



# NDA Stakeholder Update

July - August 2020

## NDA – keeping in touch

**John McNamara – NDA Head of Stakeholder Engagement**

Welcome to our latest stakeholder update. Firstly, I hope this message finds you in good health, and staying safe within the current social distancing guidelines.

This is a challenging time for all of us, but we wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate that the NDA's Stakeholder Engagement team is here to help you stay in touch, and keep dialogue moving forward. We have found that it is good to talk – the current round of audio/video conferences, although not ideal, at least allows for robust discussion, and has a positive impact on wellbeing. We have found it good to see and hear colleagues via virtual meetings, it can provide a boost in these times of increased isolation.

There's a lot going on at the moment. Over the past few weeks, we have published both our business plan, and our annual report and accounts. We have also made announcements on termination of the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) contracts at LLWR in Cumbria, and at Dounreay. Following those announcements we now begin a journey of transition working positively with the PBOs and local communities there to ensure continuity. We also announced the lead Magnox site for accelerated decommissioning, and we also heard back from you, our stakeholders, on the NDA's performance and how we are perceived, via the NDA's Annual Stakeholder Survey.

On behalf of the team, we would like to wish all stakeholders well during these testing times and remind you that we are available to discuss issues, or catch-up on news and developments. Our contact details are at the end of this update.

Best wishes and stay safe

John



### NDA's recovery planning

The NDA's Recovery team has been working hard to shape our response to the changing circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen a gradual easing of lockdown restrictions across the UK. We have also seen an unprecedented level of support from government and the devolved administrations to help get the economy moving again, while at the same time guarding against a further spike in the current level of COVID-19 cases. Over the coming weeks and months our sites will continue with their restart plans, with the safety of our workforce and security of our sites a key priority at all times.

Some of our businesses have continued to work as normal throughout the COVID crisis, including DRS who have been transporting thousands of containers of key supplies for communities across the country.

Working as a One NDA Group, we have introduced Microsoft Teams across all of our businesses in support of our workforce who are working from home. From 20<sup>th</sup> July, our offices opened to a limited amount of staff where there is a real business need – but most will continue to work from home for the time being. This followed a huge logistical effort in readying our offices to be safe environments in which to work, in line with the latest health guidelines.

Meantime, our staff and businesses continue to support communities around the country through funding and volunteering support – you can read some more details about this below.

The advice remains that unnecessary travel and larger gatherings are not advised, and so reluctantly we have had to postpone our Stakeholder Summit, due to take place in October, and the NDA Supply Chain event. Details of re-arranged dates for these will be announced in due course.

However, we will be engaging with the Site Stakeholder Group Forum, and local authorities via Nuleaf, in September. We will also be hosting a Strategy 4 stakeholder day part-way through the 12-week consultation, which begins on 17 August. Again, details of how you can get involved in this will be forwarded in due course. We would urge stakeholders to get involved in the consultation on the draft strategy, to ensure you have your say.

Finally, we are planning a virtual stakeholder event for November, which will focus on our approach to integrated waste management, and will be one of the events to replace our postponed summit. We will keep you posted as we develop this event.

### Announcement of termination of PBO contracts

On 10<sup>th</sup> July, NDA completed another key milestone in creating a cohesive One NDA Group with the announcement that both Dounreay and LLWR in West Cumbria will become subsidiaries of the NDA.



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These changes mean we can deliver our mission in a much more effective and efficient way. DSRL will transfer to NDA ownership at the end of March 2021, with LLWR transferring in July 2021.

The announcements were well-received by local stakeholders, however, we will be taking on board feedback which clearly highlights the importance of on-going stakeholder engagement – both during the transition of ownership process and after the transfer is complete.

