

Engagement Liaison Group

Meeting Report from 12 March 2008

Document Ref: LG10

Summary

This report covers discussions during a meeting of the Engagement Liaison Group, 12 March 2008. The group brings together representatives from national organisations that sponsor national stakeholder engagement processes in the UK nuclear sector. The aim is to enable stakeholder engagement efforts to be better coordinated by sharing learning and event calendars.

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The Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement

The Convenor is an independent third party that engages stakeholders in the NDA's business of cleaning up the nuclear legacy. The Convenor is a contractor to the NDA and is a partnership between two organisations:



3KQ focuses on consultation, dialogue and conflict management, having particular strengths in designing, organising and facilitating meetings and workshops



Dialogue by Design focuses on using new technologies to engage stakeholders, for example via consultation over the internet

The NDA has a third party contractor as Convenor in order to bring skill, experience, capacity and independence to the engagement of stakeholders in the NDA's business.

1. Updates

Brief and informal email updates were provided by each organisation in advance of the meeting: these are copied below for ease of reference (originally sent out as document ref LG8). Clarifications were discussed in the meeting.

1.1 - CoRWM

CoRWM's PSE group meets on 2 April, meanwhile the main current activity is to consult around 1,000 people on our e-bulletin list on our draft work programme, consulting this month and reviewing comments in late March - so, a very brief "opportunity to comment". The group will consider what if any substantive engagement CoRWM might do - e.g. maybe some national stakeholder event, and conceivably some sort of citizen event - but much of its work will involve scrutinising others' PSE activity. Nicola Martin has joined the secretariat and will manage the PSE work, so she may attend the Liaison Group meetings including on the 12th March and possibly also replace me (AdamS) at the NDA NSG as well.

1.2 - BERR

Updates

Government published Nuclear White Paper on 10 January explaining that it had reached the decision that it is in the public interest to allow energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations

Letters sent to the following groups explaining decision and where people could read more information:

- all those who responded to the consultation
- energy companies inviting them to bring forwarded proposals for new nuclear power stations in the UK
- all those who came to one of our stakeholder meetings
- all of those who came to our deliberative events
- wider energy stakeholders

Energy Bill was published on the same day and is now in Committee stage. It includes clauses on waste and decommissioning financing.

On Friday 22 January we launched the first of our consultations leading from the decision, on Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance. The consultation finishes on 15 May.

Future dates

Feb / March Consultation on SEA scope

March Justification call for applications

March / April Consultation on draft SSA criteria

Spring Next stages on GDA process

Spring/summer Investors conference

Feedback to some communities on decision

Government will also be feeding back to a number of the site stakeholder groups who were consulted last year throughout March and April. We have commissioned COI to do further work on longer-term engagement.

Learning points (headlines, not detail)

Will be contained in our independent evaluation that will be published in the summer

1.3 - ISOLUS (Interim Storage Of Laid-Up Submarines)

Updates

ISOLUS Advisory Group (IAG)

- Workshop held in Bristol on 5 December 2007 developed the scope and process for the Technical options study.
- Meeting held in Birmingham on 10 January 2008. This committee meeting was the first to be held with the opportunity for the public to observe. Despite being advertised in a local paper and on the ISOLUS website, there were no public observers.

MoD ISOLUS Steering Group (MISG)

- Committee Meeting held in Bristol on the 8 November 2007.

NDA and MoD have signed an MoU regarding how the two organizations work together to manage radioactive waste.

MoD has published a submarine decommissioning policy, now published on website.

Future Activity/Dates

- 3 April. IAG Educational workshop (Lancaster).
- 4 April. IAG Meeting (Lancaster)
- 7 May. MISG Meeting (Bristol)
- 17 June. IAG Submarine and Dockyard Facilities Visit. (Rosyth)
- 18 June. IAG Meeting (Edinburgh)

Learning

- Capturing stakeholders and gaining their involvement.
- Use of plain English.
- Managing expectations for future public consultations.

1.4 - Scottish Government

Update

SG attendance at Sellafield PBO stakeholder group

- o Met with local stakeholders from 3 US sites to learn about socioeconomic benefits to community and local engagement and how this could be put into practice by winner of Sellafield PBO competition.

