

# NDA Monthly Update

September 2018

## Summary

- 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
- NDA Annual Report and Accounts published
- Rail company nets four awards in a week
- Magnox Ltd becomes NDA subsidiary
- Sellafield starts removing highly active liquor
- Sign up for NDA Estate Supply Chain Event
- Archive wins top design awards

## Diary Dates 2018

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|--|--------------|
| • LLWR community open day                      | 30 September |
| • NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester    | 1 November   |
| • THORP due to close                           | November     |
| • Bradwell to enter Care and Maintenance phase | November     |

### 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 placed at its 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 an estimated 95 per cent of the radioactive dust created.

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

### Collaborative research TRANSCENDS individual approach

A £9.4 million research programme will link experts from the nuclear industry with UK academics and PhD students to wrestle with some of the challenges in dealing with radioactive waste. The research will span 40 projects lasting up to four years each, helping to build the next generation of nuclear experts as well as developing technical solutions. Building on £4.6 million grant from the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), AWE, Cavendish Nuclear, Low Level Waste Repository Ltd, National Nuclear Laboratory, Radioactive Waste Management Ltd, Sellafield Ltd and TUV SUD Nuclear Technologies are all supporting the programme through direct funding and/or supervisory expertise, use of facilities and researcher training.

[Weblink: New research programme under way](#)

### Self-shielded boxes in the northern pipeline

A chain of northern companies has begun manufacturing containers to store radioactive waste from one of the UK's most important nuclear decommissioning projects. Businesses in West Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cumbria are joining forces to produce self-shielded boxes which will store waste from the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond at Sellafield. The 66-year old open air pond was originally used to store nuclear fuel from the UK's earliest nuclear power stations and is a clean-up priority for the NDA. The clean-up work requires hundreds of boxes to store material from the facility.

[Weblink: Northern businesses power Sellafield](#)

### A global perspective on radioactive waste

NDA Inventory Manager James Martin outlines how international nuclear agencies are working together to report, for the first time, on global trends in how radioactive waste and spent fuels are managed. Although the UK updates its own comprehensive

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inventory every three years, until recently, there has been no authoritative publication that systematically and periodically summarises the global position.

[Weblink: Global report on developments in radioactive waste management](#)

### Views sought on strategy for all radioactive waste

Views are sought on the NDA's radioactive waste strategy for the NDA Group, published in July following a commitment in 2016 to develop a single strategy that will apply to all radioactive waste generated within the NDA Group, including materials that may become waste at some point in the future. The deadline is 31 October.

[Weblink: Strategy on radioactive waste management](#)

### Diving deep to remove pond waste

Specialist divers from the US have completed their mission to haul radioactive waste out of Sizewell A's nuclear fuel storage ponds nearly two months early. The underwater experts cut up old fuel storage skips and other redundant equipment as part of work to dismantle the site. The divers, who tackled their first UK 'nuclear dive' at Dungeness A in 2016, wear full protective suits and are shielded from radiation by the pond water. |

[Weblink: Divers complete pond mission](#)

### NDA Annual Report and Accounts published

The NDA's annual report and accounts 2017/18 have been published, reviewing a year of progress towards the mission of cleaning up and decommissioning the UK's 17 earliest nuclear sites. NDA Chief Executive David Peattie said spending had remained below the annual limit set by government, while the income from reprocessing and management of spent fuels and waste had helped to offset the costs for taxpayers.

[Weblink: 2017-18 annual report published](#)

### Four awards in one week for Direct Rail Services

NDA subsidiary Direct Rail Services (DRS) scooped its fourth award in a week when its new Class 88 locomotive was named "Train of the Year – freight/ mixed traffic" at the National Rail Awards. The locomotive, which runs on both electrified and non-electrified tracks, has been used to transport flasks of spent nuclear fuel as well as freight. DRS's success follows the Rail Freight Group 'Business of the Year' award, Customer Care Award and runner-up Community and Environmental Responsibility' award.

[Weblink: Awards success for NDA's rail company](#)

### Industry showcases decommissioning progress

Leaders from the nuclear decommissioning industry spent two days with national and international stakeholders at the second NDA Stakeholder Summit. Around 200 stakeholders learned of the progress in decommissioning and cleaning up the legacy

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from the earliest days of the UK's civil nuclear industry. The event, near Berkeley site, also welcomed representatives from communities around the NDA's 17 sites.

[Weblink: Hundreds gather for stakeholder event](#)

### Magnox Ltd to become NDA subsidiary

The NDA has announced that Magnox Ltd will become one of its wholly subsidiary companies from 1 September 2019. The decision follows the announcement last year of the NDA's intention to terminate its contract with the Cavendish Fluor Partnership. NDA Chief Executive David Peattie said: "This decision marks a new approach to managing the 12 Magnox sites but is consistent with a similar change we made at Sellafield in 2016, where the simplified approach is resulting in more efficient decommissioning."

[Weblink: Magnox Ltd becomes NDA subsidiary](#)

### Sellafield starts removing highly radioactive liquor

Work has begun to remove, for the first time, the highly radioactive liquor at one of the oldest parts of the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo. The liquor is Sellafield's most hazardous material and has been inside the MSSS for many decades, created when water was used to cover the waste to prevent it igniting. Networks of heavily shielded pipes have been built to help remove the liquor. Clean-up of the MSSS is one of the NDA's highest priority programmes. The building contains 22 vertical compartments that store waste from the UK's first generation of nuclear power stations.

[Weblink: Sellafield tackles biggest risk yet](#)

### Sign up for NDA Estate Supply Chain Event

Registration remains open for the 8<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Estate Supply Chain Event, which will be held in Manchester on 1 November 2018. Launched in 2011, the event offers free entry for delegates and is now the largest of its kind in Europe. Last year saw more than 1,600 visitors and 300 exhibition stands. A highlight of the day is the announcement of this year's Supply Chain Awards, which acknowledge the vital role played by suppliers.

[Weblink: Registration opens](#)

### Archive wins top architectural awards

NDA archive Nucleus has been voted one of the most stylish buildings in the UK, collecting two top awards. Described by judges as "beautifully sculpted", the facility near Wick was one of the designs that won praise from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS). Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives), designed by Edinburgh architects Reiach and Hall, was among 49 RIBA winners, selected from more than 600 UK entries.

[Weblink: Archive wins top awards](#)