

## Dr Alexandra (Alex) Walmsley [aaw@gel.com](mailto:aaw@gel.com) 07968 802 542

**Biography:** Alex (49) has been UK Managing Director of GEL Laboratories UK Ltd since its formation in 2015. GEL has provided analytical services in the USA and worldwide for more than 30 years. Currently in the UK GEL undertakes characterisation both for the NDA and EDF.



I moved into the nuclear sector after a career in Academia and Defence. I've worked with global companies and tiny SMEs in the UK and USA, and with the Ministry of Defence and the Pentagon. I am a member of the Nuclear Institute, Women in Nuclear and also a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and an Associate Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute. In

2019, I was also appointed Senior Adviser to NIA member Newton Europe.

I now have a solid understanding of the key nuclear issues, personalities and sites, both in the UK, the USA and further afield (a particular interest is Ignalina, Lithuania, as I have relatives nearby). GEL has so far only worked on one EDF site, but my husband was at British Energy, and his idea of a "good date" often involved a trip to one of the fleet – little did I know that would be such a useful learning experience!

In my spare time, I support West Ham United FC (glutton for punishment), enjoy walking in the Lakes (obsessed with Herdwick sheep) and fishing in the Highlands (COVID-permitting). I am an Ambassador for the Forces charity SSAFA. I recently stood down as Chair of catering at a London club, where I oversaw 16 temperamental chefs.

***The DEG Group is the most worthwhile component of GEL's NIA membership.***

**Vision:** If elected Chair, I would like an update at every meeting from one of the senior figures at the NDA as well as the speakers from the SLCs. The company "taster sessions" are brilliant. One per meeting should focus on the application of new technologies such as AI or autonomy. Existing Generation is the slightly overlooked aspect of the group. I propose greater engagement with EDF and sessions devoted to the fleet's life extension plan and the role of new technologies in safety assurance and maintenance. I'd like to see dialogue with officials from relevant government departments and local politicians, and more women speakers on the panels.

Thanks to COVID, we are more comfortable with Zoom/Teams, and our upcoming meetings will be virtual for a while. But I'd also like to use these tools for additional webinars both to bring in speakers who are harder to pin down for a full Group meeting and to enable "virtual visits" to key sites. David Peattie/Matt Sykes should give us annual "State of the Nation" briefings. Some NIA members attend the annual WM Symposia in Arizona. But it's a long trip and a big expense, so I propose a "WM Wash-Up" after each annual event, so that attendees can brief the rest of the group on the key issues discussed.

Based in London, I'm available and keen to support Tom, Steph and the wider NIA team.