

Geological Disposal Programme Board
11:00-12:30, Friday 4 December 2015
3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW

Attendees

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
HM Treasury (HMT)
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM)
Shareholder Executive (ShEx)
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) observer
Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) (invited to participate in discussion on licensing)

Apologies

Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)
Ministry of Defence (MoD)
Welsh Government (WG)

Minutes from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 10 September 2015 meeting were agreed in correspondence after the meeting and published on the DECC website. The Chair welcomed the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), who were invited to contribute to updates on the work to enable future nuclear site licensing of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Update on progress with Initial Actions and Preparations for Siting

2. **National Geological Screening** – the consultation on the draft national geological screening guidance closed on 4 December. 52 responses were received. Eleven events were held across England and Northern Ireland in support of the consultation, with approximately 300 attendees. There will be another meeting with the Independent Review Panel (IRP) in February 2016, to review any changes to the screening guidance as a result of consultation responses.
3. **Working with Communities** – the sixth meeting of the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) took place on 24 September, to review the range of options that have been developed on each of the key work areas of the CRWG (community representation, community investment and the test of public support). The CRWG meeting scheduled for November has been postponed, to allow time for more detailed policy development, and planning of the stakeholder engagement and communications programme. Bilateral meetings with CRWG members are taking place, to inform policy development.
4. **National Land-use Planning** – the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) scoping report and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Methodology report associated with the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) will be published in early 2016. Preparations are underway for the NPS consultation in spring 2016.

Timescales are tight for this work and there will be a substantive item on this at the next GDPB in January.

5. **Regulation and licensing** – the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) have developed a proposed approach to take forward preparations for licensing a GDF under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. There is a meeting scheduled in December to discuss the scope of the work and milestones for the delivery of guidance developed with the Environment Agency, and required secondary legislation in 2016.

Preparations for Siting

6. A GDF Implementation paper was presented by RWM. The paper set out the changes needed to RWM's business model through different stages of GDF implementation. It described activities planned to ensure that RWM would be ready to launch the siting process in January 2017. The activities include development of a prospectus which will set out information about a GDF for potential host communities.
7. RWM are undergoing a resource review to ensure they have the right resources in place for the launch of the siting process in 2017. The importance of having external challenge of the plan for organisational change was noted. An update on RWM's resource review will be given at the January GDPB meeting.
8. The importance of strategic communications was discussed, and RWM plan to appoint an external strategic communications partner.

Communications planning

9. The Board were updated on plans for consultations in relation to National Land-use Planning and Working with Communities work packages, being planned for 2016. There will be a substantive discussion around this work at the January GDPB meeting.

AOB

10. The next meeting is scheduled for 19 January 2016.