Communication and stakeholder involvement experiences from decommissioning in the UK

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The UK nuclear landscape
Stakeholder engagement

Energy Act (2004) requires that the NDA:

Gives encouragement and other support to activities that benefit the social or economic life of communities living near designated installations, designated sites or designated facilities or that produce other environmental benefits for such communities.

NDA engagement is through:

- Nuleaf
- Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs)
- NGO fora
- Consultation e.g. on Strategy
- Stakeholder meetings
- Direct work with local authorities and communities
That policy, strategy and practice for all nuclear waste and legacy issues has the interests of local authorities as a central concern, leading to the best possible outcomes for the communities they serve.
Nuleaf: Who we are

- Founded in 2002
- Over 100 local authorities and National Parks are members across England and Wales
- Funding from NDA and members
- Only concerned with decommissioning and legacy wastes – no position on new nuclear power
- Engage with UK and Welsh Government, nuclear industry and regulators
- Build capacity of our members
- International work: GMF Europe, IAEA, NEA and EURAD
Magnox decommissioning: Key issues

- All change – AGR decommissioning, Integrated Waste Management, disposal in situ
- Altering timescale for site remediation
- What scope is there for interim use of the site; and what will the next planned use be?
- How can decommissioning deliver the maximum value locally and nationally?
- How can Magnox best engage with local authorities and community?
What our members want

- Clear decommissioning timeline
- Integration with council socio-economic and land use plans
  - Support for the supply chain
  - Diversification
  - Education and skills
  - Net Zero carbon and sustainability
  - Community benefits and funds
- Storage and transport of waste
- Indicators and reporting
Dorset County Council, Magnox, EA and ONR working to full site closure by 2023. Master-planning:
• Deals with a highly complex site and project
• Useful as an engagement tool

Plan is visionary and participatory and built on stakeholder engagement in 2006 and 2012. It:
• Meets planning requirements – this is a waste site as in-situ disposal
• Underpins numerous technical studies in decommissioning, scheme design, waste, water management, habitat management, flood risk etc
• Manages complexity – decommissioning, environment, regulation
Berkeley Green Campus
Scrabster harbour
Local engagement
SSGs and LLCs

- Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs) at every NDA locations
- Local Liaison Committees (LLCs) at EDF sites
- Provide an opportunity for transparent dialogue and liaison between site operators, stakeholders and the local community
- Have an independent chair
- Meet quarterly to annually
- Open to all
- Minutes and papers available
What could improve

- Attendance at some meetings low
- Failure to connect with ‘hard to reach’ groups or others such as young people
- Web presence limited
- Some SSGs not representative of local population
- Need to consider AGR stations – some don’t have a SSG just now
- Wider engagement – conversation with the community
GDF siting process
The GDF and local authorities
Delivering a successful GDF process

Engagement processes:
• Community Partnerships: Membership and ways of working
• Inclusive: reaching out to all
• Recognise different communities have different knowledge and perspectives
• Communicating and debating uncertainties: retrievability, geology, safety
• Understanding the bigger picture: waste management, plans for Near Surface Disposal, Sellafield

Local Government:
• Community Vision: capture imagination and link to wider plans
• Keeping councils in the process – electoral cycles, reform, support from Nuleaf
• Test of Support
Conclusions

- Nuclear clean up is a £132Bn, 120 year mission – must ‘Add Value’ wherever possible
- Need integrated and intergenerational thinking on economic, social and environmental benefit
- Decommissioning must be connected to the future options for sites: New nuclear, renewables, other
- Every site is different – approach must be guided by local context and local views
- NDA and society is changing – is reform of engagement required?