

**Geological Disposal Programme Board**  
**14:00-16:00, Tuesday 1 March 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)  
Environment Agency (EA)  
Shareholder Executive (ShEx)

**Apologies**

Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)  
Ministry of Defence (MoD)  
Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

**Minutes from last meeting**

1. The minutes of the 19 January 2016 meeting were agreed in correspondence after the meeting and published on the DECC website.

**GDF High-Level Programme Review**

2. The forecast for the GDF Programme, including upcoming consultations, was discussed. The EU referendum and Purdah period may impact the timeline, and the implications of this will need to be understood in due course.

**Geological Disposal Facility Implementation and Organisational Development Update**

3. RWM gave an update on their organisational development plans. ONR and EA carried out a regulatory inspection of RWM's organisational development plans to become a site license company.
4. The recruitment process for four vacant roles in the GDF siting team is underway, along with vacant posts in the communications team.
5. The plan for the RWM organisational readiness review will be finalised shortly.

**Communications planning**

6. DECC gave an update on the 'public dialogue' events that have taken place in Manchester and Swindon. These are part of 'open policy making' to achieve better policy making through engaging with a broad range of people who have no prior knowledge of, or involvement in nuclear-related business. This will feed into the development of the 'Working with Communities' policy.

7. The plans for the National Policy Statement (NPS) consultation are currently being revised to take into account comments from GDPB members.
8. RWM have appointed a strategic communications partner who will be responsible for developing a strategic communications programme for the next three years.

### **Update on progress with Initial Actions and Preparations for Siting**

9. **National Geological Screening** – the revised guidance and detailed technical instructions will be discussed at the Independent Review Panel (IRP) meeting on 3 and 4 March. The RWM national geological screening consultation response report is being prepared.
10. **Working with Communities** – the seventh meeting of the CRWG took place on 4 February, to discuss community representation. Preparation is underway for the next CRWG meeting on 9 March. Work is underway on planning of the remainder of this work stream.
11. **National Land-use Planning** – the Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) scoping reports were published on 1 February. The draft AoS and HRA reports are now progressing and the draft National Policy Statement (NPS) continues to undergo review.
12. **Regulation and licensing** – a draft programme of work is in place as part of preparations for RWM as license holder. A plan is also in place for secondary legislation to give ONR the legal vires for licensing a GDF.

### **AOB**

13. The next meeting is scheduled for 12 April 2016.