

# NDA Monthly Update

## January 2012

### Summary

- Survey of stakeholders launched
- Review of GDF timescales
- Regulators respond to GDF safety documents
- Draft programme on Integrated Waste Management
- Acting Chief Executive named
- Draft Business Plan published
- Capenhurst agreement signed
- Stakeholders gather for national event
- Dounreay Preferred Bidder announced
- Movement of Dounreay and Harwell materials
- MOD consultations start on submarine dismantling

### REMINDER: Please complete online Stakeholder Survey by 31 January

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.

[Weblink: Stakeholder survey](#)

### Diary Dates

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • Magnox Operating Programme (MOP) 9 available      | Early 2012          |
| • Dounreay Exotics Credible Options Paper available | End January         |
| • Draft Business Plan consultation closes           | 3 February          |
| • Uranics Credible Options Paper available          | Late February/March |
| • National Engagement Plan 2012/2013 published      | End March           |

### Review of GDF timescales

The NDA has published a report into options for accelerating the programme for developing a UK deep Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). The report, prepared in response to a request from Minister of State Charles Hendry, examines three scenarios incorporating increasingly innovative approaches to provide a range of options for review. According to the report, principles that will be critical to the programme are the vital role of partnership with a volunteer community and the need for scientific work to underpin the technology. The Government will commission a peer review of the report and seek a formal view from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM).

[Weblink: Options for accelerating GDF implementation](#)

### Regulators respond to GDF safety documents

The NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate has welcomed the nuclear regulators' review of a key set of technical documents covering all the safety aspects of developing the Geological Disposal Facility. The documents, known as the generic Disposal System Safety Case (gDSSC) were published in February 2011.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation, the Environment Agency and the Department for Transport jointly concluded that the documents provide an appropriate level of confidence in the implementation process while also making a number of recommendations to assist future work. The documents are generic as no potential sites have been identified yet.

[Weblink: Regulators review safety case](#)

### Feedback sought on waste management document

Feedback is being sought on the NDA's draft Strategy Development Programme for Integrated Waste Management, which has just been published. The paper focuses on higher activity waste and details the work needed to develop a comprehensive strategy that will drive sites' Lifetime Plan development and lead to the optimisation of waste management across the estate. Comments are required by 24 February.

[Weblink: Draft programme for IWM strategy development](#)

### Acting Chief Executive named

Following the departure of NDA Chief Executive Tony Fountain, Chief Financial Officer David Batters will assume the role until a new CEO is appointed. After two years at the helm, Tony left the NDA in December to return to the oil and gas sector.

[Weblink: Our people](#)

### Draft Business Plan published for comment

The NDA is seeking feedback from stakeholders on its draft Business Plan 2012–2015 by 3 February. The Business Plan reflects the NDA Strategy, published in March 2011 and setting out objectives and plans for delivering priorities over the next three years.

[Weblink: Business Plan consultation](#)

### 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 held in Manchester last November, 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](#)

### 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 March 2012. BDP is a specially created private sector consortium comprising Babcock Nuclear Services Ltd, CH2M Hill and URS Holdings (UK) Ltd. The competitive process continues until share transfer.

[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. A first tranche of Options papers were published last year to allow stakeholders to comment on proposals, which reflect the NDA's Strategy and 2010/2011 Business Plan supporting the case for better use of NDA assets. Subject to regulatory and other approvals, it is anticipated that movements of material from Dounreay are likely to start in Summer 2012 and from Harwell in Spring 2013. A Credible Options paper on the future of a range of materials currently held at Dounreay, known as Exotics, will be published by the end of January with response due back before the end of March.

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](#)

### 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)