Both Parent Body Organisations (PBOs), have played a key role in delivering our mission over the last few years, and we have achieved some major milestones on the road towards our decommissioning mission. So the changes we are making must not be seen as a criticism of the PBOs, they are the result of our One NDA objective of creating an organisation that capitalises on our wealth of experience and talent – we have around 16,000 people who help deliver the NDA mission, one of the most advanced nuclear workforces anywhere in the world. See the link below for more details:

[News story: DSRL and LLWR to become subsidiaries](#)

### Announcement of Lead Site for accelerated decommissioning

Recently, the NDA announced its intention to bring forward reactor decommissioning at the Trawsfynydd site. The decision to target Trawsfynydd as a lead site for accelerated decommissioning follows a review of the historical strategy to defer reactor decommissioning at all Magnox reactor sites. The objective of the new strategy is to fully decommission the reactors without a period of deferral. This strategic decision is based on a better understanding of the increased costs and lifecycle risks associated with the previous strategy of deferral.

Experience and lessons learned from decommissioning Trawsfynydd will inform a wider review to develop site-specific strategies for each Magnox reactor site. The Harwell and Winfrith site programmes will not be affected by this review.

While we expect the new site-specific decommissioning strategies to be defined over the next 12 to 18 months, they will be continually reviewed and optimised using the learning obtained from the decommissioning sites. As a whole, the programme will collectively be geared towards reducing risk, reducing lifetime costs, growing skills and knowledge to deliver benefits both nationally and to local communities.

Continued focus on safety and hazard reduction will remain the overriding priorities across all the sites, and Magnox will continue to deliver the agreed work programmes in place at each site while the site-specific strategies are being reviewed.

We will be making reference to Trawsfynydd as the targeted lead site in draft Strategy 4, and we will be happy to further engage with stakeholders on this issue throughout the Strategy 4 consultation, beginning



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later this month. A reminder of the rationale for the new approach will be included in the draft Strategy 4 document, available from 17 August.

### NDA Annual Report and Accounts 2019/2020

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, we published our annual report and accounts 2019 to 2020 on gov.uk. Over the last year, there has been significant progress in delivering our mission with some of the highlights including:

- All Magnox sites have been declared fuel free after the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) gave its official 'fuel-free verification' to Wylfa in October 2019. This marked the end of defueling operations at the 26 Magnox reactors.
- All 11 tonnes of separated plutonium has now been safely transported from Dounreay to Sellafield. The first concrete was poured on a custom-built facility at Sellafield to repackage the plutonium materials for safe and secure long-term storage.



During the year, we've also taken a series of important steps to strengthen and simplify the way the group is organised. We've increased the number of subsidiaries by completing the transition of Magnox Ltd from a PBO contract to an NDA subsidiary.

We've also made significant improvements in equality, diversity and inclusion.

Please find a link to the annual report and accounts here: [ARAC 2019 to 2020 gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464242/ARAC_2019_to_2020.pdf)

### NDA support for community resilience

The NDA and its Site Licence Companies continue to work with communities to support local resilience during the current COVID-19 crisis. Funding of up to £25k per site has been made available for a variety of uses around Magnox sites, including a £25k cash boost to help support vulnerable groups in Somerset. The funding forms part of the 12 grants, worth £300,000 in total, that Magnox and NDA have made available to local authorities or charities where there is a Magnox site located.

In Scotland, the NDA matched original funding of £100k from DSRL to provide a total of over £200k for the Caithness Business Fund. This fund is supporting local businesses in their efforts to implement recovery plans coming out of the crisis. A total of 125 businesses across the north Highlands have now been supported by the Caithness Business Fund during the coronavirus crisis. Businesses ranging from an



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arts centre to a hotel, and from a seafood company to a bistro are among those receiving help in the second round of the fund's COVID-19 support scheme, to assist in kick-starting the local economies in our nuclear communities.

Around Sellafield, two historical social clubs that have been at the heart of West Cumbria for over half a century are to be handed over to the community by the NDA. The Falcon Club at Egremont and the Windscale Club at Seascale, are owned by the NDA and run by the Sellafield Area Sports and Recreational Association (SASRA) - which has rented the properties since 1948.

