

+Geological Disposal Programme Board
12:00 – 13:30, Friday 17 October 2014
55 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AW

Attendees

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
HM Treasury (HMT)
Welsh Government
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM)
Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Apologies

Shareholder Executive (ShEx)
Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)

Minutes and actions from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 8 July 2014 meeting were agreed in correspondence after the meeting and published on the DECC website. The actions from that meeting had all been completed.

Programme Highlight Report

2. The Board noted that the GDF White Paper had been published on time (24 July), alongside the full Government response to the siting review consultation and the GDF Annual Report. The focus of work within the GDF programme had now shifted to delivery of the initial actions set out in the White Paper, namely on national geological screening, land-use planning and working with communities.
3. DECC informed the Board that plans for delivery of the initial actions were now in place across DECC and RWM and progress to deliver by 2016 would be monitored closely. It was suggested that the proposed governance and project management arrangements be aligned with the earlier work on the role of GDPB. To support this process, the work would be 'baselined' to ensure a shared expectation between government and the developer of when key milestones needed to be met.
 - **Action 1: DECC & RWM to baseline the initial actions work to support monitoring of progress to deliver them by 2016;**
 - **Action 2: DECC & RWM to include milestones in the Highlight Report to cover the delivery of initial actions – i.e. 2014 – 2016.**

GDF Initial Actions

4. DECC informed the Board of the work being done to deliver the initial actions set out in the White Paper. It summarised progress to date on national geological screening, including delivery by RWM of a stakeholder event on 30 September and plans for further RWM-led events.

5. On land-use planning, work continues on the detail of amending the Planning Act 2008 in order to bring GDF and the preceding geological investigations within the planning regime. Consideration is also being given to how to deliver the National Policy Statement (NPS) and the accompanying appraisal of sustainability.
6. On the initial action to develop details around the approach to working with communities it was noted that plans were now well-developed to put in place a Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) in line with the commitment made in the White Paper. The preferred approach to delivering the work was to use a third-party supplier to support the CRWG and carry out the stakeholder engagement required to underpin solutions to the challenging questions of how best to engage and work with potential host communities. The CRWG would therefore act as a steering body and make recommendations on the final process based on proposals put forward and evidenced by the supplier.
7. The CRWG would be an advisory working group only, and would be chaired by a DECC official.
8. The Board agreed that working with communities was seminal to designing a robust siting process and that it should receive detailed updates on this work at the appropriate time. In the same way, progress on the other initial actions should be reported to the Board ahead of important milestones.

Action 3: DECC to schedule initial actions updates for the Board in line with key milestones.

Stakeholder engagement & communications

9. DECC informed the Board that, given the breadth and importance of stakeholder engagement needed to deliver the initial actions, it was taking a strategic view to engagement and communications activities to ensure these are joined-up across DECC and RWM and that stakeholders are engaged in the right way and proportionately.

Meetings scheduled for 2015

- 13 January
- 3 March
- 5 May
- 2 July
- 3 September
- 3 November