

NDA Monthly Update

August 2015

Summary

- Historic marine centre re-opens
- Cumbrian land deal signed
- NDA website migrating to new home
- Chapelcross asbestos project competed
- Dungeness A turbine hall demolished
- LLWR demolition changes skyline
- NDA Annual Report and Accounts published
- Construction starts on nuclear archive
- Entries invited for supply chain awards
- Restructuring announced by Magnox Ltd
- Sellafield sludge removed for first time
- NDA Business Plan published

Diary Dates

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • NDA launches Strategy consultation | 8 September |
| • RWM launches geological screening consultation | 8 September |
| • NDA National Stakeholder Event, Cumbria | 24 September |
| • NDA Strategy Consultation web chat | 12 October: 4-5pm |
| • NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester | 4 November |
| • NDA Strategy Consultation web chat | 27 November:
10.30-11.30am |

Historic marine centre re-opens

The UK's oldest marine research centre has re-opened after the NDA joined new funding partners to ensure its long-term future. The NDA's £300,000 award, via the Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme, is part of a £4 million package for Millport Field Centre, on the small island of Cumbrae, North Ayrshire, which lies just across the water from the NDA's Hunterston A site. The earlier loss of grant funding had led to closure, in 2013, of the historic facility which was established in the 19th century after a floating laboratory moored at the island and attracted a stream of distinguished scientists.

[Weblink: New lease of life for centre](#)

Land deal signed

UK nuclear new-build developer NuGen has announced the signing of a land contract for Moorside with the NDA. This follows NuGen's successful completion of site suitability studies, which validate the site, (to the north and west of the Sellafield complex), as suitable for construction of three reactors. NuGen will now take responsibility for the land following payment of an undisclosed sum to the NDA. The deal underpins the successful policy of selling NDA land to new nuclear developers and creating value for the taxpayer.

[Weblink: NuGen announce contract signing](#)

NDA website moving home

The NDA's website content will soon move to the central government website (www.gov.uk). The new location is expected to be live by September, in time for the launch of the NDA's public consultation on its draft Strategy. You should be automatically redirected to the content that you need. Older content will be held in the National Government Web Archives:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/*/www.nda.gov.uk

If you experience any difficulties finding the content on the migrated site, please contact the NDA's Sophie Palmer: sophie.palmer@nda.gov.uk

Chapelcross asbestos project completed

An eight-year project to remove 3,300 tonnes of asbestos from Chapelcross site has been achieved one year ahead of schedule and £5 million under budget. The £38 million project is thought to be the largest-known asbestos strip in Europe. More than one million bags of asbestos waste (equivalent to filling four Olympic-sized swimming pools) were painstakingly removed from the turbine hall, the four reactor buildings and 16 heat exchangers dispatched to specially licensed landfill sites.

[Weblink: Asbestos achievement](#)

Turbine hall bites the dust

The final section of the turbine hall at Magnox's Dungeness A Site came crashing down as a three-year programme to clear the south side of the site ended. Members of the team gathered to see the last of 12 supporting frames fall to the ground in a dramatic ending to the project which has seen more than 30,000 tonnes of waste generated. All the material, other than a small amount of hazardous material including asbestos, has been recycled and some rubble was re-used to backfill other areas on the site. This helped keep disruption on local roads to a minimum.

[Weblink: Turbine hall demolished](#)

Skyline change at LLWR

A major skyline change is under way at the Low Level Waste (LLW) Repository in Cumbria. Magazine 4's Retrieval Facility (MRF), a fixture at the site since the 1990s, has been safely demolished, setting the template for the future demolition of such facilities on site. MRFs are purpose-built engineered facilities, constructed to allow the retrieval of Plutonium Contaminated Materials (PCM) from magazines before decommissioning and demolition could begin.

[Weblink: Facility demolition](#)

Understanding radioactive waste

The NDA has published a new document, *Understanding activities that produce radioactive waste in the UK*. Radioactive materials are used for a wide range of purposes, such as generating power, treating medical illnesses and conducting research, as well as in the industrial and defence sectors. Radioactive waste is often generated as a by-product from these processes. The new document provides clear, straightforward information and aims to improve understanding

[Weblink: Publication on radioactive waste](#)

NDA annual report published

The NDA has now published its Annual Report and Accounts 2014/2015, which highlights achievements of the last financial year, including significant progress on hazard reduction, particularly at Sellafield.

[Weblink: Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15](#)

Archive building work under way

A turf cutting ceremony marked the start on building work on the NDA Nuclear Archive in Wick, Scotland. The new archive will store records from all across the UK's nuclear sector, dating back to the first days of scientific experimentation after the war. As a

NDA Monthly Update – August 2015

government body, the NDA is responsible for ensuring all relevant nuclear records are preserved and made available in line with UK legislation on public information.

[Weblink: construction work starts](#)

Entries invited for supply chain awards

There is still time to enter the NDA Estate Supply Chain Awards 2015 that recognise outstanding contributions to the nuclear clean-up mission. Launched in 2012, the NDA and Site Licence Companies (SLCs) jointly sponsor the awards. The closing date is 11 September. Registration is also open for the NDA Estate's Supply Chain Event on 4 November, when the winners will be announced.

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

Magnox workforce restructure

Magnox Ltd announced a new organisational structure, setting out plans to reduce workforce numbers by 1,400-1,600 over the next 17 months. Staff numbers have been declining for a number of years as progress is made on decommissioning the 12 sites. The announcement follows April's relicensing of Research Sites Restoration Limited (RSRL) and Magnox Ltd into a single Site Licence Company, and the appointment in September of CFP as the new Parent Body Organisation for both SLCs. The contract aims to deliver a more efficient, effective programme within agreed funding levels.

[Weblink: Workforce announcement](#)

Sludge removed from pond for first time

Sellafield decommissioning took a major step forward after decades-old radioactive sludge was removed from one of the site's legacy fuel ponds for the first time. The material was pumped from the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond (FGMSP) via a pipe-bridge to a new interim store – the Sludge Packaging Plant (SPP1) – during a series of trials. Routine sludge retrievals are due to start in April 2016. FGMSP needs to be emptied of 1,500 cubic metres of radioactive sludge lying at the bottom. The pond holds 14,000 cubic metres of contaminated water, covering spent nuclear fuel, various nuclear wastes and skips. All of this is draped in a blanket of radioactive sludge.

[Weblink: Sludge removal](#)

Business plan published

The NDA has published its latest Business Plan, setting out anticipated income and expenditure for 2015/16. The Plan also includes a high-level 20-year overview of targets and a detailed look at key activities over the next three years. Total planned expenditure for 2015/16 is £3.31 billion of which £2.09 billion will be funded by the UK government and £1.22 billion by income from commercial operations.

[Weblink: NDA Business Plan](#)