SASRA provides sports, social and recreational facilities and currently has over 7,500 members from across the whole of West Cumbria.

Following talks with Government, Copeland Council, Copeland MP Trudy Harrison, SASRA and other local stakeholders, the NDA has been able to confirm it intends to donate these assets to SASRA.

Prince Charles commended the work of Dounreay and NDA in supporting community resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. He invited community heroes involved in supporting local services to his royal residence in Caithness. Below is a link to the coverage in the local newspaper:

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands/2387701/pictures-prince-commends-caithness-community-heroes-on-efforts-during-pandemic/>

### NDA Strategy 4 update

Our fourth draft Strategy is set to be published in mid-August. It will be subject to a 12-week public consultation and we look forward to receiving your comments during this period.

A pre-consultation information pack was circulated to stakeholders in June highlighting some of the changes that you can expect to see in draft Strategy 4. We hope that you found this useful in preparing for the launch of the consultation. If you would like a hard copy of the draft strategy, please email

[Kelly.anderson@nda.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.anderson@nda.gov.uk)

### Update on the NDA's Social Impact Plan

We have updated our Social Impact Plan and, once again we'd like to thank everyone who responded.

This document is the latest version of our socio-economic strategy and it went out for consultation shortly before the COVID-19 lockdown started in the UK. The social and economic challenges facing the UK are now very different and we have made changes that reflect these challenges. For example, our original intention had been to publish a multi-year strategy running from 2020 to 2026, however, in the current



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circumstances we will need to be more responsive and flexible than that, so have turned this document into an update.

We have done this, as we still believe it is useful to give an update on the NDA's socio-economic document so that people can see what our current approach is and to allow us to give a consolidated view of various improvements and amendments that have been made over the last few years.

On this basis, we would appreciate your continued feedback and welcome any further comments. Please email [Karen.hallsworth@nda.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.hallsworth@nda.gov.uk)

Here is a copy of the latest plan:

[NDA local social and economic impact strategy: 2020 update](#)

We have also included a list of responses to the original plan and you can see those comments by clicking on the link below:

[Consultation responses](#)

Accompanying the new strategy is new guidance and a new grants management system. These new systems should reduce bureaucracy and make us more resilient to fraud and potential abuse of our grant funding. The new system is similar to one used by the National Lottery and other providers of grants administration and will be used exclusively for our grant administration from 1st August 2020.

## Carbon Net Zero

The NDA Carbon Net Zero Beacon Project is underway, focused on how we can reduce our carbon footprint across the group. We have been fortunate in securing support from the [Carbon Trust](#) to progress plans to develop a sustainable, low carbon future.

The aims of the project are:

- To understand and provide a baseline of our businesses' carbon footprint
- To develop and begin to implement a plan to reduce our emissions, and to investigate options to offset any residual emissions
- To resource the plan to ensure we can move to net zero in the future

Beacon Projects help drive the adoption and benefits of One NDA. They bring together passionate people from across the NDA Group to tackle a challenge or pursue an opportunity. Other Beacon Projects include the One NDA Leadership Academy and Respect and Inclusion.



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On the issue of sustainability, the NDA recently announced that Steve Hardy has joined the NDA as Environment Director. Steve will be focused on leading the Carbon Net Zero Beacon Project, as well as our environment and sustainability agenda.

### The 2020 NDA Stakeholder Survey

The 2020 NDA Stakeholder Survey was carried out between January and April of this year by independent polling experts Opinion Research Services (ORS).

Some 638 stakeholders took part this year – thank-you very much to all of you who took the time to be interviewed, or fill in the on-line survey form.

Here's a link to the recent blog published on the headline results:

<https://nda.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/29/latest-views-from-the-ndas-external-stakeholders/>

### Our Contact Details – Stay safe – and stay in contact...

We will be contacting you regularly either by phone or email as we go through the current period of virtual meetings - and beyond. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance. Our contact details are below.

Best wishes, **John, Kelly, Jonathan, David**

#### Contact Details:

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