

Community Representation Working Group (CRWG)

Thursday 11 June 2015 – 12:30-15:30

Attendees:

Tom Wintle, Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Chair
DECC officials
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

Natalyn Ala
Judith Armit
Holmfridur Bjarnadottir
Prof Andrew Blowers
Kirsty Gogan
Lisa Levy
Phil Matthews
Prof Nick Pidgeon
Phil Richardson
Phil Stride
Cherry Tweed
Julian Wain

Jenny Coombs - Local Partnerships
Simon Bandy - Local Partnerships
Liz Waugh - Local Partnerships

Apologies:

HM Treasury

Observers:

Brian Clark - Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
John Rennilson - Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
Welsh Government (by telephone)

Item 1: Introductions and house-keeping

The Chair thanked members for giving their time and expertise to the project, and passed on apologies from those unable to attend. He introduced the Welsh Government to the CRWG, who will sit as an observer on the group, following the Welsh Government policy statement adopting geological disposal as the long term management route for higher activity radioactive waste. The Welsh Government is currently consulting on proposed arrangements for engaging with communities in Wales which may wish to enter discussions about potentially hosting a geological

disposal facility. The Chair reiterated that the purpose of the group is to help design a set of practical recommendations on how to work with communities in the future siting of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Item 2: Update on DECC's new ministers

The Chair updated the group on who DECC's new Ministers are following the General Election. Andrea Leadsom MP will have responsibility for the nuclear agenda.

Item 3: GDF Initial Actions Update

DECC and Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM) updated the group on the other initial actions set out in the White Paper:

- National land-use planning. The Order, to bring GDF(s) within the definition of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), came into effect on 27 March. DECC has appointed a contractor (Amec Foster Wheeler) to carry out the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the GDF National Policy Statement (NPS). There will be a consultation on the scope of the AoS and HRA in summer 2015, and a full public and Parliamentary consultation on the draft NPS, and final AoS and HRA in 2016.
- National Geological Screening. [Draft guidance](#) is currently with the Independent Review Panel (IRP) for review (and has been published since the CRWG meeting). The IRP are holding a meeting in public on 23 June, with RWM. Public consultation will follow later in the summer once RWM have finalised their draft guidance.

Item 4: Proposal for revised programme for CRWG meetings

The timescale for the Call for Evidence has been extended to accommodate the availability of Ministers post-election. The group agreed to the new revised CRWG work programme, extending the project until April 2016.

Item 5: Communications update

The draft template for the Call for Evidence was presented to the group. Discussion centred on ensuring that the Call for Evidence is open and accessible, and is written in plain English. The importance of managing expectations was also noted; it needs to be clear that this is a Call for Evidence rather than a public consultation, which will happen later in the process, if necessary.

Item 6: Workshop on early representation

The CRWG divided into three groups for two related workshops to help identify the founding principles for community representation. The CRWG were asked to input first of all their views on things that should be included or excluded in order to achieve a successful process and then to suggest ways in which initial contact could be encouraged and how this could assist establishing suitable representation. The outputs of the workshops will be added to the evidence base and contribute to the development of more detailed options that will be discussed in autumn 2015.

Item 7: AOB

The date of the next CRWG meeting is 23 July.