

NDA Monthly Update

September 2013

Summary

- DECC launches consultation on the site selection process for a GDF
- Increase in spending with smaller businesses
- Magnox and RSRL competition update
- Plutonium report to DECC
- 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

Diary Dates

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| • Credible options paper on Uranics | Autumn |
| • Magnox Strategy Contingency Options paper | Autumn |
| • National Stakeholder Event | 21-22 October |
| • NDA Estate Supply Chain Event 2013 | 13 November |

DECC launches consultation on the site selection process for a GDF

The Department for Energy and Climate Change has launched a public consultation on the site selection process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for higher activity radioactive waste, as part of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme. The consultation aims to gather views on how aspects of the siting process could be revised and improved.

The consultation follows a Call for Evidence earlier in the year, which ran from May to June. The evidence obtained from this, as well as information gathered from direct engagement with stakeholders and international bodies, has informed the proposals in the consultation document. The consultation will run for three months, closing on 5 December 2013, and will include a series of deliberative events nationally with members of the public and interested parties.

[Weblink: Geological Disposal Facility siting process review consultation document](#)

Increase in spending with smaller businesses

The NDA has published figures showing that overall levels of contract spending with smaller businesses are increasing across the estate. The 2012/13 increase gave Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) a 13% share of the estate's annual £1.6 billion supply chain spend, aiming for a target figure of 20% by 2015 and higher than the 11% recorded for the first time in 2010/11. Last year, the NDA drew up a three-year action plan to ensure greater support for SMEs, which requires all SLCs and subsidiaries to adopt the targets and report on performance.

[Weblink: Contract spending figures](#)

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 have been held in Manchester, at the Radisson Blu Edwardian Hotel. The preferred bidder will be announced in 2014.

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

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.

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[Weblink: Harbour investment](#)

Plutonium report submitted to DECC

DECC has now received a copy of the NDA's conclusions from a recent study on the UK's separated plutonium stocks, which considered the credibility of alternative re-use proposals. The study covered MOX fuel as well as GE-Hitachi's PRISM reactor and Candu's Enhanced CANDU 6 reactor.

[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

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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.

[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](#)