Sellafield MOX plant

The Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP), which recycles foreign-owned plutonium into nuclear fuel, is being closed as a result of the NDA's re-assessment of commercial risk following the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. Working with Japanese customers, the NDA has been reviewing the Plant's future, assessing its likely effect on the SMP programme and associated commercial arrangements. The NDA Board concluded that the only reasonable course of action was to close SMP to ensure that the UK taxpayer does not carry a future financial burden from SMP. The NDA will continue to store Japanese plutonium safely and securely under international safeguards and further develop discussions on a responsible approach to support the Japanese Utilities' policy for re-using their material. Meanwhile, the Government has been consulting on policy options for dealing with the UK's Plutonium stockpile, including possible re-use as MOX fuel.

[Weblink: NDA statement](#)

### Sellafield Performance Plan published

The NDA together with Sellafield Ltd and Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) have published a new Performance Plan for the site. The Plan follows two years of investigation and analysis and sets out the future operations, construction projects and decommissioning activities over the lifetime of the site, but with a particular focus through to 2025. NDA Chief Executive Tony Fountain said: "I believe that for the first time we now have a credible plan that is underpinned both technically and in terms of capability, that gives us all the best chance of success."

[Weblink: Details on the Sellafield Ltd website](#)

### A year of progress

The NDA published its Annual Report & Accounts for 2010/11, outlining considerable progress in its mission to decommission and clean up the UK's civil public sector nuclear legacy. In addition to the main document, a special edition of Insight was published summarising some of the year's key achievements. Chief Executive Tony Fountain said: "It's been a year of good performance, hitting targets that show concrete progress against our tasks. But it has also been a year in which critical steps have been taken to allow us to focus on delivery over the years ahead – including securing the availability of resources through the Spending Review, a rebuilt Sellafield performance Plan, a new approach to Magnox delivery and our own more focused organisation."

[Weblink: Annual Report and Accounts 2010/2011](#)