- Full report being drafted by Cumbria county council rep.

SCCORS- Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances

- Scottish equivalent of NuLEAF, hopes to relaunch at an April event (date, venue tbc)
- Subgroup of COSLA

SG policy on higher activity waste

- currently being developed with stakeholders
- considering whether SEA is needed

SG Scottish site meeting

- taking place on 11th March, so not able to update until meeting on 12th March. Agenda focused on socioeconomic issues.

1.5 - CIRIA: SAFEGROUNDS

Updates

Land Management Guidance version 2 (LMGv2)

The first version of the SAFEGROUNDS guidance on the management of contaminated land (LMGv1) was issued in 2002. The document is being revised to take account of technical, regulatory and organisational developments and of experience in its use. The consultation on the second full draft of the guidance is now open and closes 21st March 2008.

Options comparison Guidance

Many users of the SAFEGROUNDS guidance have commented that more detailed advice on comparing options for the management of contaminated land would be helpful. In response a new SAFEGROUNDS guide to options comparison is being developed. The consultation on the second full draft of the guide is now open and closes 26th March 2008.

Guidance on site characterisation

The site characterisation guidance requires revision because it predates the primary SAFEGROUNDS guidance on the management of contaminated land and its supporting documents, and is not entirely consistent with them. The overall aim is to recast this guidance on site characterisation as a, largely technical, supporting document to LMGv2. The final round of consultation on the second version is now open and closes Wednesday 2nd April 2008.

Citizens' guide

As part of the programme to update the SAFEGROUNDS guidance on the management of contaminated land a separate "citizens' guide" is being developed. The citizens' guide is to be a separate, complementary document in plain English. The consultation on the second full draft of the guide is now open and closes Wednesday 2nd April 2008.

To find take part in the consultation or to view the drafts please visit: - http://www.safegrounds.com/current_consultations.htm

Future dates

A joint SAFEGROUNDS, SD-SPUR and SAFESPUR conference is planned for October, date to be confirmed.

Learning points (headlines, not detail)

All the above guidance is due to be launched in the autumn of 2008.

1.6 - Environment Agency

Just one point on future dates: we're now expecting that our consultation on revised regulatory guidance for solid radioactive waste disposal facilities will commence around the end of April.

1.7 - SEPA

Updates

- SEPA continues with work to assess the submission by UKAEA to transfer the RSA 93 authorisation from UKAEA to the new Site Licence Company, Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd. It is hoped the transfer will take place in time for a new authorisation to be granted on 1st April 08.
- SEPA Directors met with Alan Rae and other NDA staff on Thurs 28 Feb
- SEPA responded to the NDA 3 year business plan. Comments available on SEPA website

Future dates

- Scottish Government are arranging a meeting on 11 March 08 for those stakeholders with an interest in NDA sites in Scotland
- SEPA is to attend future NDA meetings and be involved in the work of (i) the Competition and Contracts Working Group, the Senior Regulatory Forum, the NDA Strategy Development Group, Waste Storage Review.
- A meeting to take forward the NDA work to develop a national LLW Strategy is to be arranged, hopefully, in March
- LLWR Ltd are also arranging their annual low level waste forum on Wed 16th April at the Rheged Centre, Penrith

1.8 - HSE/Nuclear Directorate

Update

- Internal agreement of the four Communications and Engagement Goals goals (including raised awareness/understanding of HSE/NII's work and transparency).
- Nuclear inspector recruitment – significant recruitment planned. Interviews are being held during March. It is unlikely that any newly appointed staff would be in post until June or later and there may be a follow-up campaign for outstanding positions.

- Following the Energy Bill White Paper announcement on 10 January, Dr Tim Stone has been appointed to lead a review of regulation of the nuclear industry in the UK, focussing on efficiency and transparency.
- An increasing number of people (approximately 10% increase per edition) have registered for the nuclear and new build e-bulletin services which ND provides.

