

NDA Monthly Update

December 2014

Summary

- Plaques mark completion of boiler project
- Tailor-made solution for Dounreay camera
- Family tribute at Windscale Pile
- Supply Chain Event success
- £13 million for nuclear R&D
- Oldbury reaches half-way stage
- New offices open for business
- Extra lease of life for Wylfa
- NDA leads risk management forum
- New PBO starts work at Magnox Ltd and RSRL
- Last fuel leaves Sizewell A

Diary Dates

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| • MOD submarine waste consultation, Sellafield | 17-18 December 2014 |
| • Nuclear Industry Association conference, London | 4 December 2014 |
| • Magnox SSG Chairs meeting | 18 December |
| • Official opening of Mon Training Academy, Holyhead | 22 December 2014 |
| • MOD submarine waste consultation, Chapelcross | 16 January 2015 |
| • MOD submarine waste consultation, Sellafield | 27-28 January 2015 |

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What it boils down to

Commemorative plaques have been manufactured from the last remaining sections of 15 giant boilers removed from Berkeley site for smelting and recycling in Sweden. The nearby town came to a standstill when the redundant boilers, each weighing 310 tonnes, trundled through the roads on massive transporters, en route for the docks. The project saw more than 4,000 tonnes of metal recycled and returned to the open market, helping to preserve valuable space at the UK's Low Level Waste Repository, where the boilers, classified as Low Level Waste (LLW), were originally scheduled for disposal.

[Weblink: Boilers smelted down](#)

Dressmaker takes heat out of radiation hotspot

A local Thurso dressmaker used ironing-board fabric and a tog 7.0 duvet to create a bespoke insulated hood that will help to combat heat inside the high-hazard Dounreay Fast Reactor vault. The site's decommissioning specialists hit on the creative solution when seeking a cover for a radiation-detecting robotic camera. The camera will be lowered through the roof to identify radiation sources and gather critical information that will contribute towards removing residual amounts of the highly dangerous liquid-metal coolant sodium-potassium, known as NaK.

[Weblink: Perfect material for reactor challenge](#)

Family tribute at Windscale Pile

The iconic filter gallery has now been removed from the remaining Windscale Pile chimney, marking the completion of a project that has taken many years. Removal of the bulbous gallery was preceded by a ceremony paying tribute to pioneering scientist Sir John Cockcroft whose work prevented the 1957 Windscale fire from turning into a full-scale nuclear catastrophe. Seventy-two-year old Christopher Cockcroft was just eight when his Nobel prizewinning physicist father insisted that expensive filters were fitted on top of the two chimneys, or Piles, at Sellafield. His foresight helped to prevent the fire from spreading contamination across much of northern England.

[Weblink: Windscale milestone](#)

Supply Chain Event attracts 1,400 visitors

The fourth annual NDA Estate Supply Chain Event was the most successful so far, with around 1,400 visitors at the Manchester venue. Now believed to be the largest event of its kind in Europe, the aim of the day, at EventCity, was to provide greater visibility of contracting opportunities across the NDA's 19 UK sites through informal networking and access to senior figures from the decommissioning sector. The event featured 260 business stands, as well as a range of presentations by representatives from the UK

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Government, NDA and the Site Licence Companies. A highlight of the event was the ceremony celebrating this year's winners of the Supply Chain Awards.

[Weblink: Success of supply chain event](#) and [awards](#)

£13 million for nuclear R&D

UK companies and consortia have been awarded a total of £13 million to help develop innovative technologies for the nuclear industry, covering decommissioning, existing operations and new build. The funding is part of a joint initiative between Innovate UK (formerly the Technology Strategy Board), the NDA and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to stimulate innovation. Among the beneficiaries will be 15 collaborative R&D projects and 26 smaller-scale feasibility studies. The aim is to encourage a strong, sustainable supply chain serving both national and global markets. Over the coming decades, around £930 billion investment is planned globally on new reactors, while, the decommissioning market is also set to expand, with up to 145 reactors, mostly in Europe, expected to reach the end of their lives in the next 15 years, and an estimated global market worth £50 billion annually.

[Weblink: Funding for safe, smart nuclear technologies](#)

Oldbury reaches halfway point

The decommissioning of Oldbury has passed a major milestone as more than half of the site's fuel elements have now been removed from its two reactors. Mike Heaton, Oldbury Site Director, said: "This is a significant milestone in Oldbury's lifecycle. The reactors are now half empty and over 19,504 fuel elements have been shipped to Sellafield." Around 180 further flask shipments are required to finish defuelling at the site, which Magnox hope to complete early in 2016. Oldbury's success follows on from that of Sizewell A site, where defuelling of reactors was completed in August.

[Weblink: Oldbury defuelling](#)

New offices open for business

The new £multi-million office complex in west Cumbria built by the NDA has been officially opened. The building, in Albion Square, has been named John Fyfe House in honour of economic strategist Prof John Fyfe who has played an instrumental role in west Cumbria's regeneration over a number of years and was awarded a CBE for his services to the area. The four-storey complex will eventually be home to 1,000 Sellafield workers who are being transferred from the nuclear decommissioning site to the centre of Whitehaven, where it is expected to have a significant economic impact. The development is a result of partnership working between the NDA, Copeland Council, Sellafield Ltd, NMP and many others.

[Weblink: Office complex opens](#)

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Extra lease of life for Wylfa

Wylfa power station has been granted an extra year of life and will continue generating electricity until December 2015. Originally scheduled to close in 2010, the Anglesey plant has been granted a number of lifetime extensions after demonstrating to the regulators that it can continue to meet a stringent set of safety requirements. Wylfa's twin reactors, which began operating in 1970, once supplied enough electricity for almost half of Wales. Reactor 2 stopped generating last year while Reactor 1 has continued using partially used fuel transferred from the shut-down reactor. The extension will deliver additional income to the taxpayer of up to £785 million since 2010.

[Weblink: Wylfa lifetime extension](#)

NDA leads national risk forum

More than 50 risk specialists gathered in Cumbria for the largest-ever annual forum focused on risk management across the NDA estate. Participants included the SLCs, the NDA's subsidiaries DRS and INS, regulators, the wider nuclear industry, the Institute of Risk Management, and other professionals. The event was preceded by a tour of Sellafield, the UK's most challenging nuclear complex.

[Weblink: Risk Management Forum](#)

New Parent Body Organisation sets to work

Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry was the backdrop for stakeholders who gathered to mark the NDA's formal award of a new Parent Body Organisation (PBO) contract to The Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP). More than £1.5 billion of savings for the public purse are anticipated as CFP now begins to implement its plans for Magnox Ltd and Research Sites Restoration Ltd, continuing with the decades-long programme of work to decommission 10 of the UK's first nuclear power stations and the two pioneering research facilities. The SLCs will continue to operate the sites on behalf of the NDA.

[Weblink: Share transfer event](#)

Last fuel leaves Sizewell A

The last container of spent nuclear fuel has now left Sizewell A, removing 99% of the radioactive hazard from the former power station. The defueling was successfully completed ahead of a target set by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The A site is now fuel-free for the first time in almost half a century, marking a major decommissioning milestone. Since electricity generation ended in 2006, more than 52,000 individual fuel elements have been systematically removed and transported to Sellafield for reprocessing, packaged in 50-tonne shielded flasks.

[Weblink: Sizewell defuelling](#)