

NDA Monthly Update

February 2012

Summary

- Options for moving second tranche of Dounreay materials
- Land released from nuclear regulations
- Report from National Event available
- Head of Programme for Sellafield moves on
- Review of GDF timescales
- Regulators respond to GDF safety documents
- Draft programme on Integrated Waste Management
- Capenhurst agreement signed
- Dounreay Preferred Bidder announced
- Movement of Dounreay and Harwell materials & Oxide Fuels

Diary Dates

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Oldbury Power Station closes | End of February |
| • Business Plan published | End of March |
| • Hand-over to new Dounreay PBO | 2 April |
| • Magnox Operating Programme (MOP) 9 | Summer 2012 |
| • Magnox/RSRL competition starts | Summer 2012 |

Options for moving Dounreay nuclear materials

The NDA has published a Credible Options Study covering the remaining nuclear materials at Dounreay, referred to as 'exotics'. The study concludes that the two credible options, both in line with UK and Scottish government policies, are to transfer the materials to Sellafield for management, or to manage them at Dounreay. The options will be discussed with regulators, Government departments, local communities and other interested parties before any preferred option can be selected. Comments need to be received by 23 March and a decision on the preferred option by NDA will take place in March/April 2012.

[Weblink: Exotic Fuels Options paper](#)

Land released from nuclear regulations

Large tracts of land at Berkeley and Oldbury have been officially sanctioned as available for new development after the last remaining nuclear regulations were removed. The two plots, covering around a third of the original Berkeley site and half the original Oldbury site, totalling 46 hectares, can now be disposed of either by sale or lease after the Energy Minister Lord Marland signed orders revoking the designating directions.

[Weblink: land released from regulations](#)

Report from National Event

The NDA has now published the report from the National Event for stakeholders, held in Manchester at the end of last year. Almost 100 delegates gathered at the event, including local community representatives, the Site Licence Companies, regulators, Government officials, trade unions, EDF and other interest groups to discuss a range of decommissioning topics.

[Weblink: Event report](#)

Sellafield Head of Programme moves on

The NDA's Head of Programme for Sellafield, Dr Ian Hudson, is leaving the authority to pursue his career in the US with American corporation URS. Mark Steele, currently Deputy Head of Programme at Sellafield for the NDA, will take over the role in an interim capacity.

[Weblink: Sellafield Head of Programme](#)

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](#)

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

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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](#)

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 & Oxide Fuels

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.

Meanwhile, responses to the NDA's Credible Options report on Oxide Fuels, used in EDF's AGR reactors and overseas reactors, are being considered.

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