

NDA Monthly Update

September 2012

Summary

- ILW storage options for Central and Southern Scotland
- Wylfa generation continues to 2014
- DECC report on geological disposal
- Magnox and RSRL competition formally launched
- MOP9 published
- NDA's Annual Report and Accounts available
- Britain's Energy Coast Blueprint published
- Oxide fuels decision
- Funding for Energy Island Project announced
- NDA newsletter published
- Waste management development programme outlined

Diary Dates

- Transfer of Dounreay breeder material to Sellafield starts Late 2012
- HAW Industry Guidance Launch, Rheged, Penrith 26 September

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ILW storage options

The NDA has published a Strategy Paper on options for Intermediate Level Waste Storage in Central and Southern Scotland. The publication of this paper is consistent with the NDA's Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Strategy, which supports consideration of centralised and multi-site approaches, if this brings benefits. A small number of credible options have been identified, which will be taken forward for further assessment. Stakeholders are invited to comment on these options by 5 October 2012.

[Weblink: Central and Southern Scotland ILW Storage Solutions - Credible Options](#)

Wylfa continues generating

Wylfa Power Station has been given the go-ahead to transfer fuel between its reactors, enabling electricity generation to continue until September 2014, almost four years beyond its original closure date. Following several independent reviews, the site has been permitted to continue using one reactor, transferring partially used fuel from its second reactor, which closed in April. The move was given approval by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and is supported by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Inter-reactor fuel transfer has already been used at Oldbury and has now been successfully trialled at Wylfa, which started generating electricity in 1971.

[Weblink: Wylfa continues generating](#)

DECC publishes second Annual Report on MRWS

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has published the 2nd Annual Report on its Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme, which focuses on developing geological disposal in the UK. The report sets out the work being undertaken by the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate to deliver the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), including stakeholder engagement, the development of site assessment criteria, international updates and work on options for accelerating work.

[Weblink: MRWS Annual Report](#)

Magnox and RSRL competition under way

Almost 170 delegates attended the recent Bidder Conference to hear details of the competition to appoint a new Parent Body Organisation for the 12 Magnox and RSRL sites. Held in Manchester, potential bidding organisations, stakeholders, regulators and trade unions were given an outline of the competition schedule as well as the NDA's expectations on progressing decommissioning at each site.

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Valued at £4-5 billion over the next seven years, the competition is one of the UK's largest public procurement exercises. The projected two-year timeframe takes account of the recent six-week extension to the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) period following the announcement that EnergySolutions, the parent body of Magnox Ltd, is to be sold.

[Weblink: Competition information](#)

Magnox operating programme updated

The NDA, in conjunction with Magnox Ltd and Sellafield Ltd, has published the ninth update of The Magnox Operating Programme (MOP), the fourth to be published by the NDA. The MOP defines how the whole Magnox fuel cycle is managed and co-ordinated between the different sites, and covers fuel manufacture, electricity generation, fuelling and defuelling of reactors, and reprocessing of spent fuel. MOP 9 has adopted a flexible approach that takes account of different possible scenarios. Meanwhile, the NDA has also published its Magnox Fuel Strategy Position Paper which looks at strategic options for managing any contingencies that arise.

[Weblink: MOP9 and Strategy Position Paper](#)

Annual Report and Accounts published

The NDA has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/2012, which demonstrate that significant progress in decommissioning has been made coupled with real savings for the taxpayer and marking a year of solid progress. John Clarke, NDA Chief Executive, said: "I am pleased to report that performance over the last 12 months has been generally good across all our sites, against challenging targets. "We continue to perform strongly in terms of income generation and introducing efficiencies both within the organisation and across the wider estate while maintaining progress on the core mission."

[Weblink: Annual Report and Accounts](#)

Blueprint welcomed

The NDA, Sellafield Ltd and Nuclear Management Partners have welcomed the publication of Britain's Energy Coast Economic Blueprint. The Blueprint sets out Britain's Energy Coast's vision for the development of the local economy in West Cumbria over the next 15 years; a period that could see the creation of more than 3,000 jobs as well as a significant boost to the local economy. The programme, launched in 2009, has seen around £25 million of public and private sector resources invested in regional economic regeneration activities, which has levered in a further £35 million to the area.

[Weblink: Energy Coast Blueprint](#)

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Oxide fuel decision

The NDA has confirmed that contracts for the reprocessing of spent oxide fuels from the UK's AGR reactors, and those from overseas that remain in storage at Sellafield, will be continue to be completed through the THORP plant. Once reprocessing finishes in 2018, the plant will close prior to decommissioning. The decision follows a review of options to establish the most cost-effective strategy for managing the fuels associated with contracts which the NDA inherited when it was established in 2004. Any remaining AGR fuel, including any future arisings, will be placed into interim storage pending a decision to dispose of it in a geological disposal facility.

[Weblink: Oxide fuels](#)

New funding for energy project

Minister of State for Energy Charles Hendry has announced a new £480,000 NDA funding package for the Anglesey Energy Island Programme (EIP), a public and private-sector initiative to put the region at the forefront of energy research and development, production and servicing. During a visit to the island, the Minister also told Coleg Menai students and Wylfa power station staff that the nuclear industry had a positive future on Anglesey and within the UK, reaffirming the UK Government's commitment to new build. The programme, led by the Isle of Anglesey County Council, acts as a vehicle for employment growth and development opportunities.

[Weblink: Boost for energy initiative](#)

Newsletter published

The latest edition of the NDA's quarterly Insight newsletter has now been published and can be downloaded from the website. Hard copies are also available.

[Weblink: Insight edition 9](#)

Waste management programme outlined

The NDA has published its Strategy Development Programme for Integrated Waste Management, which reflects stakeholder comments and outlines work needed to develop a comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Strategy that will drive Lifetime Plan development and lead in due course to the estate-wide optimisation of waste management.

[Weblink: IWM Development Programme](#)