

NDA Monthly Update

April 2014

Summary

- Magnox/RSRL competition: Preferred Bidder named
- New NDA subsidiary formed
- Views sought on fuel from overseas
- New NDA appointments
- 2013 UK Radioactive Waste and Materials Inventory published
- MOD publish potential list of sites to store ILW from disused submarines
- Publication of PAC report into Sellafield progress
- Magnox strategy: contingency options paper published
- SME mentoring scheme launched
- Progress on approaches to management of separated plutonium
- Strategic position paper on management of waste graphite
- Uranics Credible Options paper published

Diary Dates

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| • New NDA website launched | Late Spring 2014 |
| • Priority Programmes Report (Pilot 2) published | April 2014 |
| • NDA Business Plan 2014/17 published | April 2014 |
| • Publication of NDA Engagement Plan | April 2014 |
| • MOD SDP stakeholder event, Penrith | 9 April 2014 |
| • CoRWM public meeting, Sellafield | 30 April |
| • LLWR Forum, Rheged, Penrith | 21 May |
| • Nuclear UK conference in Warrington | 25 June |

Competition success for Cavendish Fluor Partnership

Savings of at least £1 billion in the decommissioning programme of 12 nuclear sites are anticipated after the NDA named the Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) as the Preferred Bidder in the competition to take ownership of Magnox Ltd and Research Sites Restoration Ltd (RSRL). The CFP proposals submitted will take the historic sites into the final stages of decommissioning and significantly reduce demands on the public purse. Cavendish Fluor Partnership is a specially created joint venture between Cavendish Nuclear and Fluor Corporation. Subject to a successful transition period, shares in Magnox Ltd and RSRL will be transferred to CFP on 1 September.

[Weblink: Magnox and RSRL competition](#)

NDA creates new subsidiary

The NDA's Radioactive Waste Management Directorate has become a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA and will be known as Radioactive Waste Management Limited. It joins existing subsidiary companies Direct Rail Services and International Nuclear Services. The organisation will continue to be based at Harwell, Oxfordshire, where its staff of around 100 nuclear scientists, geologists, engineers and other professionals will be responsible for delivering Government policy on geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste and developing waste management solutions.

[Weblink: RWMD becomes a subsidiary](#)

Views sought on fuel from overseas

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has launched a consultation on the Management of Overseas Origin Nuclear Fuels Held in the UK. The consultation sets out proposals which would allow the NDA to manage, by means of interim storage pending disposal, small quantities of overseas-origin nuclear fuels that are either not economic to reprocess in THORP before it closes or are no longer able to be reprocessed. This approach would permit the NDA to close out the remaining overseas contracts in a cost-effective and timely way, providing more certainty over the future plans for THORP and for the future decommissioning of Dounreay.

[Weblink: DECC consultation](#)

NDA appointments

A number of new appointments have been made to senior NDA roles. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Davey, has appointed Ken McCallum as a Non-Executive Director to the NDA Board. Ken was, until recently, the Shareholder Executive's Director responsible for governance of the NDA. Peter Lutwyche, formerly with Jacobs Engineering, has been appointed to the NDA Board as Executive Director following his recent recruitment to the new position of Sellafield Programme Director.

Adrian Simper, NDA's Strategy and Technology Director, has also been appointed to the Board as an executive director.

Meanwhile, two new Directors have been appointed to the NDA Executive Team following the internal restructure announced by Chief Executive John Clarke in December 2013. Rob Higgins, currently Head of Legal, has been appointed to the role of Business Services Director and Kenna Kintrea, who joined NDA from the Olympic Delivery Authority, has been appointed as Assurance Director. The NDA, meanwhile, has also welcomed the re-appointment by the Secretary of State of Stephen Henwood, CBE, for a further three-year term as Chairman.

[Weblink: Board appointments](#)

2013 UK Radioactive Waste and Materials Inventory published

The 2013 UK Radioactive Waste and Materials Inventory has been published, providing the latest record of radioactive wastes and materials in the UK. The Inventory is updated every three years as part of an ongoing programme of research by DECC and the NDA. The latest Inventory provides information on UK radioactive waste stocks (at 1 April 2013) and forecasts of future arisings. Its aim is to provide data openly and transparently for those interested in radioactive waste and material issues.

[Weblink: 2013 UK Radioactive Waste and Materials Inventory published](#)

MOD publish potential list of sites to store ILW from disused submarines

Five nuclear facilities across the UK have been identified as potential sites to store waste from disused nuclear-powered submarines. The sites, which are either owned by MOD, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) or industry, have been named as part of MOD's submarine dismantling project (SDP). Sellafield and Chapelcross are the two NDA sites shortlisted, along with Capenhurst and the AWE sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield. A public consultation on the possible sites will take place in late 2014 and no decisions will be made until this process is completed.

[Weblink: Possible nuclear storage sites \(MOD website\)](#)

Publication of PAC report into progress at Sellafield

The NDA has published a statement from John Clarke, NDA Chief Executive Officer, following publication of the Public Accounts Committee report into progress at Sellafield.

[Weblink: Statement from John Clarke](#)

Back-up options for Magnox reprocessing

The NDA has published a paper setting out high-level contingency options for managing spent Magnox fuel in the event of unexpected and irreversible failure of the Magnox reprocessing capability. The NDA 2011 strategy document made a commitment to

analyse contingency options for the management of the Magnox Operating Programme (MOP 9) inventory. This document summarises the outcome of that analysis and presents the strategic position with respect to Magnox contingency arrangements.

[Weblink: Magnox contingency options paper](#)

SME mentoring scheme launched

The NDA has launched a mentoring scheme to help smaller businesses benefit from the opportunities in nuclear decommissioning. The NDA Estate Mentor Scheme pairs up small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with industry professionals who will offer guidance on securing work in the sector or increasing the volume of work already on their books. The scheme, free to participants, will initially run as a pilot for 12 months from April and is one of a number of initiatives to support SMEs.

[Weblink: SME mentoring scheme launched](#)

Progress on approaches to management of separated plutonium

The NDA has published a Position Paper, which summarises the conclusions of the work previously shared with DECC on approaches to the management of separated plutonium. This work resulted in NDA concluding that re-use remains the preferred option and, based on the information provided, there are three credible options: re-use as MOX in light water reactors, re-use in CANDU EC6 reactors or PRISM fast reactors.

[Weblink: Progress on approaches to management of separated plutonium](#)

Paper on management of waste graphite published

The NDA has published a strategic position paper on the management of waste graphite along with two supporting papers. The publication of these papers is consistent with the NDA's Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Strategy. The position paper summarises a number of pieces of work undertaken to better understand the challenges of managing radioactive graphite. The position paper outlines a number of key findings and sets out the NDA's position on this issue.

[Weblink: Strategic position paper on management of waste graphite](#)

Uranics Credible Options paper published

The NDA has published a summary of Credible Options for the management of uranics on its estate, which are: continued storage, recycle, or disposal. Given the variety of types of uranics, it is anticipated that no single strategic option will be suitable for the entire uranics inventory.

[Weblink: Uranics Credible Options paper](#)