

Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)

10:00-15:30, Thursday 8th June 2017

1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

Present:

Stephen Speed

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

Bruce McKirdy

Managing Director, Radioactive Waste
Management Ltd (RWM)

David Batters

CFO Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)

Robert Williams

Welsh Government

Attendees:

BEIS Policy Lead

BEIS GDF Team

GDF Programme Manager

BEIS GDF Team

John Corderoy

Science & Technology Director, RWM

RWM Chief Policy Adviser

RWM Team

RWM Hd of Permitting

RWM Team

RWM Hd of Site Characterisation

RWM Team

RWM Project Manager

RWM Team

Secretariat

BEIS GDF Team

Professor Laurence Williams

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
(CoRWM) – Observer

Item 1 – Minutes from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 13th April 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 – Programme Reporting

2. **Risk Report** – The BEIS Programme Manager gave a short presentation to the Board on the main risks to the programme. As previously reported, these risks centre on the delivery body not being in a position to launch the siting process and the siting process being unsuccessful. In recognition of the good work recently undertaken to develop the siting process and clarity on the remaining areas for development, the Board agreed to reduce the risk rating of the siting process design failing.
3. To mitigate the risks further, it was agreed that the Infrastructure Projects Authority would lead an assurance review of RWM's capacity, capability and readiness to deliver an effective siting process and the wider programme readiness. The review would be undertaken ahead of the Major Projects Review Groups' review of the programme business case.
4. **National Policy Statement (NPS) and Working with Communities** – It was explained to the Board that once appointed, BEIS would seek Ministerial and Cabinet Office approval to launch the Working with Communities and National Policy Statement consultations. These consultations will be supported by around six regional stakeholder events across England to ensure the GDF Policy proposals are clearly understood and give stakeholders the opportunity to speak to BEIS officials and raise any questions.

5. **Regulation and licensing** – progress continues on the work to revise legislation to bring GDFs within the licensing regime.
6. **Communications Forward Look** – RWM reported that they are returning to the LGA Conference being held the following week and will again have a stall and would be engaging with people to explain the opportunities that hosting a GDF could bring to a community.
7. **RWM Readiness/Transition** – RWM gave a verbal update to the Board setting out the keys areas of development since the last meeting, these centred on strengthening their transition further with a potential follow-up review later in the year by the Readiness Review Panel (RRP). The RRP will check RWM progress against any outstanding actions from the previous review and will feed these into the IPA led review.
8. RWM also set out their proposal on the formation of a new Advisory Council that will replace the current Technical Advisory Panel. It was explained that the Advisory Council would provide advice and challenge to RWM as they transition to the GDF delivery body. This change was welcomed by the Board.
9. **Welsh Government update** – The Welsh Government continued to report good progress on their plans for taking forward their geological disposal policy and advised the Board that good working relationships were continuing between BEIS officials and Welsh Government officials in the development of both consultation documents.

Item 3 – Defining the Programme

10. The Programme Manager delivered a suite of programme management presentations to inform members on progress in defining the GDF Programme. The first focussed on the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) and the second presentation discussed the production of the GDF Programme Definition Document (PDD) that sets out a common understanding of the programme and its constituent projects. Members provided good feedback and suggestions and it was agreed that final versions of both documents would be considered for approval at the next meeting in August.
11. The final presentation explained the purpose of the GDF Programme Management Plan (PMP) in setting out the timelines for the delivery of the programme's key projects/workstreams and the minimum document set required to manage the programme. The SRO commended the Programme Manager and RWM on the progress made and the good quality of the documentation being produced to support the delivery of the programme.

Item 4 – Community Engagement and Site Evaluations Project Initiation Document

12. The RWM Project Manager delivered a presentation on the Project Initiation Document for Project 2 – Community Engagement and Site Evaluations. This document outlined RWM's plans to deliver this project, which will require them to attract and work with communities to identify and evaluate candidate sites. The Project Manager explained the desired outcomes and the critical success factors

that will be used to monitor achievement and it was agreed that this document would be presented for approval at the next Board.

Item 5 – RWM Programme and Project Management Capability

13. RWM presented a proposal concerning the implementation of Portfolio, Programme and Project Management (P3M) within RWM to support the recent addition of the new Programme Director and RWM's core skills. The intention is to evolve this capability over time so P3M becomes a core discipline that supports their ability to deliver a GMPP programme. Following earlier support from the RWM Board and the NDA, GDPB also endorsed RWM's intention to implement P3M. .

Item 6 – RWM Siting Process

14. The Board received a presentation from the RWM Head of Permitting on RWM's work to develop a clear articulation of the GDF siting process, which explained that RWM needs to bring together the policy, regulatory and legal frameworks within which GDF siting exists and articulate a complete vision of the siting process that will deliver a suitable site within a willing host community. It was described how RWM are developing the siting process and outlined the next steps required to finalise the various products for approval through RWM and the GDPB. The Board were grateful for all the work that had been undertaken and could see that this workstream had really moved forwards in the last few months. It was noted that it was essential to get the decision-making process right and that the Board would welcome a more specific conversation around what actual engagement with communities or interested parties would look and feel like in a future paper later in the year.

Item 7 – National Geological Screening

15. RWM's Head of Site Characterisation introduced the Board to the work that RWM had undertaken to deliver the National Geological Screening (NGS) initial action; the board were walked through a paper-based version of the proposed NGS web-platform (currently in development) that will eventually host the NGS outputs when they have been finalised and the supporting technical information. The Board were very interested in the presentation and impressed with the both the quality of the information produced and the process undertaken to develop it.

AOB

16. There were no items of AoB. The Chairman thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting.
17. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2017 at Harwell.