

Community Representation Working Group (CRWG)

Thursday 23 July 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
Lisa Levy
Phil Stride
Cherry Tweed

Jenny Coombs - Local Partnerships
Martin Forbes - Local Partnerships

Apologies:

HM Treasury
Kirsty Gogan
Phil Matthews
Prof Nick Pidgeon
Phil Richardson
Julian Wain

Observers:

John Rennilson - Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
Welsh Government

Item 1: Introductions and house-keeping

The Chair thanked members for continuing to give their time and expertise to the project, and passed on apologies from those unable to attend. There will be bilateral meetings in August to gather the views of those unable to attend this meeting. The Chair emphasised that the role of the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) is to advise on a practical set of recommendations for working with communities in the future siting of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). The purpose of this meeting was to examine the key issues around constructive engagement and the right of withdrawal for future communities involved in the siting process, through holding a workshop.

Item 2: 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 Geological Screening** - The draft national geological screening guidance was discussed with the Independent Review Panel (IRP) on the 23 June at a meeting in public and broadcast live on the internet. There will be some modification of the draft guidance as a result. Planning of the RWM consultation launch and events, and preparation of the national geological screening guidance consultation document is underway. The latest information can be received by subscribing to the RWM e-bulletin¹. The objective of the National Geological Screening work is to develop brief narratives describing characteristics of the geological environment and their relevance to safety for each of the 13 geological regions of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- **National land-use planning** - Work has begun on a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) and preparations are underway for a consultation this summer (launching in August) focused on the technical scope of the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the draft NPS. The objective of the national land-use planning work is to provide a clear and transparent process for GDF land-use planning decisions in England, by bringing geological disposal infrastructure within the development consent regime for nationally significant infrastructure, and designating a National Policy Statement to support future decision making.

Item 3: Workshop on decision making and community representation

Following from the discussion at the June CRWG meeting on founding principles for community representation, the CRWG divided into two groups to discuss constructive engagement and the right of withdrawal prior to the test of public support. The CRWG were asked to input their views on decision making, the representative body or bodies and how this will evolve alongside the GDF siting process. The outputs of the June and July workshops will be added to the evidence base, and will be used to develop the range of detailed options, that will be examined at the September CRWG meeting.

Item 4: Communications update

The Call for Evidence was launched on 1 July, and will run until 4 September. There was a technical issue with the online form provided, which has now been resolved. DECC and Local Partnerships met with the DECC/Defra Social Science Expert

¹ <http://www.nda.gov.uk/subscribe/>

Panel in July, to gather evidence. CRWG representatives engaged with the DECC NGO Forum in July, to discuss the Call for Evidence, and gather evidence from the members.

Item 5: AOB

Further stakeholder engagement is planned, in order to develop the evidence base. The date of the next CRWG meeting is 24 September.