

NDA Monthly Update

August 2013

Summary

- Progress on Plutonium management
- NDA funding to support jobs growth
- Supply chain awards launched
- Annual report published
- Cumbrian construction centre opens
- Engagement plan now available
- Sizewell reaches defuelling milestone
- ILW and FED consultation continues
- Regulators report on RWMD work
- Sellafield box project
- Views sought on GDF site selection
- NDA statement on Government's response to Sellafield report
- ILW storage options in central and southern Scotland
- Magnox and RSRL competition update

Diary Dates

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Bradwell ILW store opens | August |
| • Stakeholders meet Magnox/RSRL bidders | 3-4 September |
| • Official opening of Dalton Cumbrian Facility | September |
| • National Stakeholder Event | 21-22 October |

NDA Monthly Update – August 2013

NDA funding to help attract jobs

The NDA has pledged £250,000 funding to help Wick Harbour in Scotland attract new jobs to the area. The NDA pledge supports the planned harbour upgrade aimed at attracting business from proposed offshore wind developments in the region. Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is also providing up to £200,000. The money, which has helped to attract additional private funding, is earmarked for the installation of heavy lift facilities at the port's commercial quay and the dredging of the entry channel to the quay.

[Weblink: Harbour investment](#)

Progress on Plutonium management

The NDA has shared with DECC the conclusions of the work we have recently undertaken regarding the management of the UK's separated plutonium stocks.

This work consisted of an updated assessment of the Government's preferred option, consideration of the credibility of alternative reuse proposals, for which the NDA has engaged GE-Hitachi and Candu to provide further information regarding their PRISM and Enhanced CANDU 6 (EC6) reactor proposals respectively; and an outline of what further work is required. DECC is currently considering our conclusions and we expect to be able to provide further information in the autumn.

[Weblink: Plutonium progress](#)

Supply chain awards 2013 launched

Business entries are now being invited for the prestigious NDA Estate Supply Chain Awards 2013 that recognise outstanding contributions to the nuclear clean-up mission. Launched last year, the awards are jointly sponsored by the NDA and its SLCs, with the aim of acknowledging the supply chain's vital role in delivering progress across the estate and providing innovation in. The winners will be announced at the NDA Estate Supply Chain Event at EventCity, Manchester, on 13 November.

[Weblink: awards announced](#)

Annual Report and Accounts published

Crucial milestones were achieved in the clean-up of the UK's nuclear legacy last year, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) revealed in its annual report and accounts. John Clarke, NDA Chief Executive, who has completed his first full year in charge, said: "Sellafield remains our top priority. It is the world's most complex nuclear site with unprecedented challenges."

[Weblink: ARAC 2012-2013](#)

Construction skills centre opens

The official opening has taken place of a new £7 million centre that will equip hundreds of young people in West Cumbria with the latest construction skills. Development of the Britain's Energy Coast (BEC) Construction Skills Centre at Lakes College, Lillyhall, involved a wide variety of organisations and companies including Nuclear Management Partners, the NDA and Lakes College. The facility provides teaching spaces and workshops for up to 600 students.

[Weblink: West Cumbria construction skills centre](#)

Engagement plan for next year

The NDA has updated plans giving details of the opportunities for stakeholders to express views on strategic issues. Stakeholders can comment on credible and preferred options papers or have input via statutory consultations. The plans also include details of meetings and events, such as the National Stakeholder Event or issue-specific workshops and seminars.

[Weblink: Information on engagement plans](#)

Sizewell half-way to defuelling milestone

More than half of the 52,945 fuel elements have now been removed from Sizewell A's twin reactors, with complete defuelling expected by September 2014. Dr Brian Burnett, NDA Head of Programmes, said: "This is an important milestone on the site's journey towards Care and Maintenance and a vital step in reducing hazard on the site."

[Weblink: Sizewell reaches half-way point](#)

Engagement continues on ILW and FED options

Additional workshops for stakeholders have now taken place as the NDA seeks to reduce the number of treatment options for Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage and Fuel Element Debris (FED) treatment at Magnox sites in England and Wales. More than 50 responses were received to earlier consultation papers. All comments will now be considered, while further engagement will take place with stakeholders before the preferred options are published towards the end of the year.

[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.

NDA Monthly Update – August 2013

[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.

[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

NDA Monthly Update – August 2013

Stakeholders and bidders meet

Site visits and information-gathering are continuing for bidding consortia taking part in the £7 billion competition for ownership of the Magnox and RSRL SLCs. Draft Invitations to Submit a Final Tender have now been issued to bidders, while further meetings between stakeholders and bidders will be held in Manchester, at the Radisson Blu Edwardian Hotel, on 3-4 September. The preferred bidder will be announced in 2014.

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