



# NDA update to key community stakeholders - Coronavirus

April - May 2020

## Introduction

As the global impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have become clearer over the past few days, the NDA and its group of companies have been busy ensuring we keep our staff and our nuclear facilities safe, while at the same time initiating well-practiced emergency and resilience responses to the current crisis we are all facing.

Along with our subsidiaries we have been working through a response to the latest Government guidelines, which has seen the majority of our staff begin to work from home, while ensuring nuclear safety, security and compliance with our regulators for our nuclear sites.

This process has been carried-out with professionalism, a high degree of staff communication and in a measured and compliant manner in order to reduce operations at our sites and offices so that our facilities can be kept in a safe and secure state, while requiring the minimum number of people to leave their homes each day.

This has been our main priority over recent days, with thousands of staff now working from home, all of which has been a huge undertaking with the required IT/logistical support, and familiarisation with new ways of working.

However, the NDA and its subsidiaries are totally committed to keeping our engagement with key external stakeholders going, despite the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in.

Before we cover how the NDA is taking forward community engagement and involvement, it is worth just taking a moment to re-cap on the Government's advice in response to Covid-19.

## A Message from our Director of Communications

**From Paul Vallance, Director of Communications, NDA.**

The Covid-19 pandemic is changing the way all of us live our lives, and we are having to adapt to new ways of working. This isn't easy, however, following government's increasingly stricter guidance on social distancing, it is essential. It's what's going to keep us safe, and enable the NHS time and capacity to care for our most vulnerable. Despite the challenges that we are currently facing, I'm proud to say that the NDA group is responding to this issue with dedication, resilience and most of all huge levels of empathy and support.

I want to reassure you that during this time we are committed to keeping in touch with you and updating you as and when we can. Similarly, if you have any comments, questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Stakeholder Relations Team (contact details



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below) who will be happy to assist you. The team will be proactively contacting you via phone calls and emails on a regular basis, to keep our lines of communications open with our stakeholders.

Stay safe, and please follow the Government's guidelines.

### How our workforce is supporting communities

The NDA, with a workforce of more than 16,000 across our group of companies, has developed a policy in tandem with the Government, Unions and our employees, for the NDA where possible, to help support community services at our various sites.

Our workforce is an integral part of each-and-every nuclear community across the UK. As such our employees are naturally very keen to help the less fortunate and vulnerable in their areas, and to support the emergency response where possible. The policy sets out agreed guidelines to two types of employee volunteering:

- a) Volunteering in response to the government's request for volunteers to support the NHS, social care and other local initiatives during the COVID-19 outbreak; and
- b) "Emergency Volunteering Leave" in line with the Coronavirus Act 2020, which is the programme the government is putting in place for specialised support to help the NHS.

Together these are described as "**Staff Volunteering**". The policy covers support for our staff who wish to volunteer, and covers everything from other organisations' duty of care to our staff, interpretation of the Government's emergency volunteering legislation, return to work and pay, and even use of PPE gear. It should be noted this is not an expectation, and is purely on a voluntary basis.

The NDA and our subsidiaries are also looking at creative ways in which we can support our nuclear communities by way of socio-economic funding, and the provision of kit and materials to local services. All of this effort is being coordinated through our relationships at county level. We will endeavor to keep you updated on this.

### Magnox Update

Given the current national efforts to manage the coronavirus pandemic, on 20<sup>th</sup> March Magnox implemented a controlled run-down of non-essential work at its 12 sites. This pause in work has enabled the vast majority of Magnox staff to remain at home and adhere to the Government's social distancing guidelines while ensuring the safety, security and environmental protection of the sites.

Magnox is liaising with Local Authorities and voluntary organisations to offer support to local communities, particularly the most vulnerable.

The safety and security of our sites, the welfare of staff and contractors and the wellbeing of local communities will remain Magnox's top priorities.

**As part of a Magnox fund to support the local community's COVID19 response efforts, funding to support two North Ayrshire foodbanks – North Ayrshire Foodbank in Ardrossan and Largs foodbank, was agreed. £25,000 will be used to purchase food to stock the foodbanks, pay for delivery costs and provide PPE for the volunteers.**



### Ongoing Engagement

The current lockdown doesn't mean we cannot engage and carry on business with our external stakeholders.

The NDA team is looking at creative ways we can keep dialogue going on topics such as Strategy 4, and Integrated Waste Strategy. Having all our Site Stakeholder Group meetings cancelled for the foreseeable future, means we must find ways of enabling effective dialogue and consultation.

All face-to-face contact has of course been halted, with our Strategy 4 Stakeholder Workshop, an NGO Forum, an NDA Roadshow event in North Wales, and our annual SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting all put on hold. At the moment we are assuming that strategy development will go ahead on the current timescales. If there is to be any change in this we will let you know.

Our colleagues in IT are looking at new formats for video conferencing. We will also examine how we can most effectively consult on content for Strategy 4 via regular email and written communications.

For those who responded to our draft 2020/23 Business Plan Consultation, there will be a short delay in publishing our final plan. The current Covid-19 crisis means it has not been possible to complete the necessary governance steps before Easter recess, which would've allowed the plan to be laid before Parliament. Our current plan is to publish as soon as possible after Parliament returns on 21 April.

It is with great pleasure we welcome **David Wallace** to the Stakeholder Engagement team. David started with us as Stakeholder Manager, Scotland, and will be leading on engagement for Dounreay, Hunterston and Chapelcross.

### Our Contact Details – Stay safe – and stay in contact...

We will be contacting you regularly either by phone or email as we go through the current period of lockdown - and beyond. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance. Our contact details are below.

The stakeholder engagement team would like to take this opportunity to wish you well during these uncertain times. Please Stay Safe at all times, and follow the Government's guidelines closely. We look forward to keeping the lines of communication open, and meeting with you again when the current crisis subsides.

Best wishes

**John, Kelly, Jonathan, David**

#### **Contact Details:**

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