

Geological Disposal Steering Group
15:15 – 17:15, Tuesday 14 May 2013
Room LG05, 55 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EY

Attendees

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
Welsh Government
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Radioactive Waste Management Directive (RWMD)
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) - observer

Apologies

HM Treasury (HMT)
Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Minutes and actions from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 7 March 2013 meeting have been published on the DECC website. There were no actions from that meeting.

Programme Highlight Report

2. DECC and RWMD presented the Programme Highlight Report to update on progress on the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) programme since the last meeting. For the review of the siting process for a geological disposal facility, a joint DECC/RWMD project team had now been formed to take forward a number of initial work packages. On 13 May DECC had launched a Call for Evidence, which would run until 10 June. Along with the 'lessons learned' feedback already received from stakeholders, this would inform a public consultation on the siting process later in 2013. The Call for Evidence was being brought to the attention of MRWS stakeholders to encourage responses. However, it was agreed that appropriate further engagement activities should continue to be considered in order to make the most of this opportunity to hear the views of key stakeholders.

Action 1: DECC/RWMD to consider what further stakeholder engagement was required during the Call for Evidence period.

3. RWMD informed GDSG Members that the NDA Board had approved the formation of RWMD as a wholly-owned subsidiary and that this was now scheduled for April 2014, subject to Government approval. The Group agreed that the programme risks should be reviewed to reflect the current phase of work on consultation and process review.

Action 2: DECC/RWMD to review programme risks before the GDSG meeting on 4 July.

MRWS update

4. The Call for Evidence and ongoing engagement with stakeholders will inform a consultation document on the siting process for a geological disposal facility. GDSG members recognised that the Call for Evidence could identify further issues that needed to be addressed in the consultation document and these would have to be considered as they arise. The group would agree the proposed content of the consultation document in due course.

AOB

5. At the last meeting GDSG members had considered options for the future of the Geological Disposal Implementation Board in the context of how external stakeholder engagement and scrutiny might best support the GDF programme moving forwards. The Group had agreed that relevant stakeholders should be consulted on this issue and DECC reported that it was taking work forward to achieve this.

Meetings scheduled for 2013

- 2:00pm 4 July
- 2:30pm 12 September
- 2:00pm 12 November