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# Low Level Waste Strategy

## Environment Agency Expectations

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## Environment Agency Vision

*“A better place for people and wildlife for the present and for future generations”*

- Specifically, we want:
  - To see old industry sites decommissioned and cleaned up so they can be reused for beneficial purposes
  - Influence government solutions for radioactive waste management
  - Minimise the regulatory burden on activities that benefit society and the environment
  - Enable government decisions on new build by streamlining our regulatory processes and defining environmental standards

(RSR Strategy 2006-11)

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## Developing a LLW Strategy

- We want this work to deliver a robust, sustainable solution as part of a wider national IWS
- Key development for nuclear sector
- Significant implications for non-nuclear sector
- Key factor in achieving success – gaining buy-in
  - ‘Consultation’ is not sufficient.

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## What might it achieve?

- A broad range of solutions that best address the nature of the waste stream – not simply LLWR
- A broader sense of ownership of LLW issues across the stakeholder community
- Confidence that the industry understands and can manage these wastes
- Robust underpinning of National IWS & NDA Strategy
- A deliverable, funded programme of work with clear objectives against which progress can be monitored and reported

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## Key steps (1) – Purpose / Context

- Clarify the purpose / vision & needs
  - What does each stakeholder want to achieve from having a LLW Strategy in place?
- Understand where the Strategy needs to sit – links / dependencies to:
  - NDA Strategy, including
    - National Integrated Waste Strategy
    - NDA Socio-Economic Strategy
    - NDA Skills Strategy
  - SLC Strategy, Environment Agency Strategy, Scottish Government Strategy, MoD Strategy, etc
- Be mindful of developments / implications at LLWR itself

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## Key steps (2) – Process Development

- Develop guiding principles for Strategy development
  - Collate existing principles (e.g. policy requirements, REPs, SAPs)
  - Engage on & achieve buy-in to use of principles
  
- Develop process for Strategy development, including:
  - Participants, Consultees, End-Users, Audience, Approvers – clear roles / responsibilities
  - Clarify legal / policy framework that may apply (inc. SEA, EIADR, RSA, Article 37 etc)
  - Develop a decision-calendar to clarify when certain decisions will need to be made
  - Establish & apply agreed decision-making process
  - Develop monitoring / reporting / review arrangements

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## Strategic Decision-Making

- Information gathering
  - IWS (where they exist) – *elsewhere* – *partic. small users?*
  - Documented assessments / decisions
  - R&D, innovations
  - existing commitments / expectations
  - best practice elsewhere
  
- Optioneering
  - Attribute selection / identification & screening of options / options assessment / management of uncertainty

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## Options Assessment

- Clear, transparent, understandable, documented in Plain English
- Holistic
  - All relevant criteria – to help distinguish options as well as demonstrating consideration of particular issues
- Seek to achieve consensus view
  - Provide opportunities for range of stakeholders to provide their views on assessment, and understand where views differ / overlap
- Sustainable
  - Consider longer-term issues / challenges. Be imaginative in capturing stakeholder views – e.g. engage with YGN community.
- Timely
  - Understand when key decisions need to be made, and when options will be available
- Robust
  - Evidence-based arguments, addresses uncertainty / risks, independent peer review

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## Summary

- This is a tremendous opportunity – let's get it right!
- We don't just want to be consulted – we want to be engaged in the process
  - Mechanism for active network participation across range of constituencies – e-portal etc?
- Need to clarify link to wider NDA waste strategy work, and NDA Strategy Review
- Opportunity to share thinking at NSG on 21 May?
  - NILG / SULG?

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## Low Level Waste 2008

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