

NDA Monthly Update

March 2015

Summary

- Sign up for geological screening event
- Small business mentoring scheme now open for applications
- Co-operation agreement signed with Japan
- Documents published on Sellafield management arrangements
- Hunterston empties first bunker
- New publication explains cost of clean-up
- 2015 Supply Chain Event date announced
- Dungeness demolition captured as it happens
- Low Level Waste Strategy consultation
- Business Plan consultation closes
- Sellafield management decision
- Report on priority projects available

Diary Dates

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| • National Science & Engineering Week | 13-22 March |
| • Waste Management Conference, Phoenix, US | 15-19 March |
| • NDA annual Business Plan published | End of March |
| • Direct Rail Services 20th anniversary Open Day, Carlisle | 18 July |

Spaces remain at geological disposal screening events

A few spaces remain at one of the events being organised Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM) to share the aims of the National Geological Screening (NGS) exercise. The screening exercise will look at geological attributes to be considered in producing screening guidance, using existing geological information and the generic geological disposal facility (GDF) safety cases. The event in Bristol takes place on Thursday 26 March, is free to attend but requires pre-registration. Meanwhile, anyone wishing to keep up to date on geological disposal can subscribe to an e-bulletin:

www.nda.gov.uk/rwm

[Weblink: Geological screening exercise events](#)

Business mentoring scheme opens

A mentoring scheme for small businesses has re-opened for applications following a successful launch last year. The first NDA Estate SME Mentor Scheme, designed to help Small and Medium-sized Enterprises navigate through the maze of decommissioning opportunities, attracted more than 40 pairs of businesses and exceeded expectations. It has now reopened for new applications until 27 March 2015. All UK-based SMEs are eligible to apply to become a mentee, regardless of industrial background, but must aspire to work in nuclear decommissioning or have an existing involvement. Mentors must be business professionals, but not necessarily with a nuclear background.

[Weblink: Mentoring scheme](#)

Co-operation agreement signed with Japan

A co-operation agreement has been signed in Tokyo between the NDA and the Japanese organisation tasked with overseeing clean-up of the damaged Fukushima-Daiichi plant. The agreement with the Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation of Japan (NDF) cements a relationship between the organisations that has been developing since NDF was re-organised in 2014 to become responsible for facilitating decommissioning of the reactors damaged by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

[Weblink: Agreement signed](#)

Documents explain Sellafield management arrangements

The NDA has published a suite of documents that explain more fully the rationale behind the decision to change the Sellafield management arrangements. The documents provide a more detailed analysis of the issues considered during the review process and how they shaped the final decision announced by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in January.

[Weblink: Sellafield documents](#)

Hunterston empties first bunker

Magnox has successfully emptied more than 120 tonnes of hazardous material from the first of Hunterston A's five solid waste bunkers. Retrieval of the highly radioactive graphite and metallic waste has posed a technical challenge for many years and the recent success is a major milestone for the site. Following removal of the 62 packages from Bunker 5, work will start on breaking through into the next bunker, No 4, with a scheduled completion date for 2016. Magnox expect that emptying the solid waste from all bunkers will fill more than 1,200 packages and take a further three-four years.

[Weblink: Bunker emptied](#)

Date for 2015 Supply Chain Event announced

Following the resounding success of last year's event, the date for the 2015 NDA Estate Supply Chain Event has now been confirmed as Wednesday, 4 November. The one-day event for businesses supplying the decommissioning sector, now believed to be the largest of its kind in Europe, will once again be held at EventCity in Manchester. As with previous years, entry to the event will be free of charge to both visitors and exhibitors.

[Weblink: 2015 Supply Chain Event](#)

Nuclear Provision explained

The NDA has published an explanation of the Nuclear Provision which is the best estimate of how much it will cost to clean up the NDA's legacy sites over a programme lasting 100-plus years

[Weblink: The Nuclear Provision.](#)

Watch Dungeness demolition as it happens

The gradual demolition of the turbine hall at Dungeness A is being broadcast live via a webcam. Work to dismantle the 26-metre high structure began in January, and, subject to weather conditions, work will complete at the end of March. This demolition marks the culmination of a three-year programme of work, which was originally scheduled to take 12 years but was accelerated thanks to an additional £12.8 million of funding from the NDA. The funds were made available through estate-wide efficiency savings and re-prioritisation of other work. The Magnox webcam is updated every few minutes.

[Weblink: Magnox webcam](#)

Consultation on low level waste (LLW) strategy

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has launched its consultation on an update of the UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Waste from the Nuclear Industry. The consultation document sets out proposals for the revised strategy, first issued in 2010, and is intended to ensure that the strategy remains fit for purpose,

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reflecting changes in the nuclear industry and developments in the UK environment for the management of low level waste. The closing date is 21 April 2015.

[Weblink: DECC consultation](#)

Business Plan consultation closed

Consultation has now closed on our Draft Business Plan 2015 to 2018, which will now be revised and a final version published at the end of March. The Plan sets out key objectives and plans for delivering priority work over the next three years. Planned expenditure for 2015/16 is £3.31 billion, with £1.22 billion funded by commercial income. Planned expenditure on site programmes will be £2.91 billion, with non-site expenditure at £0.19 billion. Non-site expenditure includes skills development, socio-economic support, R&D, insurance and pension costs, fees to SLCs, implementing geological disposal and NDA operating costs.

[Weblink: Business Plan consultation](#)

Sellafield management decision

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