



# NDA update to key community stakeholders - Coronavirus

March-April 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.

### Government Advice - Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family.
- You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.



### 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 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.



## NDA Monthly Update: May 2019

Here are some updates from around One NDA this week:

### **Dounreay Update**

The staff at DSRL are following a “**Protect our Site, Protect our Community, Protect our NHS**” plan.

For years, the site has planned for an emergency that relied upon the community coming to its aid. Now it is urgently drawing-up and implementing plans to come to the aid of the community in the current emergency.

DSRL is considering ways to deploy people, funding, materials and transport that could help the Caithness community. The site is talking regularly to the Highland Council and local NHS to understand how they can best, and safely support the effort to combat Covid-19.

The site has placed all resources not considered essential to safety and security of the site at the disposal of Highland Council and NHS Highland. The site is also considering how to help other organisations in the area during the crisis. Direct help is already underway for local medical centres, and donations of face-masks and protective gear including gloves has already been supplied via the council and NHS.

### **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.

### **West Cumbria Update**

As the impacts of Covid-19 started to become clear last week, Sellafield Ltd took the decision to temporarily pause any project and supply chain work that does not directly impact nuclear safety and security. This included the controlled shut down of the Magnox reprocessing plant. This will enable the majority of staff to stay at home and adhere to social distancing guidance while only minimal numbers of staff in essential roles will have to leave their homes each day.

Sellafield staff will continue to maintain safe, secure operations, whilst maintaining the health, safety and well-being of everyone who works on the site and across the business.

Sellafield Ltd are also doing their bit to help the community by providing personal protective equipment (PPE), to priorities established by the Cumbria Resilience Forum.

Initially, they are donating items including 2500 disposable respirators; around 500 suits, gowns and lab coats and several hundred pairs of gloves. As they better understand their own need, they are likely to be able to make more equipment available.



### 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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## **NDA Monthly Update: May 2019**

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