



Update for Harwell SSG

NDA Stakeholder Engagement



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NDA Stakeholder Update

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

- NDA's sponsoring department, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), has a new Secretary of State following Grant Shapps' move to the Ministry of Defence. Claire Coutinho previously held roles as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education, and Department for Work and Pensions.
- The Department's dedicated Minister for Nuclear and Networks, Andrew Bowie visited some of the NDA estate at Sellafield and Barrow in September.
- NDA's new Interim Chair, Chris Train OBE, replaced Roz Rivaz whose term of office ended in August. Chris has over 38 years' experience in the Energy, Utilities, Regulation and Infrastructure sectors. He has held chief executive, and other senior roles at Cadent, National Grid, Transco and Lattice. He has also sat on various European and international committees.

Chris Train and David Peattie met with the SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs in Manchester on 16-17 October. This is an annual meeting and enables senior NDA management to better understand the issues facing communities around the NDA sites.

- After the successful in-person stakeholder summit in Edinburgh last year, preparations are underway for the next in-person event in Cumbria in 2024. We continue to promote both in-person and online events, and intend to host a virtual summit for stakeholders this financial year. We will update you once we have further progressed the planning.
- There have also been two successful regional events for stakeholders showcasing how innovation and technology help the NDA to deliver its mission. These events took place at Energus in Cumbria and at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. Both events took place in partnership with universities in the region with over 200 delegates in attendance.

The impetus for these events came from the Stakeholder Survey last year. Respondents said they wanted to hear more about the way NDA and its operating companies were solving technical challenges in decommissioning. The events have provided an opportunity to present NDA to a younger audience, highlighting the range of careers available through the group.

- NDA took part in the Nuclear Industry Association's 'Week in Parliament' this September. It is an opportunity for MPs and other parliamentarians to gain a better understanding of the contribution that nuclear – including decommissioning – makes to the economy both nationally and at a constituency level. It is estimated that businesses in nearly 75% of parliamentary constituencies contribute to the supply chain that supports delivery of the NDA's mission.

NDA again sponsored the Skills Fair at the Week in Parliament, highlighting the opportunities for careers in the nuclear sector. NDA and the operating companies also invited some of their apprentices and graduates to meet their MPs in Westminster and talk about the benefits of working in this field.

The NIA also organised a separate event at the Senedd in Cardiff to explain the importance of the sector to Welsh legislators. Both the NDA and Magnox took part.

- NDA's Annual Report and Accounts was published in mid-September. It sets out our mission progress on hazard reduction and decommissioning across the UK's civil nuclear sites.

Our work is organised into 47 strategic outcomes and this year we were able to close out four additional outcomes as a result of reprocessing ending at Sellafield after almost six decades.

- Phase one of One NDA which has created a simpler group structure has been completed, with Dounreay becoming a division of Magnox Ltd in April 2023.

Preparations have continued for the NDA and Magnox to take on decommissioning of the fleet of Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) from EDF Energy. The first site to transfer is expected to be Hunterston B in 2026. The first reactor at Hunterston has now been fully defueled.

- The NDA has developed a draft code of practice to provide guidance to sites and site licence companies (SLCs) on how timing and pace of decommissioning could be assessed in a more structured, consistent and transparent manner. The proposed Codes of Practice for Determining Pace and Timing of Decommissioning will be in line with Strategy 4 and DESNZ policy and has so far been discussed with the sites, regulators and Nuleaf but will also be discussed with SSGs in advance of publication.



- Every year, NDA publishes its Mission Progress Report which details the work that has been going on over the past year and how that contributes to the completion of our mission. This year's edition is expected to be published in November.
- Every three years, NDA reviews its socio-economic strategy to check that it is fit for purpose and updated where necessary. The last one was published just as the pandemic took hold and much has changed since then. The team has been visiting key stakeholders around the country over the past few months to discuss the effectiveness of our programme and identify ways to make it even more focussed. We will publish the revised strategy shortly and there will be a formal consultation which will start in December. All members of the SSG are invited to take part.
- The search for a suitable site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), to permanently dispose of the UK's higher activity waste, continues. Two key parameters are that the geology must be suitable and that the community itself is willing to host the facility. We have been working with three communities in Cumbria and one in Lincolnshire. It is now clear that the geology around one of these – Allerdale in Cumbria – will not support a GDF and Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) has decided to wind down the project there. The programme continues with the other communities and NWS is still looking for other communities that might be interested in participating.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat.



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