

Geological Disposal Programme Board
14:00 – 15:30, Wednesday 1 April 2015
55 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EH

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)
CoRWM (observer)

Apologies

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

Minutes and actions from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 23 January 2015 meeting were agreed in correspondence after the meeting and published on the DECC website. The action from that meeting (DECC, RWM and planning colleagues to ensure that a coordinated and consistent approach to the practicalities of applying the planning process is adopted) had been completed.

Programme Highlight Report

2. The Board noted that progress was being made across the 'initial actions' set out in the GDF White Paper, published in July 2014. An Independent Review Panel has been established by the Geological Society to review the draft screening guidance produced by RWM. The Planning Act 2008 has been amended to bring GDFs and deep borehole investigations in England within the definition of nationally significant infrastructure projects. The Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) agreed its work programme, stakeholder engagement plan and approach to communications. RWM has started work on preparations for GDF Siting.
3. It was reported that RWM's new GDF Siting Director and Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Director are now in post.
4. Regulation and licensing of a GDF was discussed and the Board agreed that there will be further discussions with Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on how to take this work forward.

Action: Re-draft baseline dates for Regulation and Licensing of GDF (DECC).

Preparations for GDF Siting

5. RWM presented to the Board on their proposed work streams for preparing for GDF Siting, including plans for stakeholder engagement following completion of the initial action projects and documenting existing social science research on GDF site selection.

6. The Board agreed that consideration should be given to the relationship between the Board and the working levels of management responsible for the day-to-day delivery of the initial actions and siting preparations work, including delegation of approvals of work plans.

Action: Review governance arrangements, including delegation of responsibilities, in light of Siting Preparations work (DECC and RWM).

7. It was noted that the current DECC SRO, Hergen Haye, would be moving on and would be replaced by Lee McDonough in May.

National Geological Screening

8. RWM presented to the Board the progress on the work it is leading post- White Paper on national geological screening. RWM has held 16 events around the country to raise awareness of the work and engage the public and expert stakeholders. Presentations have been given to 10 of the 14 regional Geological Society groups and six non-specialist events have been held.

AOB

9. The Board noted that following its earlier consultation the Welsh Government will issue an announcement about their policy on the management and disposal of higher activity radioactive waste on 19 May. Depending on the announcement it was also agreed that there would be Welsh Government representation on the Community Representation Working Group.

Meetings scheduled for 2015

- 2 July
- 3 September
- 10 November