

Geological Disposal Programme Board
15:00-16:30, Thursday 10 September 2015
55 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EH

Attendees

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

Apologies

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

Minutes from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 2 July 2015 meeting were agreed in correspondence after the meeting and published on the DECC website.

Update on progress with Initial Actions and Preparations for Siting

2. **National Geological Screening** – The consultation on the draft national geological screening guidance was launched on the 8th September and will be open until the 4th December. The guidance was revised to address comments from the Independent Review Panel (IRP). RWM are running national stakeholder events in autumn 2015, designed to help stakeholders and the public in responding to the consultation, which are advertised on their website¹. There is also a glossary² to support the consultation and explain the technical detail. There is a plan in place for the additional resources for consultation activities, including drawing resources externally and from NDA if required.
3. **Working with Communities** – the fifth meeting of the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) took place on 23rd July, and discussed constructive engagement and the right of withdrawal prior to the test of public support. The call for evidence closed on 4th September and 52 responses were received from a wide range of organisations including local councils, charities, members of the public and academia. These are currently being analysed. Workshops have taken place with the Defra/DECC Social Science Expert Panel and the DECC Non-Governmental Organisation forum. Planning is underway for a series of stakeholder and public workshops in autumn/winter to test the developing options of the CRWG.

¹ <http://www.nda.gov.uk/rwm/national-geological-screening/consultation/#register-to-attend-a-workshop>

² <http://www.nda.gov.uk/publication/a-glossary-to-support-the-public-consultation-on-national-geological-screening-guidance/>

4. **National Land-use Planning** – The technical consultation on the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) scoping report and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Methodology report associated with the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) was launched on 4 August (running until 25 September). Development of the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) is underway.
5. **Regulation and licensing** – Whilst some progress has been achieved on the regulatory landscape further work is required and this needs to be pushed ahead more quickly.
6. **Preparations for Siting** – a new interim Head of Community Engagement is developing the Siting Process Implementation Plan to incorporate the developer 'vision', objectives and the 'generic sustainable offer' that RWM will make to communities. The importance of the Preparations for Siting work linking in with the Working with Communities work was emphasised. There will be a substantive discussion on this draft work in progress at the next GDPB meeting on 10 November.
7. An ongoing action to review resources at GDPB will be put in place to ensure the right resources and skills are in place to deliver the Initial Actions and Preparation for Siting work.

Strategic Communications and Engagement

8. Engagement and communications activity will increase from autumn, and planning is underway for communications around future consultations to ensure a coordinated approach.

Launch date for formal engagement with communities

9. The launch date for formal engagement with communities was discussed, including whether it is more appropriate to launch after the local elections in 2017. Further thinking will be done before a decision is made.

AOB

10. The Board noted a number of upcoming staffing changes within the GDF team.

Meetings scheduled for 2015

- 4 December