Forward look to key dates:

- Leading from the top: Avoiding major incidents conference. This invitation only event is bringing together CEOs / Directors in the major hazards sector to focus on leadership and is being held at the QEII, London on 29 April
- Generic Design Assessment (GDA):
 - Coordinated HSE and EA news release will be issued on 18 March to promote the completion of initial design assessment of the four reactor designs (STEP 2 of HSE's process). Public reports on each of the 4 designs subject to GDA will be published by both HSE and the Environment Agency on their joint web site. Other reports to be published on that date include one on the Public Involvement Process, and one by the GDA Independent Process Review Board which provides external scrutiny of the GDA process. For the first time, the background technical reports will also be published.
 - HSE/EA will be reviewing the public involvement process (GDA) after the initial assessment stage has been completed (STEP 2). This will be looking at awareness levels on GDA and public involvement, and the effectiveness of arrangements made to allow the public to view design information on the web. STEP 3 is due to start in early summer 08 (dependant on the BERR prioritisation exercise) and is due to last 12 months. During HSE's STEP 3, EA will be carrying out their detailed review (April 08 - Oct 09)
 - Local Authorities, site liaison groups and NGOs (regarded as key stakeholders under GDA) will be contacted shortly with a view to increased engagement (one idea being considered are seminars later in June/July).
 - STEP 4 is due to start in summer 09 (dependant on when STEP 3 begins) and is due to last two years. During this time the EA will run a consultation (provisional date Oct 2009 - Feb 2010)
- The UK's presentation for the Convention on Nuclear Safety is on 16 April at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna (BERR lead).
- The UK's report for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Defra lead) is due to be submitted by 11 October.
- Health and Safety Commission's Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee meets in the open on 3 July 2008

1.9 - Defra

MRWS

- A Ministerial written statement and press notice announced the publication of the analysis and summary of responses to the MRWS

consultation "A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" on 10 January 2008.

Other

- Nov 07 – UK National Coordination Plan for Orphan Source Incidents - a workshop involving a wide range of stakeholders took place.
- 27 February 2008 - Regulations transposing Directive 2006/117/EURATOM on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel – consultation published.

Future dates

MWRS

- The MRWS consultation is informing drafting of a White Paper expected to be published in spring of 2008.
- the White Paper is likely to be accompanied by an invitation to local communities to express their interest to enter into without prejudice discussions with Government on the possibility of hosting a geological disposal facility.
- To help local communities and local authorities engage, an information website (hosted on the Defra site with signposting from Directgov and other appropriate sites) will set out relevant background information (i.e. what is radioactivity? what is geological disposal? etc) to aid understanding of the issues, as well as more detailed and technical material (i.e. construction and operation of a geological disposal facility, packaging of radioactive waste etc) and information on what hosting a disposal facility might entail plus the process for reaching a decision. Website will go live for the launch of the White Paper.
- Defra is liaising with NuLeAF and the LGA to ensure that LAs are alerted to the launch of the White Paper and are aware of the associated website information. Proposed that Defra write to every local authority leader directing them to the information pack website. In addition we intend to use LGA electronic alerts, officer networks and articles in specialised LGA publications.
- Defra will not be targeting any geographical areas. For this reason it is not intended that there be any specific regional events post the White Paper announcement. It is envisaged that Defra will attend only those stakeholder events where invited to do so or where previously arranged events provide an appropriate opportunity for input.
- A list of key contacts or specialists (e.g. CoRWM, regulators) that a local authority might want involved in community engagement events on possible hosting of a geological disposal facility may be collated and offered to the Local Authority or body that has expressed an interest.

Other

- 4 March 08 – UK orphan sources liaison group meeting

- May 08 - UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges 2006-2030 – consultation to be published
- May 08- Statutory Guidance to the Environment Agency on the regulation of radioactive discharges into the environment from nuclear licensed sites - consultation to be published.
- May 08 – UK national Coordination Plan for Orphan Source - consultation to be published.

Learning points

Other consultations

- Stakeholders may only express their true views at the end of the process despite being involved throughout.
- Representatives put forward by organisations are not necessarily that good at capturing the views of the whole organisation. Therefore wide ranging on-going engagement may yield more dividends than specific engagement in winning trust.

