

NDA Monthly Update

October 2015

Summary

- Oldbury reactors emptied of fuel
- Views sought on strategy review
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- Archive construction under way
- Geological screening consultation
- Historic marine centre re-opens
- Cumbrian land deal signed
- Chapelcross asbestos project competed
- Dungeness A turbine hall demolished
- LLWR demolition changes skyline
- Radioactive waste document published
- Latest NDA Annual Report and Accounts available

Diary Dates

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| • NDA completes move to gov.uk website | Late November |
| • NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester | 4 November |

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Oldbury reactors emptied of fuel

Oldbury power station has removed the last fuel from its reactors, marking the end of an era for the site. During defueling more than 52,000 fuel elements were removed from the reactors and the final element was removed from reactor two on Sunday 4 October.

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/2015/10/oldbury-reactors-emptied-of-fuel/>

Views sought on strategy review

An early version of the NDA's draft Strategy shares emerging thinking ahead of a formal consultation process which is anticipated to start in January 2016. The Energy Act 2004 requires the NDA to review, update and consult on its Strategy every five years. The timing of the formal consultation will ensure that the final draft Strategy is informed by the outcome of the government's spending review. The document gives stakeholders the opportunity to provide input while the review is completed.

[Weblink: Strategy input sought](#)

NDA website moving home

The NDA's website content has now been moved to the central government website (www.gov.uk/nda) although the old address will remain in use until the end of November, when it will be switched off. Web users should be automatically redirected to the new content. 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

PhD applications invited

The NDA is seeking applications for PhD research proposals, with £500,000 available in total and up to £100,000 per project. Applications for the annual bursary scheme are invited from UK academic institutions, sub-contractors including Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) seeking 'top-up' funding for CASE (Cooperative Awards in Science and Technology) awards and EngDocs. The National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) administers the scheme on behalf of the NDA and further information is available from Dr Mark Bankhead: mark.bankhead@nnl.co.uk

[Weblink: Bursary applications](#)

Fuel emptied from first Oldbury reactor

Oldbury has announced that the first of its two reactors is now empty of fuel. Since the power station stopped generating electricity in 2012, the main focus has been to empty both reactors and send the used fuel to Sellafield. When all the fuel has been shipped,

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the site will have removed 99 per cent of its radioactive hazard. Reactor two is currently 85 per cent defuelled and due to complete in October.

[Weblink: Reactor defuelled](#)

Archive building work under way

A ceremonial turf cutting ceremony marked the official start of building work on the new archive that will store nuclear records from across the UK. The NDA Archive, located next to Wick John O’Groats airport, set to open to the public in 2017, will become the single facility to collect and store relevant records from all the UK’s civil nuclear sites. The Archive will be accessible to the industry, for research and to the public.

[Weblink: Archive turf-cutting](#)

Geological screening consultation

NDA subsidiary Radioactive Waste Management has launched a public consultation on its draft National Geological Screening (NGS) Guidance, which will run until 4 December. The guidance outlines how information about the geology of England, Wales and Northern Ireland would be assembled, and how the results would be presented to the public. The approach to finding a suitable location is based on working with communities that are willing to participate in the siting process.

[Weblink: National Geological Screening](#)

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](#)

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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](#)

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NDA annual report published

The NDA has 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](#)