

# NDA Monthly Update

December 2011

## Summary

- Capenhurst agreement signed
- Dounreay Preferred Bidder announced
- Stakeholders gather for national event
- Survey of stakeholders launched
- Oldbury to end generation in 2012
- Movement of Dounreay and Harwell materials
- Cumbrian research facility completed
- Defuelling starts at Calder Hall
- MOD consultations start on submarine dismantling
- NDA Chief Executive stepping down

## Diary Dates

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Draft Business Plan consultation starts          | 12 December |
| • Magnox Operating Programme (MOP) 9 available     | Early 2012  |
| • Draft Integrated Waste Management Plan available | January     |

### Capenhurst agreement signed

An agreement has been signed confirming the future transfer of the NDA-owned site at Capenhurst in Cheshire to URENCO, which occupies the neighbouring nuclear-licensed site. Existing decommissioning and storage operations currently undertaken by Sellafield Ltd will transfer to URENCO. It is anticipated the agreement will reduce NDA's net liabilities for managing and clearing the site while paving the way for URENCO to invest in new facilities, as required, to meet future customer demand.

[Weblink: Capenhurst transfer](#)

### Delegates attend National Event

Almost 100 delegates gathered at the NDA's National Event for stakeholders in Manchester last week, where a range of decommissioning topics were the focus of discussions. The event was attended by stakeholders from across the NDA estate, including local community representatives, the Site Licence Companies, regulators, Government officials, trade unions, EDF and other interest groups.

[Weblink: Stakeholder event](#)

### Stakeholder survey launched

The NDA has launched its annual survey to seek views from stakeholders on the organisation's performance. The survey is seeking to establish how well stakeholders understand the NDA's work and whether stakeholders feel sufficiently well informed on a range of issues. Hard copies are also available.

[Weblink: Stakeholder survey](#)

### Dounreay preferred bidder named

Babcock Dounreay Partnership (BDP) has been named as the preferred bidder in the competition to take ownership of Dounreay Site Restoration Limited. A three-month transition phase will enable finalisation of the contract, with the aim of transferring shares to the new Parent Body Organisation in April 2012. BDP is a specially created private sector consortium comprising Babcock Nuclear Services Ltd, CH2M Hill and URS Holdings (UK) Ltd. The competitive process, which started two years ago, continues until share transfer and the NDA intends that the non-preferred bid remains in reserve until then. Key competition criteria were that bids should accelerate the current 2038 closure

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date by at least six years and reduce costs by at least £500 million. The contract will be the first to take an NDA site to an Interim State.

[Weblink: Dounreay competition](#)

### Harwell and Dounreay material movements

The NDA is moving forward on proposals for transferring a range of nuclear materials to Sellafield from Harwell and Dounreay. Strategy and Credible/Preferred Options papers were published earlier this year to allow stakeholders to comment on the proposals, which reflect the NDA's published Strategy and 2010/2011 Business Plan supporting the case for better use of the NDA's assets. Subject to regulatory and other approvals, it is anticipated that movements of breeder material from Dounreay are likely to start in Summer 2012 and movements from Harwell – comprising a range of materials and intermediate level waste - in Spring 2013. However, these dates are subject to change.

Meanwhile, the NDA has published a Credible Options report on Oxide Fuels, used in EDF's AGR reactors and overseas reactors, and is seeking responses by February.

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

### £20 million research facility

Construction has been completed on a new £20 million research facility in Cumbria, which has been jointly funded by the NDA and the University of Manchester. The Dalton Cumbrian Facility, on Westlakes Science and Technology Park, will bring world-class academic research to the region, focusing primarily on the areas of radiation science, radiochemistry, nuclear engineering decommissioning and the management of radioactive waste. It will add to the growing research, education and skills infrastructure in West Cumbria, key elements in the Britain's Energy Coast programme .

[Weblink: World-class research centre](#)

### Calder Hall starts defuelling

Defuelling has started at Calder Hall, the world's first nuclear power plant to supply electricity to the national grid. Located at Sellafield, the plant was opened by the Queen in 1956 and stopped generating electricity in 2003. Removal of the first fuel rods marks the beginning of a six-year programme to remove fuel from the reactors and follows the

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recent completion of decommissioning Sellafield's Windscale Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor, the first time a power producing reactor had been safely dismantled in the UK.

[Weblink: Defuelling at Calder Hall](#)

### 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](#)