

Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)

10:00-13:00, Tuesday 8th August 2017

RWM Offices, Harwell, Oxon

Present:

Stephen Speed

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

Umran Nazir

GDF Programme Director, BEIS

Bruce McKirdy

Managing Director, Radioactive Waste
Management Ltd (RWM)

David Batters

CFO Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)

Welsh Policy Official

Welsh Government

Attendees:

BEIS Policy Lead

BEIS GDF Team

GDF Programme Manager

BEIS GDF Team

RWM Chief Policy Adviser

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 8th June 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** – A short presentation on the main risks to the programme was given by the GDF Programme Manager. It was agreed that the risk of the delivery body not being in a position to launch the siting process had decreased following senior-level organisational changes. The remaining risks, around the siting process design being unsuccessful and not attracting and retaining communities into the process, remained at the same level. A new risk was raised by the delivery body concerning potential additional approvals for the procurement of suppliers to provide support to communities that could impact on procurement timescales. It was agreed that the delivery body should engage directly with Cabinet Office for clarity and provide an update at the next meeting.
3. It was confirmed that the delivery body's readiness to launch the GDF siting process was a key NDA risk and that this will be monitored through the introduction of quarterly performance reviews of their business units.
4. **National Policy Statement (NPS) and Working with Communities (WWC) consultations** Ministerial approval has been given for BEIS to seek Cabinet Office approval to launch the Working with Communities and National Policy Statement consultations. Work continues with suppliers to develop the materials for the successful delivery of 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. **Third Party Expert View Mechanism (TPEVM)** – BEIS reported good progress was being made in developing the TPEVM with helpful contributions from officials in the

Welsh Government, members of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and the Learned Societies on developing how the mechanism will operate.

6. **Communications Forward Look** – RWM's website continues to be developed with expectations that this will go-live to support the WWC and NPS Consultations
7. **RWM Readiness/Transition** – RWM explained to the Board that a recent review of their executive structure to strengthen programme management and give greater accountability for delivery of the siting process had resulted in two changes to their Executive structure. Consequently a new board-level Programme Director role and a GDF Siting and Engagement Director role have been created.
8. RWM also reported that their Board had also recently approved the resourcing for a Head of Legal.
9. **Welsh Government update** – The Welsh Government continued to report good progress on their plans for implementing geological disposal within Wales 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 resubmitted the GDF Programme Definition Document (PDD) for approval. Members agreed that the revised PDD was a good document that enabled greater accountability for delivery with organisations being able to be held to account. It was agreed that following a few non-material changes the PDD would be approved via correspondence.

Item 4 – IPA Programme Assurance Review

11. BEIS explained that the IPA had successfully sourced a Review Team to conduct the review in the autumn and were working with them to plan the logistics and timings. The Terms of Reference for the Assurance Review were approved.

Item 5 – Community Engagement and Site Evaluations Project Initiation Document (PID)

12. The Board approved the resubmitted PID from the RWM Project Manager Board. The PID sets out how communities will be attracted into the siting process and how RWM will work with them to identify, evaluate and compare candidate sites prior to making a recommendation to Government on the site(s) for further investigation.

Item 6 – Integrated Communications and Engagement

13. BEIS Comms have established a joint Project Team to ensure GDF communications are integrated across RWM, BEIS and NDA.

AoB

14. There was only one item of AoB. It was suggested and agreed that GDPB should move to a monthly meeting schedule from September. With no other items of AoB the Chairman thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting.
15. The next meeting is scheduled for September in BEIS.