

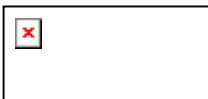
NDA Monthly Update

June 2013

DSG(2013)C031

Diary Dates

- Direct Research Portfolio forward plan June
- Annual Report and Accounts available July
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Consultation deadline extended on ILW and FED options

The consultation deadline has been extended for stakeholders to share their views on development options for ILW storage and FED treatment. Two NDA Strategy Papers have recently been published. One looks at the number and location of ILW storage facilities on Magnox sites and existing EDF Energy sites in England and Wales. The second focuses on FED treatment (dissolution) facilities on Magnox sites. Each paper outlines a small number of credible options in line with the NDA's 2011 Strategy, which states that centralised and multi-site approaches should be considered where it may be advantageous. Stakeholder comments will be considered alongside additional work being undertaken by the NDA to identify a preferred option. Comments should be sent to strategy@nda.gov.uk by Sunday, 30 June, 2013.

[Weblink: ILW options](#) and [FED options](#)

Regulators report on the scrutiny of RWMD's work

Two regulators have published the latest summary of their ongoing scrutiny of the NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD), covering April 2010 to March 2012. The Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency both scrutinise and advise on RWMD's work relating to the implementation of geological disposal, including the provision of advice on packaging higher activity waste for disposal.

[Weblink: EA scrutiny of geological disposal](#)

Sellafield box project

A huge procurement programme has been launched for thousands of high-integrity stainless steel boxes to house radioactive waste at Sellafield. Sellafield Ltd has released a pre-qualification questionnaire, a major step in the process to find two manufacturers for an initial quantity of 2,200 three-metre cubed boxes to store waste from the historic ponds and silos at the Cumbrian nuclear site. The Government is encouraging local suppliers to bid for the contract, which has the potential to span decades, in the hope the work can be kept in the UK and contribute to local economic growth.

[Weblink: Box procurement project](#)

Views sought on selecting site for geological disposal

The Government has issued a "Call for Evidence" to gather views on the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely site selection process, particularly from those who have been involved (or been interested observers) to date. The responses will inform a consultation planned for autumn. Government policy on long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste is geological disposal, with the approach to site selection based on voluntarism and partnership while the NDA is responsible for implementation.

[Weblink: Share your views with the Government](#)



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NDA statement on Government response to Sellafield report

The Government has responded to the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee report on managing risk at Sellafield, agreeing with the Committee's six main recommendations and setting clear targets for the NDA to enable their achievement. John Clarke, NDA Chief Executive Officer said: "We have worked closely with the National Audit Office and engaged openly with the Public Accounts Committee to recognise and agree key issues that need to be progressed."

[Weblink: Response to PAC recommendations](#)

Preferred option for ILW in central and southern Scotland

The NDA has now completed its study of options for the storage of Intermediate Level Waste in central and southern Scotland, concluding that there would be benefits in storing Hunterston B waste at Hunterston A's store. This is in line with NDA's Strategy which states that centralised and multi-site approaches should be considered. The preferred option for other sites in the region is to remain with the current approach of building an interim storage facility at each site. Stakeholders were involved in the consultation exercise and their views were taken into account during the process.

[Weblink: Preferred option on ILW storage in central and southern Scotland](#)

Stakeholders and bidders meet

A series of meetings around the UK have enabled local stakeholders to meet members of the bidding teams who are taking part in the £7 billion competition for ownership of the Magnox and RSRL SLCs. Four events were held in Scotland, Wales and England, where representatives from site stakeholder groups and local government shared their views on socio-economics and other issues with the four consortia. The NDA is currently engaged in the information-gathering dialogue phase of the procurement, while site visits have also been taking place. The preferred bidder will be announced next year.

[Weblink: Magnox and RSRL Parent Body Organisation competition](#)

Supply chain event returns for 2013

The NDA estate's showcase Supply Chain Event has moved to a bigger venue that will be able to host even more visitors and exhibitors. Last year's event in Bolton, Lancashire, attracted more than 700 delegates from across the country, including existing supply chain members and those who were new to nuclear decommissioning. For 2013, the venue will be EventCity in Manchester, on 13 November, which is able to accommodate up to 1,000 people including 200 exhibitors. Launched three years ago, the annual event is organised jointly by the NDA and its SLCs.

[Weblink: Bigger venue for supply chain event](#)



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Nuclear material leaves Harwell

The first consignment of nuclear material from Harwell, in the form of Contact-Handled Intermediate Level Waste (CHILW), has been safely transported by rail to Sellafield. The start of the transports follows publication of the NDA's preferred option for the long-term management of the material, concluding that there was a clear and compelling strategic case for transferring the materials to Sellafield for interim storage in appropriate facilities.

[Weblink: Harwell material movements](#)

Business Plan published

The NDA has published its 2013-16 Business Plan outlining delivery priorities for the period. A total of £3.2 billion will be spent on cleaning up the nuclear legacy during the next financial year with 55% allocated to hazard reduction at Sellafield, the top priority.

[Weblink: Business Plan 2013-2016](#)

Repository contract extended for five years

The international consortium UK Nuclear Waste Management (UKNWM) has been awarded another five-year term to manage LLW Repository Ltd (LLWR). This follows the successful implementation and delivery of key commitments since the NDA awarded the contract in 2008. The contract covers the management and operations of the national Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg in West Cumbria and the development and implementation of the National Low Level Waste Strategy. The contract has realised around £30 million in savings, extended the life of the LLWR facility, reduced volumes of waste bound for the repository and seen the opening a new vault.

[Weblink: Contract extended](#)

Multi-million pound injection for new technologies

Decommissioning research projects were among the beneficiaries when Business Secretary Vince Cable announced major collaborative to support 35 projects in developing new technologies for the construction, operation and decommissioning of UK nuclear power plants. This will bring together more than 60 organisations including multinational corporations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and universities. The £18 million joint funding between the Technology Strategy Board, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the NDA and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is expected to leverage in an additional £13 million.

[Weblink: Funding award](#)

