

# NDA Monthly Update

July 2016

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## Summary

- Change of government department for NDA
- Low Level Waste vaults given go-ahead
- Registration opens for 2016 supply chain event
- NDA annual report published
- Bradwell vaults decontaminated and cladding complete
- Cumbrian training facility for nuclear police under way
- £12 million for research contracts
- Sellafield opens door to silos waste removal
- Major milestone at historic Sellafield fuel pond
- Start of new era at Sellafield
- Performance overview published

## Diary Dates

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|---|-----------------|
| • World Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Management Congress (Europe) 2016 | 12-14 September |
| • Calder Hall's 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary                                | October         |
| • 2016 NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester                            | 3 November      |

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### Departmental change

Following changes in a number of government departments, the NDA now reports to the newly created Department for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS).

### Vaults given go-ahead

Planners in Cumbria have given the go-ahead for two new vaults at the UK's Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR), along with an extension to a third vault. The news will ensure the future of the facility, near Drigg, until 2050, creating around 120 construction jobs and securing existing roles. LLWR was opened in 1957 as the only UK location for the disposal of solid waste containing low levels of radioactivity. It provides an essential service for NDA sites as well as other industries that produce low level waste (LLW). More than £100 million has been invested in the site's infrastructure over the past decade to maintain it as an important national asset.

[Weblink: Planning approval secured at LLWR](#)

### Date for your business diaries

Registration is now open for the 2016 NDA Estate Supply Chain Event which takes place on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at EventCity in Manchester. Businesses are also invited to submit entries for the prestigious Supply Chain Awards which acknowledge the vital role played by the estate's wide diversity of contractors. The deadline for submissions is the 9<sup>th</sup> September. The event is sponsored jointly by the NDA and its Site Licence Companies, and last year attracted a record 1,500 visitors.

[Weblink: NDA Estate Supply Chain Event and Awards](#)

### NDA Annual Report and Accounts published

The NDA has now published its Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16, which highlight major milestones in hazard reduction. It includes an overview from the Chief Executive Officer John Clarke, audited financial statements, a summary of key milestones and activities for each of the Site Licence Companies and subsidiaries.

[Weblink: 2015-16 Annual Report and Accounts](#)

### Bradwell vaults decontaminated

Bradwell has become the first Magnox site to empty and decontaminate all its underground waste storage vaults ready for the Care and Maintenance (C&M) phase. Waste, including metal, sand and sludge, was stored in 18 different vaults during the site's 40 year operational phase. A primary aim of decommissioning has been to safely recover that waste, characterise it and find the most suitable treatment or disposal route. Some is being treated in a specially designed dissolution plant, while other types of

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waste are being conditioned and packaged for interim storage until a national disposal facility is available.

The vaults success follows completion of an aluminium weather envelope around Bradwell's two reactor structures, marking the biggest transformation in the site's appearance since the power station was constructed in the 1950s. The project employed more than 900 people working more than 980,000 hours since it began in 2012. Bradwell is now more than halfway through a programme which should see it become the UK's first reactor site in the UK to reach C&M.

[Weblink: Bradwell vaults success](#) and [weather cladding](#)

### New training facility for nuclear police

Construction is under way in Cumbria of a new £39 million training facility for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) who guard the Sellafield site. The facility will consist of a four-storey hub with classrooms, operational stores and offices, alongside communal use areas. Two connected buildings will house live fire training arenas. The facility will be owned and developed by the NDA and leased to the CNC.

[Weblink: New police training facility](#)

### £12 million for research

R&D framework contracts worth up to £12 million were awarded to a series of consortia, as NDA seeks innovative solutions to technical challenges. Among the organisations involved are UK universities, global corporations and around 20 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The NDA's Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) forms a key part of the NDA's strategic research programme and focuses on direct funding for research that delivers innovation across multiple sites, develops technical expertise and informs NDA's strategy. The three new framework contracts were awarded to 10 consortia, involving more than 70 organisations and including three consortia led by SMEs. The contracts, last awarded in 2012, will cover the next four years.

Meanwhile, almost 50 research students and Post-Doctoral Research Assistants, who are working on a unique programme, gathered in Bristol to share their progress with representatives from industry, regulators and international organisations. The students were part of the four-year DISTINCTIVE programme (Decommissioning, Immobilisation and Storage Solutions for Nuclear Waste Inventories), launched in 2014. DISTINCTIVE is supported by 11 universities, led by Leeds, and funded jointly by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council, NDA, the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL), NDA and Sellafield Ltd.

[Weblink: Research contracts](#)

[Find out more about the DISTINCTIVE consortium](#)

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### Opening doors to Sellafield hazard removal

One of Sellafield's most hazardous buildings is a step closer to being cleaned up after a major engineering task was completed. The historic Pile Fuel Cladding Silo contains waste from the site's earliest days, when the site was focused on weapons-related activities, and is one of the most challenging tasks in the NDA estate. Installation of a huge 40-tonne, 9-metre wide steel door frame on the side of the building marks a crucial step. This will allow doors to be hung, behind which holes will be cut so the waste can be removed by retrieval machines. Years of planning, testing and specialist engineering design preceded the milestone achievement.

[Weblink: Sellafield engineering feat](#)

### Major milestone at historic Sellafield pond

The most significant stride ever was achieved in the Sellafield clean-up mission when the entire bulk stocks of historic nuclear fuel were removed from one of the oldest ponds. The milestone came after the final skip of 'metal fuel' was lifted from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond via remote control. The work means radioactivity levels at the 68-year-old spent fuel pond have been cut by 70%, vastly reducing the risk it poses to people and environment. The achievement is the most visible sign yet of progress in the NDA's programme to clean-up the legacy of Britain's early nuclear industry, which is set to continue for another 100 years. The fuel has been transferred to a modern on-site storage building.

[Weblink: Sellafield pond achievement](#)

### Sellafield becomes NDA subsidiary

A new era in the history of Sellafield is under way after the SLC became a subsidiary of the NDA in April. Direct ownership by the NDA will help Sellafield Ltd to accelerate progress and improve efficiency. The Parent Body Organisation model, where Sellafield Ltd was owned by private sector consortium Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) from 2008 until March, has now been replaced by a simpler structure that is more suited to the complexities of the NDA's largest, most hazardous site. NDA Chief Executive John Clarke said: "The new arrangements will accommodate the challenges at the site more easily and allow for longer-term planning. The private sector will still be heavily involved in delivering work at Sellafield but no longer as an owner."

[Weblink: New era for Sellafield](#)

### Performance overview published

The NDA has published the latest quarterly overview of performance across its sites, focusing on the priority programmes and major projects. Progress is measured against specific targets set out in the annual Business Plan.

[Weblink: Performance review](#)