

NDA Monthly Update

January 2019

Summary

- Search starts for geological disposal site
- Winfrith land transfer saves £1.7 million
- Scotland's oldest reactor ready for demolition
- Bradwell achieves a UK first
- New chair announced for Magnox Ltd
- Views sought on draft NDA Business Plan
- Archive named best building in Scotland
- Supply chain event success
- Wylfa defueling almost there
- Exhibition celebrates role of Sellafield's THORP
- Milestone for graduate training scheme
- Apprenticeship boost for Cumbria

Diary Dates 2019

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| • Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Management Summit 2019, London | 21-22 February |
| • 2019 Waste Management Conference, Phoenix, US | 27 Feb-5 March |
| • European Research Reactor Programme 2019, Jordan | 24 - 28 March |
| • NDA Business Plan publication 2019-2022 | March/April |

NDA Monthly Update – January 2019

Search begins to find site for Geological Disposal Facility

NDA subsidiary Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) has now started the search for a volunteer community to host a future Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). The start of the process follows the publication of the government's statement on how it plans to work with interested communities. Geological disposal is one of the UK's largest-ever environmental protection projects, which will provide a safe and secure long-term disposal solution for higher activity radioactive waste. The Welsh government, meanwhile, has also published its policy, supporting geological disposal for the management of higher activity radioactive waste.

[Weblink: Site search begins for geological disposal facility](#) and [Welsh policy](#)

Winfrith land transfer secures £1.7 million savings

The NDA has secured savings of almost £1.7 million through the sale of land at Winfrith to a waste processing specialist. Tradebe Inutec, an existing tenant, has operated a facility at the Dorset site for more than 30 years and now has greater flexibility to expand or diversify its operations on land adjacent to the former civil nuclear research site - which is now being decommissioned by Magnox Ltd. The agreement will safeguard up to 70 skilled jobs.

[Weblink: Land transferred to waste specialist](#)

Scotland's oldest reactor ready for demolition

The decommissioning of Dounreay's oldest nuclear reactor took a major step forward with the award of a multi-million pound contract. Dounreay Materials Test Reactor (DMTR) was the first operational nuclear reactor in Scotland and achieved criticality in 1958. It was built to test the effects of radiation on different materials and operated for 11 years. Demolition of the reactor building will be a major skyline change for Dounreay, signifying another major hazard reduction milestone at one of the NDA's sites.

[Weblink: Reactor ready for demolition](#)

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](#)

NDA Monthly Update – January 2019

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](#)

NDA Monthly Update – January 2019

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:](#)