

Geological Disposal Programme Board
14:00-16:00, Tuesday 19 January 2016
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)
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) observer
Welsh Government (WG)
Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Environment Agency (EA)

Apologies

Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)
Ministry of Defence (MoD)
Shareholder Executive (ShEx)

Minutes from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 4 December 2015 meeting were agreed in correspondence after the meeting and published on the DECC website.

Geological Disposal Facility Implementation and Organisational Development Update

2. RWM presented an updated Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Implementation paper, that described activities planned to ensure that RWM would be ready to launch the siting process in 2017. GDPB members will have until the end of January to comment on the report.
3. RWM gave an update on their resourcing review, which is part of the process of transitioning the organisation so that it can fulfil the role as developer in the new GDF siting process.

Update on progress with Initial Actions and Preparations for Siting

4. **National Geological Screening** – The consultation on the draft national geological screening Guidance closed on 4 December. 77 responses to the consultation were received from a range of stakeholders including individuals, local authorities, site stakeholder groups, supply chain consultants and geoscientists. RWM will discuss the consultation responses and the updated draft Guidance with the Independent Review Panel (IRP) in March before publishing the final version. Preparations are being made to apply the Guidance.
5. **Working with Communities** – Policy development for this work has been brought in house. An expanded policy team has been set up to deliver this stage

of the work. Preparation is underway for the next CRWG meeting on Community Representation in early February. Planning is underway for open policy making public dialogue meetings in late February/early March.

6. **Regulation and licensing** – Good progress is being made with this work. Two workshops on licensing of a GDF have taken place in January with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA) and RWM. There will be a substantive discussion on this at a future GDPB meeting.

Communications planning

7. RWM presented a paper on planning for strategic communications across Government to help support the launch of the GDF siting process.
8. DECC updated members on GDF communications planning and initial actions consultations. A draft plan for the NPS consultation was submitted to members for comments.
9. It was agreed that there would be a standing item on communications at future GDPB meetings.

National Land-use Planning

10. The draft National Policy Statement (NPS) has now been reviewed, and a revised draft NPS produced.
11. Preparation is currently underway to carry out a public consultation on the NPS in conjunction with the associated AoS (Appraisal of Sustainability) and HRA (Habitats Regulations Assessment) reports in spring 2016. In parallel with this, parliamentary scrutiny of the draft NPS will be launched.

AOB

12. The next meeting is scheduled for 1 March 2016.