

NDA Monthly Update

August 2016

Summary

- NDA Chief Executive set to retire
- High court judgment in damages claim
- New government department for NDA
- Low Level Waste vaults given go-ahead
- Entries invited for 2016 supply chain awards
- Hunterston bunkers emptied
- Berkeley waste retrievals
- NDA annual report published
- Bradwell vaults decontaminated
- 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

Diary Dates

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

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NDA Chief Executive to retire

NDA Chief Executive John Clarke will be retiring in the course of the next year. The announcement was made by NDA Chairman Stephen Henwood, who said: “John has made a major contribution to the NDA and its mission to safely clean up the UK’s nuclear legacy. Through his leadership, drive and commitment, John has improved performance at Sellafield with a new operating model, delivered an integrated approach to accelerating decommissioning across the estate and created an optimised strategy, resulting in increased value to the taxpayer. The NDA has made great progress under John’s leadership, but I recognise that the CEO role is all-consuming and places great demands on both the individual and their family. I must therefore respect John’s wishes and reluctantly accept his decision to retire.”

[Weblink: NDA CEO retirement announced](#)

Judge ruling in ES vs NDA case

A High Court judge has ruled against the NDA following a four-week trial to examine the claim for damages submitted by EnergySolutions EU (now named ATK Energy EU and owned by WS Atkins) over its unsuccessful 2014 bid to secure the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) contract for the 12 Magnox and RSRL sites. Further hearings will now follow to assess whether damages are merited and, if so, to establish the level of damages. EnergySolutions EU are seeking damages only and have not challenged award of the contract to the Cavendish Fluor Partnership.

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](#)

Entries invited for business awards

Entries are now being invited for the annual supply chain awards which will be a feature of the 2016 NDA Estate Supply Chain Event on Thursday, 3rd November. The

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submission deadline for the awards, which acknowledge the vital role played by the estate's wide diversity of contractors, is 9th September. The supply chain event is sponsored jointly by the NDA and its Site Licence Companies and again takes place at EventCity in Manchester. One of this year's key speakers will be John Manzoni, Chief Executive of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretary (Cabinet Office). Last year, the event attracted a record 1,500 visitors.

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

Bunkers emptied

The second of Hunterston's five concrete waste bunkers has now been successfully emptied of its hazardous contents – six weeks ahead of schedule. Using remotely operated vehicles, more than 650 tonnes of radioactive graphite and metallic waste were lifted before being packed into specially engineered stainless steel boxes.

[Weblink: Hunterston bunkers](#)

Berkeley vaults success

Waste is finally being retrieved from underground chambers at Berkeley and is being sorted ready for safe storage in the Interim Storage Facility (ISF). Around 620 tonnes of metallic fuel element debris (FED) and 6,665 containers, some of which are sludge cans, were housed in three vaults. A single silo, meanwhile, houses charge rods and the chutes used to discharge fuel from the reactors. Berkeley stores a uniquely complex range of mixed waste produced by the power station and neighbouring lab complex which carried out research for the UK nuclear industry.

[Weblink: Waste retrieved from bunkers](#)

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 its underground waste storage vaults ready for the Care and Maintenance (C&M) phase. Waste, including metal, sand and sludge, was stored in 18 vaults during operations. A primary aim has been to safely recover the 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 waste are being conditioned and packaged for interim storage.

[Weblink: Bradwell vaults success](#)

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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.

[Weblink: Research contracts](#)

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.

[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 fuel has been transferred to a modern on-site storage building.

[Weblink: Sellafield pond achievement](#)