

## **Minutes of 11th DECC Nuclear NGO Forum meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

### **Attendees:**

Baroness Verma, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DECC Present from 14.00  
Hergen Hays, CEO, Office for Nuclear Development (OND)  
Liz Keenaghan – Clark, (Co-Chair), Office for Nuclear Development (OND), DECC  
Professor Andy Blowers (Co-Chair), Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group (BANNG)  
Jo Brown, Parents Concerned About Hinkley (PCAH)  
Reg Illingworth, SANE  
Richard Bramhall, LLRC  
Alan Tyne, Bradwell for Renewable Energy (BRARE)  
Rita Holmes, Ayrshire Radiation Monitoring Group (ARM)  
Dr. David Lowry, NWAA  
Neil Crumpton  
Sean Morris, Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA)  
Sue Aubrey, Stop Hinkley  
Jill Perry, Save our Lake District  
Jill Sutcliffe, Low Level Radiation and Health Conference  
Dr. Ruth Balogh, West Cumbria and North Lakes FoE  
Lydia Meryll, SERA  
Phil Davies, NWAA  
Geoff Betsworth, Cumbrian Trust  
Alan McGoff, (EA)  
Stephen Newson. (CORWM)  
Charlotte Williams, Office for Nuclear Development (OND), DECC  
Margaret Mary McLaren, Office for Nuclear Development (OND), DECC  
Jane Cantwell, Office for Nuclear Development (OND), DECC  
Deputy Director, Civil Nuclear Resilience and Assurance Directorate, DECC  
Richard Sargent, Office for Nuclear Development (OND), DECC

### **A. Introductions and preliminaries**

The Co-Chairs welcomed members to the 10th DECC Nuclear NGO Forum.

- A member of CORWM was present to observe this meeting. It was agreed that NGO representatives will also attend CORWM meetings.
- Hergen Hays, newly appointed CEO of OND formally handed over to Liz Keenaghan-Clark. OND to take over as Co-Chair of the Forum.
- Professor Blowers thanked Hergen on behalf of the NGO members of the Forum for his open, cooperative and helpful approach to the Forum's work which was much appreciated.

- Professor Andrew Blowers asked that an update be provided to NGOs Richard Bramhall and Pete Wilkinson in relation to their liaison with DECC on their proposal on the impact of low level radiation on health.
- Liz Keenaghan-Clark, OND provided an update on recent nuclear policy developments. Reference was made to the implementation of NIRAB, the current possibilities for the new nuclear programme, an update on Hinkley Point C State Aid case and GDA of ABWR and remarked on plutonium management - namely that DECC wasn't aiming to make any financial gain from Plutonium and that it would henceforth be a question of damage limitation.

The NGOs made the point that the plutonium disposition programme is a big issue and this subject should be considered as a suitable item for a future Forum.

**ACTION DECC:** Richard Bramhall and Pete Wilkinson have asked for an update on the position in relation to agreed actions at meeting with DECC on the Richard Bramhall proposal.

**ACTION DECC:** DECC to provide appropriate reference for the 'Basic Safety Standards Directive'.

**ACTION DECC:** Nuclear Innovation and Research Advisory Board TOR to be circulated to the Forum by DECC.

**ACTION NGOs:** NGO representatives will arrange to attend CORWM meetings.

## B. Security issues

David Lowry presented his paper on nuclear security issues. The Deputy Director of the Nuclear Resilience and Assurance Directorate (NRAD), DECC then delivered a short presentation on what NRAD does, principally centred around setting the broad policy framework. He referred in particular to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 'Fundamental Principles' for security which underpin arrangements.

A discussion then took place around the issues. The NGOs asked questions covering the following areas:

- Arrangements within emergency planning zones.
- Details around the staff numbers and background of NRAD employees.
- Coordination of security arrangements with the Home Office.
- Potential role of NGO Forum member on the Nuclear Innovation and Research Board.

The Deputy Director agreed to explore the expertise offered by the NGOs and any opportunities to input to the framework. He also offered to attend a future

meeting of the Forum and participate in further discussions on broad security policy issues when appropriate.

**Action DECC:** NRAD to explore with the NGOs their expertise and any opportunities to input to the framework.

**Action DECC:** David Lowry requested that NRAD, DECC provide a copy of the IAEA report mentioned in an Annex to David's security paper.

**Action DECC:** Richard Bramhall has an interest in any consultation on revisions to the Basic Safety Standards Directive and wants to liaise with DECC on what deliberations are going on.

### C. GDF item

Baroness Verma joined the meeting and briefly updated the Forum on the Government's progress with the consultation on a revised approach to working with communities across the UK in order to find a site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

DECC officials from the GDF team then provided a more detailed update on progress with the GDF consultation and the NGO involvement in the process.

Professor Blowers then presented the NGO perspective on the GDF issue by outlining the key points in the NGO combined response to the consultation. In particular he emphasised: the need to consider interim storage as an integral part of the long-term strategy for radioactive waste management; the need for clear definition of the possible inventory for the GDF; the issues raised by new build; and the problem of participative and representative governance arrangements for the siting process.

DECC then stated that they have welcomed the responses from the NGOs and appreciated the level of detail that had been presented. Baroness Verma pointed out that DECC are not rushing the process as they want to make sure that it is as well informed as possible and that officials have tried to reach out and agree at all levels in the process.

The NGOs raised the following points:

- There is a need to unpick what is meant by 'Voluntarism'.
- The process needs to be opened up to a wider range of volunteers.
- The process will fail if local people are not involved.
- What is the current status of the Geological Disposal Implementation Board.
- The Finnish regulators have a good safety record and we should look to their example.

Baroness Verma pointed out that there is a lot more debate to be had on the subject and that the process that we are designing needs to work nationally.

**Action DECC:** David Lowry has asked what is happening with the Geological Disposal Implementation Board, he is aware that it is being reviewed and wants to know if it is being dissolved. DECC have committed to provide an answer on this.

D. **Any other business and Chair's closing remarks**

The Environment Agency mentioned to the Forum that the UK ABWR public comments process has now begun and can be available to view and respond to on the Environment Agency's website.

Future items for consideration for the next Forum are a progress review / stock take of all areas that NGOs are involved in, plutonium options and future scenarios and implications.