

# NDA Monthly Update

## November 2015

### Summary

- 1,500 attend supply chain event
- Silo equipment delivered to Sellafield
- Sellafield fuel removal milestone
- Key permit approval for LLWR
- Fuel emptied from Oldbury reactors
- Views sought on Strategy
- NDA website moving home
- Archive construction under way
- Geological screening consultation
- Historic marine centre re-opens
- Dungeness A turbine hall demolished

### Diary Dates

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|---|--------------------|
| • NIA's annual nuclear conference, London         | 3 December         |
| • Sellafield announce £1.2 billion contract award | Early December     |
| • End of generation at Wylfa                      | December 2015      |
| • National Stakeholder Event, Manchester          | 13-14 January 2016 |

### Supply chain event attracts 1,500

More than 1,500 visitors attended the 2015 NDA Estate Supply Chain Event in Manchester, the most successful event so far. Businesses from across the UK and overseas were represented, with delegates from as far afield as Canada, Japan, China, Russia and the European Union. Organised jointly by the NDA and its SLCs, a key goal is to create greater visibility of opportunities for suppliers and in particular for smaller businesses. The main hall featured more than 270 exhibition stands, including an Innovation Zone with technology demonstrations. One of the highlights was the presentation of NDA Estate awards to recognise suppliers who have successfully worked on collaborative projects or innovative technology.

[Weblink: Supply chain success](#)

### Bulk delivery of silo equipment

One of Sellafield's most hazardous buildings is closer to being cleaned up after delivery of a massive piece of decommissioning kit. The 50-tonne 'transfer tunnel', which will be hoisted into place at the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo, is the main component of the first Silo Emptying Plant (SEP), one of three 360-tonne machines which will scoop out the building's highly radioactive contents. Contents of the 1960s silo must be moved into more modern facilities for storage before the material is ultimately consigned to the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). The delivery follows a recent research breakthrough which established that the anticipated clean-up costs could be reduced by around £1 billion, and achieved more quickly, by switching to a simpler waste treatment method. The original, complex 22-step plan has been shelved in favour of a 'raw waste' storage option that places material untreated into containers, with a final finishing step prior to its consignment to the GDF.

[Weblink: Special delivery for Sellafield](#)

### Fuel removal reaches milestone

One of the biggest tasks in the Sellafield clean-up is half way to completion after workers removed 50 per cent of radioactivity from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond, one of four high hazard facilities prioritised for clean-up by the NDA. The milestone was achieved when the final 'canned fuel' was transferred from the fuel pond to a modern handling plant operated by the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL). The stored fuel is several decades old, some in a fragile state, and the building itself had to be strengthened to withstand retrieval operations. Work is ongoing to remove the remaining pond contents, including 'metal fuel', which is expected to be cleared by April next year and will remove more than 70 per cent of pond radioactivity. Attention will then switch to clearing other wastes.

[Weblink: Pond milestone](#)

### Key permit approval for LLWR

A vital environmental permit has been granted that enables many more decades of disposing material to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR). The Environment Agency's decision follows seven years of work to demonstrate that every aspect of the UK facility, near Drigg, Cumbria, can continue to be operated safely. LLWR has now submitted a planning application to Cumbria County Council, seeking to enable the phased construction of three new vaults (9a, 10 and 11) where low level waste would be disposed of in specially grouted containers. If successful, construction of vault 9a could start in 2016 and run for almost four years. The application would also allow higher-stacking of containers in vault 8 and the disposal of containers in vault 9, where they can currently only be stored.

[Weblink: LLWR permit granted](#)

### Fuel emptied from Oldbury reactors

Oldbury power station has removed the last of 52,000 fuel elements from its reactors, marking the end of an era for the site. The site, which stopped electricity generation in 2012, will now complete the despatch of fuel to Sellafield for reprocessing before moving into the decommissioning phase.

[Weblink: Fuel removed](#)

### Views sought on strategy review

An early version of the NDA's draft Strategy has been published to share emerging thinking ahead of a formal consultation process anticipated to start in January 2016. The Energy Act 2004 requires the NDA to review, update and consult on its Strategy every five years. The timing of the formal consultation will ensure that the final draft Strategy is informed by the outcome of the government's spending review. The document gives stakeholders the opportunity to provide input while the review is completed.

[Weblink: Strategy input sought](#)

### NDA website moving home

The NDA's website content has now been moved to the central government website ([www.gov.uk/nda](http://www.gov.uk/nda)). Our current website will be switched off shortly. Web users should be automatically redirected to the new content. Older content will be held in the National Government Web Archives: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/\\*/www.nda.gov.uk](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/*/www.nda.gov.uk)

If you experience any difficulties finding the content on the migrated site, please contact the NDA's Sophie Palmer: [sophie.palmer@nda.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.palmer@nda.gov.uk)

### Archive building work under way

Construction work is now well under way on the new archive that will store nuclear records from across the UK. The NDA Archive, located next to Wick John O’Groats airport, set to open to the public in 2016, will become the single facility to collect and store relevant records from all the UK’s civil nuclear sites. The Archive will be accessible to the industry, for research and to the public.

[Weblink: Archive turf-cutting](#)

### Geological screening consultation

NDA subsidiary Radioactive Waste Management has launched a public consultation on its draft National Geological Screening (NGS) Guidance, which will run until 4 December. The guidance outlines how information about the geology of England, Wales and Northern Ireland would be assembled, and how the results would be presented to the public. The approach to finding a suitable location is based on working with communities that are willing to participate in the siting process.

[Weblink: National Geological Screening](#)

### Historic marine centre re-opens

The UK’s oldest marine research centre re-opened after the NDA joined new funding partners to ensure its long-term future. The NDA’s £300,000 award, via the Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme, is part of a £4 million package for Millport Field Centre, on the small island of Cumbrae, North Ayrshire, which lies just across the water from the NDA’s Hunterston A site. The earlier loss of grant funding had led to closure, in 2013, of the historic facility which was established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century after a floating laboratory moored at the island and attracted a stream of distinguished scientists.

[Weblink: New lease of life for centre](#)

### Turbine hall bites the dust

The final section of the turbine hall at Magnox’s Dungeness A Site came crashing down as a three-year programme to clear the south side of the site ended. Members of the team gathered to see the last of 12 supporting frames fall to the ground in a dramatic ending to the project which has seen more than 30,000 tonnes of waste generated. All the material, other than a small amount of hazardous material including asbestos, has been recycled and some rubble was re-used to backfill other areas on the site. This helped keep disruption on local roads to a minimum.

[Weblink: Turbine hall demolished](#)