

NDA Monthly Update

December 2018

Summary

- Wylfa defueling reaches 75%
- Exhibition celebrates role of Sellafield's THORP
- Milestone for graduate training scheme
- Clean-up milestone at Hunterston A
- Applications invited for PhD bursaries
- Iconic Sellafield chimney set to disappear
- Self-shielded Sellafield boxes in the pipeline
- Collaborative research transcends individual approach
- Global perspective on radioactive waste
- Views sought on radioactive waste strategy
- Deep dive to remove Sizewell waste

Diary Dates 2018

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Anti-bullying week | 13-17 November |
| • End of reprocessing at THORP | November |
| • Bradwell to enter Care and Maintenance phase | November |

Bradwell achieves a first for the UK nuclear industry

In a first for the UK nuclear industry, Bradwell Site, in Essex, has reached the passive stage of its journey to full site clearance, an 80-year phase known as 'care and maintenance' (C&M). An extensive programme of decommissioning has been under way since the power station stopped generating electricity in 2002. For C&M, all that will remain on the site are the two weather-proofed reactor buildings, the ponds complex, and the intermediate level waste store, which will continue to receive some packages from Dungeness A and Sizewell A.

[Weblink: Care and Maintenance milestone](#)

New Chair announced for Magnox Ltd

David Peattie, NDA Chief Executive has announced that Lawrie Haynes has been appointed Chair Designate of the NDA subsidiary Magnox Ltd. The new subsidiary will come into being on 1 September 2019 when the current Parent Body Organisation, the Cavendish Fluor Partnership, hands over to the NDA. Lawrie has extensive experience in senior executive and non-executive roles across a range of major private sector companies and high profile public sector organisations, with a strong track record in the nuclear sector. These include his roles as President of Rolls-Royce Land and Sea Division, Chief Executive of British Nuclear Group and Non-Executive Director at Network Rail.

[Weblink: Experienced nuclear leader for Magnox role](#)

NDA seeks views on draft Business Plan

The NDA has published its latest Business Plan for consultations which sets out plans for 2019-2022. Views are sought from members of the public, nuclear regulators, employees within our subsidiaries and Site Licence Companies, trade unions, local authorities, Site Stakeholder Groups, Non-Governmental Organisations, other organisations and public bodies. The consultation closes on 4 February 2019.

[Weblink: Consultation opens on Business Plan](#)

Archive named best building in Scotland

The NDA archive Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives) has collected another prestigious award after being named best building in Scotland by one of the industry's professional bodies. The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) selected the £20 million facility, near Wick, for the 2018 Andrew Doolan Award from a shortlist of 12. Earlier this year, it was among 49 Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) winners, selected from more than 600 UK entries, and one of 12 Scottish RIAS winners.

[Weblink: Nucleus shines at award 2018](#)

Supply chain event success

A record 1,700 visitors enjoyed a day of exhibitions and informal networking at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Estate Supply Chain Event. The annual event, now one of the largest of its kind in the world, is held at Manchester's EventCity, and attracts businesses from across the UK and overseas. Launched 8 years ago by the NDA and its businesses, the aim is to create greater visibility of opportunities for suppliers, and in particular for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), who represent around half of the visitor numbers.

[Weblink: Record visitors at event](#)

Wylfa defuelling almost there

Three-quarters of the used nuclear fuel has now been emptied from Wylfa's twin reactors and transported to Sellafield for reprocessing. At the start of defuelling, the reactors contained almost 90,000 fuel elements and 33,800 are now left. Once the reactors are empty, and all the fuel elements have been dispatched to Sellafield, over 99 per cent of the site's radiological hazard will have been removed.

[Weblink: Wylfa reactors 75% defuelled](#)

Exhibition marks THORP's contribution

An exhibition at Whitehaven's Beacon Museum will mark the end of nuclear fuel reprocessing at Sellafield's Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP), expected during November. The *Art of Reprocessing* will open on 16 November to celebrate the plant's contribution to the global nuclear industry. THORP, which began operations in 1994, was one of the largest construction projects of its day, ranking alongside the Channel Tunnel and Disneyland Paris in sheer scale and ambition. Its switch-off is a key step in the transformation of Sellafield Ltd from nuclear operator to environmental restoration business.

[Weblink: Exhibition celebrates THORP contribution](#)

Graduate training scheme milestone

The NDA has celebrated 10 years of its *nucleargraduates* scheme. The milestone was marked at a celebratory dinner where NDA Chief Executive David Peattie pledged a renewed boost to the scheme over the next 10 years in a bid to help futureproof and diversify the UK's nuclear workforce. It will see the NDA invest around £15 million in total skills over the next 10 years. To date, 344 graduates have completed the programme.

[Weblink: Graduate training scheme celebrates 10th anniversary](#)

Apprenticeship boost for Cumbria

Sellafield Ltd will fund 50 new apprenticeships a year for small companies in Cumbria. The new 'North West Nuclear Community Apprenticeship Programme' will boost

employment opportunities for local people, and help drive economic growth in the region. The courses will range from customer services, property maintenance and scaffolding to more diverse professions like logistics and horticulture. Developed by Sellafield Ltd, the programme will be delivered and managed by the Cumbria Apprentice Training Agency (CATA), who will work with the employers, employment agencies and a range of local training providers. It is supported by the NDA, Nuclear Skills Strategy Group (NSSG), Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Britain's Energy Coast Business Cluster (BECBC).

[Weblink: Training boost for region:](#)

Clean-up milestone reached at Hunterston A

One million gallons of water have been drained from Hunterston A's spent fuel pond, and over 10 tonnes of redundant equipment removed. The project overcame several unique challenges including the removal of radioactive sludge and fixed equipment on the floor of the pond, the largest in the Magnox fleet. Innovative approaches included ultra-high pressure water jetting and 'concrete shaving' on the surfaces.

[Weblink: Pond clean-up reaches milestone](#)

Apply for PhD bursaries

The NDA is seeking applications for PhD research proposals related to nuclear decommissioning. Up to £500,000 is available in total to support projects that will lead to the award of a PhD. The NDA's goals for the scheme are as follows: maintain and develop the key technical skills that will be required to help us carry out the mission over the coming decades; provide fundamental understanding of technologies and processes across the NDA estate; develop early-stage technologies (Technology Readiness Level 1 to 3); and encourage two-way knowledge transfer between the academic and industrial communities working on nuclear decommissioning.

[Weblink: Applications for bursary scheme now open](#)

Iconic chimney set to disappear

The tallest structure ever built at Sellafield, a crane, is due to begin dismantling the remaining chimney at the scene of Britain's worst nuclear accident. Chunks of the Windscale Pile chimney, cut out with diamond wire saws, will be removed and the structure gradually lowered. The crane installed to carry out the work is, at 152 metres high, just six metres shorter than Blackpool Tower. Sellafield's skyline has been dominated for almost 70 years by the Windscale Pile Chimney. Famously, its filtration system was a last-minute addition to the summit. Despite being mockingly referred to as 'Cockroft's Folly' after its designer Sir John Cockroft, it turned out to be a masterstroke: When fire broke out in 1957, the filters captured 95 per cent of the radioactive dust..

[Weblink: giant crane set to make history](#)