

## **Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)**

**14:00-16:00, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW**

### **Present:**

Mr Stephen Speed

**Chairman** - Director Civil Nuclear & Resilience,  
Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) &  
GDF SRO

Mr Tom Wintle

Programme Director, BEIS

Mr Bruce McKirdy

Managing Director, Radioactive Waste Management  
Ltd (RWM)

Mr David Batters

CFO Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)

Mr Robert Williams

Welsh Government

### **Attendees:**

BEIS Policy Lead

BEIS GDF Team

Integrated Programme Manager

BEIS GDF Team

Secretariat

BEIS GDF Team

Professor Laurence Williams

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management  
(CoRWM) – Observer

Professor Denise Bower

Chair, RWM Readiness Review Panel (item 4 only)

### **Item 1 – Minutes from last meeting**

1. The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Board were agreed and will be published on the GDPB web pages of the Gov.uk website. All actions were complete or in hand.

### **Item 2 – GDPB Terms of Reference**

2. The revised terms of reference for GDPB were approved and it was agreed that they should replace the previous ones on the Gov.uk website.

### **Item 3 – Programme Risk Report**

3. The Board received a short presentation from the Programme Manager on the main risks to the programme, these centred around the delivery body not being in a position to launch the siting process and the siting process being unsuccessful. A good discussion followed where the Board were content that the current mitigating actions were appropriate and proportionate to manage these risks. The Chair asked for members to be conscious of other potential risks that may arise during the Working with Communities and GDF National Policy Statement public consultations and that these are captured and managed appropriately.

### **Item 4 – RWM Readiness Review Panel Report**

4. Professor Bower, the Chair of the RWM Readiness Review Panel, explained that the review commenced in April 2016 with the final report produced in February 2017. The level of engagement from stakeholders was very positive with over 20 people attending a two day workshop in September to consider the Panel's earlier recommendations. The workshop produced an action plan to further improve the readiness of the wider programme.

5. In the final report, the Panel found that there had been significant progress made against both the Review Panel recommendations and the Routemap Review enhancement plan actions.
6. The Panel identified a number of opportunities and items for further consideration, such as leveraging the opportunity presented by BEIS' Industrial Strategy and benchmarking of governance arrangements against other major programmes, something which has proved successful for similar organisations.
7. Professor Bower concluded by saying that it was the Panel's view that good progress had been made, and that they considered final readiness to launch can be achieved in 2017 if planned actions are successfully implemented.
8. The Board discussed the report's findings and a good challenge was made as to whether it was feasible to transform a 'technical' organisation into a 'delivery' organisation within a year. In summarising, the Chairman noted that the Review Panel were impressed with the journey taken by RWM between April 2016 and January 2017 but that actual readiness will be dependent upon the satisfactory completion of several workstreams. It was clear that momentum should be maintained and that it may be appropriate for the Review Panel to revisit later in the year to check progress and actual readiness to launch the siting process.
9. The Chairman thanked Professor Bower for her attendance and presentation. Professor Bower left the meeting.

#### **Item 5 – RWM Readiness**

10. RWM gave a presentation to the group setting out their plans to ensure they are ready to launch the siting process, areas covered included: their needs from GDPB/BEIS; developing relationships with engaged stakeholders; well defined vision, scope and benefits; clear governance and structures and leadership within and across RWM to ensure that the right resources and capabilities are available at the right times to deliver their mission.
11. The Board were advised of RWM's intention to introduce a GDF Programme Director role into their organisation. This role would ensure that programmes/projects across RWM were joined up and resources allocated according to need and allow greater flexibility to deliver key priorities. This was seen as a good addition to their senior team.

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

12. **National Geological Screening** – RWM have continued their work to produce the draft Regional Narratives. These will be shared with the Independent Review Panel for comment. Work is in hand to develop a web-portal to host the NGS outputs so they are in an accessible form for those interested in understanding more about their local geology and the GDF programme.

13. **National Policy Statement (NPS) and Working with Communities –**  
Consultations on both the Working with Communities and National Policy Statement are expected to take place in the Spring. BEIS will be holding around six regional stakeholder events across England to support of the consultations.
14. **Regulation and licensing –** work continues on the delivery of the two main outputs (i) revising legislation to bring GDFs within the licensing regime and (ii) the joint ONR/EA guidance on GDF licensing.
15. **Communications Forward Look –** RWM continue to work closely with BEIS Comms to secure approval for communications spend to appoint a strategic communications partner.
16. **Welsh Government update –** The Welsh Government provided an update on their plans for implementing geological disposal and advised the Board that they were continuing to develop their consultation document and that they have had very productive conversations with the RWM Communications team. It is expected that they will hold two local authority events during their consultation.

#### **AOB**

17. There were no items of AoB. The Chairman thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting.
18. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2017.

