

# NDA Monthly Update

## November 2016

### Summary

- 1,500-plus visitors at supply chain event
- Business Plan consultation to launch
- Dungeness deploys divers
- Steaming ahead at Winfrith
- Bradwell waste planning decision
- Bradwell decontamination milestone
- NDA research brochure published
- Japanese Ambassador visit to Dounreay
- Panorama
- Safety awards for Sellafield
- Nuclear provision document published
- NDA Insight magazine published
- NDA Chief Executive set to retire
- Permission sought to appeal against judgment

### Diary Dates

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|--|-----------------|
| • IAEA Conference on Radioactive Waste, Vienna           | 21-25 November  |
| • Nuclear Industry Association annual conference, London | 1 December      |
| • NDA Draft Business Plan published                      | 12 December     |
| • UK Radioactive Waste Inventory published               | January 2017    |
| • Women in Nuclear conference                            | 1 February 2017 |

### Supply Chain Event success

More than 1,500 visitors attended the sixth annual NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, held at EventCity in Manchester, making it the busiest and most successful so far. Following morning presentations and the prestigious annual awards ceremony for suppliers, delegates were able to take advantage of informal networking opportunities and a range of sessions on specific topics. Alongside the popular Innovation Zone in the main exhibition hall, 2016 also saw the inaugural Skills Zone, staffed by representatives from training and development organisations.

[Weblink: Supply chain event success](#) and [award winners](#)

### Business Plan consultation set to open

The NDA's draft Business Plan will be launched for consultation on 12 December, running until 3 February 2017. Containing an outline of work planned between 2017 and 2020, the Plan reflects the Strategy document published earlier in 2016. Feedback and comments will be taken into account before the finalised version is published next April.

### Plumbing the depths

In what is believed to be a first for the UK, divers have been working under water to cut up and retrieve items from the spent fuel ponds at Dungeness. Wearing protective suits, with additional shielding from the water, the specialised teams are able to work close to skips and other equipment as well as gain access to awkward areas. Divers, more widely used in the US nuclear industry, can be faster and more effective than the conventional approach where remote equipment is deployed to hoist items from the water, with the potential for airborne contamination.

[Weblink: Divers clean up ponds](#)

### Steaming ahead at Winfrith reactor

The final piece of a complex engineering jigsaw is now being put in place, finally allowing the core of an iconic experimental reactor to be removed. By early next year work will be complete on isolating Winfrith's Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor from all the plant and equipment that allowed it to operate. This involves removing 1.5km of highly irradiated stainless steel pipework which fed water through the reactor, producing steam to drive the turbine and then re-circulating the condensed water. The complexity of the project meant months of preparation, including the creation of full-scale mock-ups of the plant. Once the pipework – known as steam risers and feeders – is removed, access to the reactor core for decommissioning will be possible.

[Weblink: Reactor decommissioning moves closer](#)

### Essex County Council planning decision

Essex County Council has agreed to remove a planning condition barring Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) from other power plants being stored at Bradwell. Plans to store packaged ILW from Dungeness A and Sizewell A at Bradwell are part of a wider strategy that could save the taxpayer £200 million across the Magnox fleet. The NDA and Magnox will continue to work closely with stakeholders as plans are progressed.

### Bradwell decontamination milestone

More than 10,000 square metres of walls, floors and ceilings have been decontaminated at Bradwell's ponds complex. The complex clean-up, which covers an area similar to a rugby field, ends four years of hard work which began when the spent fuel ponds were drained and stabilised in 2012. This success follows the emptying of the site's 18 underground waste vaults, which contained radioactive metal, sand, sludge and other material which had accumulated over the 40 years while the power station was generating electricity. This follows the completion, earlier in the year, of weatherproof aluminium cladding around the two reactors.

[Weblink: Bradwell decontamination milestone](#)

### Research and Development brochure published

The NDA has published a 20-page brochure outlining its approach to supporting R&D across the estate and highlighting a series of recent case studies. Annual spend on R&D, including direct multi-site investment and funding support for on-site projects, amounts to around £85 million a year.

[Weblink: R&D brochure 2016](#)

### Japanese Ambassador visits Dounreay

NDA welcomed the opportunity to share decommissioning progress at its most northern site with the Japanese Ambassador to the UK. His Excellency, Mr Koji Tsuruoka was joined by Mr Yosuki Ishigami from the Economic Section of the Japanese Embassy and Mr Daisuke Matsunaga, Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh as they visited Dounreay during a two-day visit to the north of Scotland as a guest of Dr Paul Monaghan MP.

[Weblink: Japanese Ambassador visit](#)

### Panorama

NDA and Sellafield Ltd issued a joint statement in response to the Panorama programme which was broadcast in early September.

[Weblink: Panorama statement](#)

### Sellafield safety awards

Sellafield Ltd has recorded one of its best-ever performances in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) 2016 awards, scooping nine golds and one silver. Now in the 60th year, the internationally recognised RoSPA awards are the UK's most sought-after safety citations. Four of the gold medals were won in the highest hazard areas of the site – the legacy ponds and silos.

[Weblink: Safety at Sellafield is gold standard](#)

### Nuclear provision document published

The NDA has published a document explaining the the origins of the UK's nuclear legacy and the issues with forecasting the cost of such a long-term mission. The Nuclear Provision is the best estimate of how much it will cost to clean up the UK's 17 earliest nuclear sites over approximately 120 years.

[Weblink: Nuclear provision](#)

### NDA Insight magazine published

The latest edition of Insight has been published. Insight is our news magazine where we aim to provide a snapshot of some of the developments across the NDA estate. This edition includes news on the nuclear college, the supply chain event 2016, annual report highlights and a focus on R&D

[Weblink: Insight issue 21](#)

### NDA Chief Executive to retire

NDA Chief Executive John Clarke will be retiring next year. The announcement was made by NDA Chairman Stephen Henwood, who said: "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." Pete Lutwyche, NDA Chief Operating Officer, has also left to work in the private sector.

[Weblink: NDA CEO retirement announced](#)

### NDA seeks to appeal in ES vs NDA case

The NDA has submitted an application to the Court of Appeal, seeking permission to appeal against the July judgment in the claim for damages brought by EnergySolutions EU. EnergySolutions EU was one of the unsuccessful bidders in the competition to appoint a new Parent Body Organisation (PBO) contract for the 12 Magnox and RSRL sites. The claim is for damages only. The NDA's award of the contract to the Cavendish Fluor Partnership is not being challenged.