Bilateral Agreements: Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges

John Mathieson
Waste Management 2011
NDA Bilateral Agreements

• **With organisations in**
  – France; Germany; Japan; Switzerland; Belgium; Sweden, US
  – Due to be signed: Canada
  – Decommissioning, clean-up, waste management, geological disposal
  – Purpose: exchange info & “not reinvent the wheel”
    • Access to international good practice / lessons learned
    • Joint R&D
    • Benchmarking opportunities
    • Opportunities for technology transfer
    • 3rd party endorsement of what we do
    • Opportunities for developing the workforce through staff exchanges
NDA-DOE Bilateral

- **DOE-NDA “Statement of Intent”**
  - signed March 2007 – 5 years, renew next year
  - Under auspices of higher level HMG-USG cooperation agreement
- **NDA-DOE agreement key for NDA**
  - NDA “model” based on (but different to) DOE
  - DOE similar technical & commercial / contractor challenges
  - Budgets not too dissimilar (exchange rate)
  - Scopes covers decommissioning, clean-up, radwaste management, (geological disposal)
- **Specific topics (YC covered)**
  - Monthly expert – expert calls
  - Expert site visits
  - 6 monthly high level review (UK-US alternate)
- **Future areas:**
  - Commercial / higher-level strategic / “big picture” interests
- **Challenges**
  - Cost – need to demonstrate vfm
  - Be seen as part of the day job
Across the Pond

A Quarterly Update on Joint UK NDA/US DOE Activities and Initiatives

Issue 4  Summer 2010

1 DOE-NDA discuss Spent Fuel Shipment

Meeting took place over 2-3 October 2009 at Long B teamed to offload two fuel hampers from the US DOE at Sellafield. The meeting was attended by representatives from DOE, NDA, and Sellafield.

The meetings started with presentations on the discussion of the operation and maintenance of the US DOE spent fuel storage facility. The presentations were followed by a discussion on the potential sites for the US spent fuel storage facility.

2 WPP Program visit to NDA

On 9th June, the team visited Sellafield and was given a tour of the site. The tour included a visit to the WPP site, which is responsible for the management of the spent fuel storage facility. The team also had a meeting with the WPP management team to discuss the current status of the WPP project.

3 NDA/DOE counterparts discuss nuclear waste

The meeting was attended by representatives from DOE and NDA. The meeting was held to discuss the current status of the nuclear waste management programs in the US and the UK, and to identify potential areas for cooperation.

Across the Pond

A Quarterly Update on Joint UK NDA/US DOE Activities and Initiatives

Issue 5  Winter 2010

Introduction

Across the Pond is an effort to share information and foster collaboration between the UK and US DOE-NDA programs. This newsletter provides updates on recent activities and initiatives that are relevant to both programs.

There is a growing appreciation that, with decreasing technology development and increasing pressure to complete the cleanup mission quickly and cost-effectively, there is a significant potential for mutual benefit to be gained from collaboration on projects and initiatives. The goal of this newsletter is to provide a forum for sharing information and experiences, and to encourage further collaboration between the UK and US DOE-NDA programs.

New features in this issue include:

- An update on the joint US-UK project to develop a new method for the disposal of radioactive waste.
- Information on the latest developments in the UK’s nuclear waste management programs.
- A summary of the US-UK Joint Steering Committee meeting, which was held in Sellafield in October 2010.

WPP Program visit to NDA

On 9th June, the team visited Sellafield and was given a tour of the site. The tour included a visit to the WPP site, which is responsible for the management of the spent fuel storage facility. The team also had a meeting with the WPP management team to discuss the current status of the WPP project.

NDA/DOE counterparts discuss nuclear waste

The meeting was attended by representatives from DOE and NDA. The meeting was held to discuss the current status of the nuclear waste management programs in the US and the UK, and to identify potential areas for cooperation.

The potential benefits of these programs are significant, ranging from cost avoidance and sharing of expertise to the development of new technologies and processes. However, the success of these initiatives depends on the willingness and commitment of all parties involved. It is hoped that this newsletter will serve as a platform for sharing information and experiences, and for fostering further collaboration between the UK and US DOE-NDA programs.