1.11 - NDA

Updates

Strategy Review

- timings are being rescheduled: publication of new Strategy end 2010 (approx)
- likely to be more of a 'progress report' on various workstreams than a formal Strategy
- stakeholder engagement possible throughout the process, planning now starting

Waste Store Review

- current NDA study nearing its conclusion
- likely to be a stakeholder workshop to present results and discuss where work goes in future (approx June)

Business Plan

- consultation closed at end of January
- received around 140 submissions, two-thirds online
- responses are already published online at Convenor consultation portal

Value Framework (methodology to assess value to assist NDA decision-making)

- framework is in early stages of development
- stakeholder workshop held on 23 January to input to early stages and direction
- Board discussing in March, but expected to use the Value Framework process in this year's Site Spending Limits to inform decisions and also trial the framework
- Value Framework Reference Group being convened to input to the continued development of the tool

Stakeholder Framework review

- NDA reviewing all of its stakeholder relationships and for a
- national, local and also governance/policy etc

Future Activity/Dates

- 17-18 March. Good Practice workshop for NDA and SLCs
- 10 April. Convenor's Reference Group
- 20 May. SSG Chairs Forum (precedes NSG by one day)
- 21-22 May. National Stakeholder Group (Edinburgh)
- 16 July. Liaison Gp (this group)
- 4 Nov. National SSG Forum (precedes NSG by one day)
- 5-6 Nov. National Stakeholder Group (Manchester)
- additional activity: updating the NDA Engagement Programme in Mar 08

Learning

- Advance reading for stakeholders: value of short, standard format papers that include key questions for discussion

2. Sharing Learning

Getting Stakeholders involved

- Difficult balance to strike between inclusivity and manageability
- Importance of being clear about criteria for membership, and then applying these criteria consistently

Organisational representation

- Sometimes hard to ensure stakeholder representatives accurately and consistently reflect their constituency view
- Mechanisms to help this include:
 - Reminding people of the need to represent organisations
 - Discuss this need up front with stakeholders
 - Offer support to facilitate the feedback e.g. briefings

Use of Plain English

- Challenge of making information for stakeholders accessible without making them less useful or accurate
- Difference between 'Plain English' and just making info more accessible
- Can get focus group / stakeholder feedback on how useful and accessible a document is, before it is released
- Useful sometimes to have several layers of information:
 - Full technical document
 - mid-level detail version
 - citizens/public version

3. Way Forward

The group observed that each member organisation commissions public/stakeholder engagement in technical areas that fit together, but the degree to which the engagement is coordinated is sometimes limited. This group is one possible mechanism to allow this coordination. However, the needs of each department/agency can make it difficult to coordinate in an ideal way. The group will continue to consider how this could be improved.

It was agreed that the next Liaison Group meeting will take the same format as this one:

- Key update on their process, via email
- Dates of future activities
- Sharing learning

Future dates of this Liaison Group agreed are:

Wednesday, 16 July 2008, 1230-1630 (HSE venue?)

Wednesday, 19 November 2008, 1230-1630 (DEFRA venue?)

4. Actions

What	Who
Add BERR new build briefing note to mtg report	Rhuari
Speak to Peter Brazier about publication of the MoD/NDA MoU	RichardG
Share draft revised SSG Guidance with Angela and Marianne	Rhuari
Circulate remit of Scottish SSG 6-monthly meeting	Marianne
Liaise over setting up reciprocal website links	Maggie + Chris
Contact Rhuari if interested in having a stall and/or briefing paper for the NDA NSG meeting (May)	All, by end March
Draft guidance on how SSGs will relate to new build etc and how requests for engagement may be handled. Discuss with HSE, BERR, DEFRA.	RichardG by 19 March
Consider pre-engagement with Local Authorities to discuss planning requirements and processes likely around new build applications	Angela
Circulate briefing on stakeholder mapping against influence and impact	RichardH
Confirm venue for Liaison Group mtg 16 July	Chris
Confirm venue for Liaison Group mtg 19 Nov	Lewis

5. Attendees

Angela Merron, BERR

Rajnika Patel, CIRIA

Richard Harris, Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement

Rhuari Bennett, Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement

Lewis Mortimer, DEFRA

Marianne Cook, Scottish Government

Maggie Taylor, MoD

Tony Lokier, MoD

Richard Griffin, NDA

Christine Snaith, HSE/ND

Nicola Martin, CoRWM