

NDA Monthly Update

March 2012

Summary

- NDA names new Chief Executive
- Magnox and RSRL competition in the pipeline
- HAW waste overview published
- World's oldest nuclear power station closes
- Latest edition of NDA newsletter available
- 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
- Capenhurst transfer agreement signed

Diary Dates

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| • Business Plan published | End of March |
| • 2012-2013 National Engagement Plan published | Beginning of April |
| • Hand-over to new Dounreay PBO | 2 April |
| • Magnox Operating Programme (MOP) 9 | Summer 2012 |
| • Magnox/RSRL competition starts | Summer 2012 |

New Chief Executive named

John Clarke has been announced as the new Chief Executive Officer of the NDA following the departure of Tony Fountain in December. John has worked in the international nuclear industry for more than 30 years in a range of operational, commercial and business leadership roles. He joined the NDA Board in 2008 from Sellafield Ltd. He takes up his new post from 2nd April.

[Weblink: New Chief Executive](#)

Gearing up for Magnox and RSRL competition

The NDA is planning a period of formal market engagement as it prepares to launch a competitive process to appoint a new Parent Body Organisation(s) for the Magnox and RSRL sites. Official notification of the start of the competitive process, the Prior Information Notice (PIN), will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) in April, while engagement with interested parties will take place during May, however this early engagement will not form part of the procurement process.

[Weblink: Magnox and RSRL competition](#)

Higher Activity Waste overview published

The NDA has published an overview of all its higher activity waste (HAW), providing details of where the material arises and how it is being dealt with. The Overview of NDA Higher Activity Waste looks at radioactive waste from NDA sites only and is based on information from the 2010 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory. The aim of the report is to provide clarity about the whole lifecycle of the different kinds of radioactive waste, including current methods of treatment, packaging, storage and ultimate disposal.

[Weblink: HAW overview](#)

World's oldest nuclear reactor closes

Oldbury Power Station, near Bristol, has ceased generating electricity after 44 years of safe operational life. The world's oldest nuclear plant, Oldbury provided enough electricity for one million homes for 20 years and will now start preparations to enter the decommissioning phase. Reactor One's closure follows the closure last June of Reactor Two and leaves Wylfa as the UK's only operating Magnox plant.

[Weblink: Oldbury closure](#)

Newsletter available

The latest edition of the NDA's newsletter, Insight, is now available in both printed version and on the website.

[Weblink: Insight published](#)

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

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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 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](#)

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](#)