



NDA Update for DSG

September 2024



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NDA Stakeholder Update

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

General Election

Following the recent General Election the Labour Party, with Sir Keir Starmer as the new UK Prime Minister, won with a majority of c170. Within the Department for Energy and Net Zero the Rt Hon Ed Miliband has been appointed as the new Secretary of State with his team of Rt Hon Lord Hunt OBE as Minister of State for Energy and Net Zero, Sarah Jones MP as Minister of State for Industry, Kerry McCarty MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Climate, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy Consumers and Michael Shanks MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy.

The new Secretary of State has advised the priorities for the department are:

1. delivering our mission to boost energy independence and cutting bills through clean power by 2030
2. taking back control of our energy with Great British Energy
3. upgrading Britain's homes and cutting fuel poverty through our Warm Homes Plan
4. standing up for consumers by reforming our energy system
5. creating good jobs in Britain's industrial heartlands, including a just transition for the industries based in the North Sea
6. leading on international climate action, based on our domestic achievements

The announcement and launch of Great British Energy (GBE), a publicly owned, clean-energy company which will be headquartered in Scotland has now been made by the Secretary of State. The aim is to speed up the deployment of mature and new technologies, as well as local energy projects, to support the government's aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity system by 2030 whilst also ensuring we can meet future demand as we further decarbonise the economy. GBE will be paid for by a windfall tax on oil and gas giants and will invest clean power projects all across the United Kingdom. [Juergen Maier](#), former CEO of Siemens UK, has been announced as Chair of Great British Energy.

- Following the election we have seen significant constituency level change at NDA sites with ten now represented by a new MP, including Josh MacAlister covering the sites at Sellafield and Drigg, Julie Minns for Carlisle and the NTS offices and Michelle Scrogam for Barrow and Furness.



- We are contacting new constituency MPs at and around our sites and Ministers in key Whitehall departments introducing the work of the NDA group and seeking an early meeting.
- Additionally, over the coming weeks and months, we will be working through the policy implications of a new government for the NDA group.

Board updates

- As previously announced **Adrienne Kelbie CBE**, Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) board, has stepped down and her successor has been named as Liz Peace. Liz has more than 35 years' experience in government and the property sector, including as Chief Executive of the British Property Federation for 13 years, and currently holds a range of Chair, non-executive and advisory roles. She was awarded a CBE in 2008 for services to the property industry. The full announcement can be read [here](#)

Outreach activities

- During the pre-election period outreach activities was limited but a number of planned commitments which were postponed are now being rescheduled including a Treasury department visit to Sellafield and a site visit by the officials from DESNZ and UKGI.
- The next **Cross-Party Group** will be held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 in Committee Room 5 at the Scottish Parliament. 'Skills' will be the main topic for consideration.
- NDA is working with NIA to establish a similar **CPG in the Welsh Parliament**.
- Gillian Martin MSP has been appointed as **Acting Cabinet Secretary** for Net Zero and NDA is in the process of arranging its annual Ministerial briefing.
- NDA will be supporting the **SEPA Vibes Awards** to be held in Glasgow in November 2024.

Engagement priorities for 2024

- In response to previous feedback, the first **SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs event** to reflect a group-wide approach involving the NDA, NRS and other OpCo CEOs was held on July 8/9. This combined event provided richer discussion and a chance for the SSG delegates to talk about their opportunities and challenges. It also featured updates on socio-economics and the NDA's heritage strategy.
- As mentioned in previous updates, our **independent review into the SSGs** is underway. This exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years. It will also allow us to consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future. Our Chairs and Vice-Chairs played a role in helping to draft the scope of the review and they received a short progress update at the SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting mentioned above.



- Our next in person **Stakeholder Conference** will be held on September 17/18 in Manchester at the airport Radisson Blu hotel. We are working with a range of stakeholders to draft the content and agenda to ensure we create an event of value to all delegates.
- We are in the process of developing and designed our next broad **stakeholder survey**. More details will be available in due course.
- Preparation is underway for **Strategy V** which we expect to publish in March 2026. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. We will engage early with stakeholders during the development of the document and its subsequent consultation.
- **SCCORS** (Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances), has established closer links with NuLeaf and have commenced the recruitment process for an Engagement Officer to promote closer links with Scotland's local authorities.
- NDA was pleased to support the recent **CPX Masterplan** announcement and is leading the search for a Strategic Partner.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- The previous Government and devolved administrations published an updated policy for nuclear decommissioning and managing radioactive substances, including radioactive waste. Publication follows consultation undertaken last year on the proposals. [Read details of the policy here.](#)
- The policy included an expectation that the NDA should explore with stakeholders the potential for optimising the LLW Repository to take suitable, less hazardous intermediate level waste.
- Engagement with the local community and relevant stakeholders will be an important part of this work, alongside further technical evaluation. If appropriate, the project would proceed to creation of a final business case and seek necessary approvals.
- Nuclear Waste Services will be working with relevant key stakeholders, to inform its thinking
- We expect to publish our Annual Report and Accounts in September.
- The **Scottish Government** is about to start its review into its policy for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). The policy framework is set out in a 2011 Policy and the 2016 Implementation Strategy. The anticipated timeline is: Commence review – mid 2024, Hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- NDA is in the process of recruiting for its third **secondment** into SG's Radioactive Waste Substances Team – supporting the review and consultation for Scotland's HAW Policy.



- The new nuclear industry skills “roadmap” has been launched aimed at attracting and retaining the sector’s workforce of the future. The National Nuclear Strategic Plan for Skills (Skills Plan) is based on sector collaboration, investment in training, leadership development and improving diversity. The NDA is a signatory to the charter, which was signed at Westminster, that underpins the goal to double the number of new apprenticeships by 2026 and recruit 40,000 new jobs by 2030.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction is underway, with visits to Sellafield and formal interviews now completed. We expect the study to be published on 23 October.

Mission delivery

- NWS and the NDA have established an innovative partnership for the enhanced management of asbestos waste, awarding two contracts to establish the **Asbestos Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will work with the NDA group and the supply chain, to test and develop new solutions to treat asbestos waste, helping to deliver efficiencies and enable more effective waste management.
- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.
- At Sellafield, the first transfer of fuel from an A1 skip to the new 63 can rack in support of the AGR programme has been made. This is a significant milestone presenting new capability that will, via further 63 can racks, enable storage of the volumes of EDF fuel needed into the 2030s.
- Industrial action at **NRS Dounreay** was suspended and work to rule ceased in period, to allow employees to be balloted on a new pay offer which was accepted.
- We’ve opened a new joint **Cyber Security Operations facility** at Hinton House in Warrington, bringing together capability from the NDA (delivering services for the wider group) and Sellafield. Protecting our businesses and keeping our information secure is vital and this new facility will help, enable the cyber teams to co-locate and better collaborate to defend against common cyber threats.



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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