

NDA Monthly Update

March 2013

Summary

- Action plan for smaller businesses
- New Non-Executive Director for NDA
- Chapelcross completes defuelling
- Dounreay 'exotics' set for Sellafield
- Nuclear industry learns from Olympics
- Cumbrian councils vote on GDF site selection process
- Magnox and RSRL competition dialogue under way
- Harwell land released from nuclear regulation
- NDA Chairman in honours
- £18 million Cumbrian office scheme
- Dounreay breeder material on the move
- National nuclear archive to go ahead

Diary Dates

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| • Last Berkeley boilers leave site | 15 March |
| • Preferred option for Southern and Central Scotland ILW storage solutions | End of March |
| • Competition bidders start stakeholder meetings | April |
| • Plutonium strategic direction published | Spring 2013 |

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New action plan to support smaller businesses

The NDA has published a three-year plan to support greater opportunities for smaller businesses seeking to work in the UK's decommissioning market. The Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Action Plan builds on initiatives already under way across the NDA estate and meets a Government requirement for all departments to develop proposals that will help to increase the proportion of public contracts awarded to the SME community. The NDA's plan sets a challenging target of 20% of annual sub-contract spend (both direct and indirect) – at least £300 million - to SMEs by 2015, almost doubling the currently reported level. Half the NDA's current £3 billion annual budget is spent with the supply chain, via the SLCs.

[Weblink: SME Action Plan](#)

New Non-Executive Director appointed

A new Non-Executive Director has been appointed to the NDA's Board following Alistair Wivell's completion of his four-year term in office. Tom Smith, an Oxford chemistry graduate, is a former diplomat and senior executive with many years experience of working on major infrastructure projects. He is currently Chair of the Association of Train Operating Companies and a former Managing Director of Midland Expressway Ltd, where he oversaw development of the UK's first, and only, private toll motorway. Janette Brown and Patrick Dixon, appointed in 2009, will serve further three-year terms.

[Weblink: New Board member](#)

Chapelcross completes defuelling

The last consignment of spent fuel has left Chapelcross site for reprocessing at Sellafield, marking the completion of a four-year programme to deal with more than 38,000 individual fuel elements. The milestone achievement, reached four months ahead of schedule, means that 99% of radioactivity has been removed from Scotland's oldest nuclear power plant following its closure in 2004. Formal permission to start defueling was granted by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in July 2008, and the first of 257 flasks of fuel left the site in 2009.

[Weblink: Defuelling inspired by British Cycling Team](#)

Learning from the Olympics

More than 300 delegates from the NDA, Sellafield Ltd and the supply chain attended a 'lessons learned' event presented in Cumbria by a high-level team from the Olympic Delivery Authority, who were responsible for the unprecedented levels of co-ordination and planning underpinning the London Games. Focusing on issues ranging from

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financial and project controls to construction and infrastructure as well as political and cultural sensitivities, plus much more, the presentations are part of the ongoing legacy from the 2012 games. Delivery of the Olympics involved a complex, multi-billion pound programme which included 19 major projects, almost 1,000 planning applications, 27,000 activities and milestones, plus a workforce of more than 15,000.

[Weblink: Olympic lessons](#)

Dourey 'exotics' set for Sellafield

The NDA has stated that its preferred option for Dounreay's 'exotic' material is for long-term management at Sellafield. Publication of the Preferred Option paper follows consideration of stakeholder views on the credible options which were published 12 months ago, and included continued management of the material at Dounreay or transport to Sellafield, where it would be managed alongside the Cumbrian site's fuels inventory. The SLCs at Dounreay and Sellafield will now submit a final business case around the end of March 2013, with transports likely to start towards the end of 2014.

[Weblink: Preferred options on Dounreay materials](#)

Cumbrian councils vote on process for selecting GDF location

Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils voted in favour of remaining in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme to find a long-term solution for the UK's higher activity radioactive wastes, but Cumbria County Council voted to withdraw.

[Weblink: Cumbrian vote](#)

Formal dialogue under way for £7 billion contract

Four global organisations are now embarked on the eight-month formal dialogue phase of the £7 billion competition to run the 12 Magnox and RSRL sites. In addition to the face-to-face dialogue sessions with the NDA's competition team, the bidders have begun to visit individual sites to gather information that will assist with compiling final tenders. Meanwhile, the NDA has also organised a series of events for local stakeholder representatives to meet bidders:

- Tuesday 16th April – Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow
- Thursday 18th April - Venue Cymru, Llandudno
- Tuesday 23rd April - Tortworth Court Hotel, Wootton-Under-Edge
- Thursday 25th April - Ashford International Hotel, Ashford

[Weblink: Magnox and RSRL competition](#)

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Harwell land released from nuclear regulations

A fifth of the Harwell site has now been formally released from the last remaining nuclear regulations, and is available for new development. The final stage of a clean-up process that has taken several decades was ratified by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Baroness Verma, who signed ‘de-designating’ orders to revoke the NDA’s responsibility for the 27 hectares of land, around the size of 40 football pitches. The land will now be transferred to the partnership that is developing the wider Harwell Oxford campus.

[Weblink: Land de-designated](#)

Honour for NDA Chairman

NDA welcomes the Honour for its Chairman Stephen Henwood, who was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year's Honours list in recognition of his services to the nuclear industry and charity.

[Weblink: CBE for Chairman](#)

£18 million office scheme

The NDA has appointed leading UK construction and infrastructure company, Morgan Sindall, to deliver a new £18 million office scheme in Whitehaven, Cumbria. The Albion Square development is a key project in the Britain’s Energy Coast (BEC) programme and aims to boost the local economy by attracting new workers to the town centre. The two four-storey office buildings will house approximately 1,000 staff from Sellafield.

[Weblink: £18 million office development](#)

Dounreay material moved to Sellafield

The first movement to Sellafield of breeder material from Dounreay has now taken place. In July 2011, the NDA published its Credible and Preferred Options for the management of Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR) Breeder materials, which identified that the Preferred Option for the management of DFR Breeder materials was to transport the material to Sellafield to be reprocessed along with Magnox fuel.

[Weblink: Exotic fuels](#)

Nuclear archive project

The NDA has announced a decision to proceed with the next phase of the National Nuclear Archive project, which will see a new purpose-built facility constructed at Wick, in Caithness, Scotland, for long-term storage of records and other archive material from UK civil nuclear sites. The archive is expected to bring more than 20 sustainable jobs to the town. The new building will be constructed on land currently owned by Highland Council near Wick airport, and could be operational by early 2016.

[Weblink: National nuclear archive](#)