

Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)

Thursday 31 January 2019

1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET

Board Members

Stephen Speed

Bruce McKirdy

Umran Nazir

Malcolm Morley

Alan Cumming

Welsh Government Official

Chair – Director

Nuclear Directorate, Business Energy and
Industrial Strategy (BEIS) & Geological

Disposal Facility SRO

Managing Director, RWM

GDF Programme Director, BEIS

Chair, RWM

Director of Nuclear Operations, NDA

WG (Deputising)

Attendees:

Ann McCall

John Corderoy

Head of BEIS GDF Team

GDPB Secretariat

Head of NDA Portfolio Assurance

Sir Nigel Thrift

RWM Siting and Engagement Director

RWM Programme Director

BEIS GDF Team

BEIS GDF Team

NDA Portfolio Assurance (deputising for Alan
Cumming)

CoRWM Chair (Observing)

Presenting Items:

Head of GDF Communication

Strategic Engagement Lead

Head of Permitting

Programme Manager of RWM

Programme Transition Lead

BEIS GDF Team

BEIS GDF Team

RWM Team

RWM Team

BEIS GDF Team

Item 1 – Welcome and Chair’s Opening Remarks

1. Stephen Speed welcomed the members of GDPB to the January 2019 meeting. He explained that the agenda items would be re-ordered to discuss the SRO transition item first as Alan Cumming then needed to leave the meeting.

Item 2 – SRO Transition

2. A paper proposing to transition the SRO role and responsibility for the GDF programme to NDA was outlined to GDPB along with next steps. NDA mentioned that the proposal to transfer the SRO role to NDA will go through their governance boards and they would like to feed any relevant feedback to BEIS. NDA would also like the programme to be scrutinised through a PAR and MPRG before any transition. The paper will also go through RWM’s governance boards and they will also forward any feedback to BEIS.
3. GDPB agreed in principle to the SRO role transferring to NDA subject to internal approval processes within BEIS and any views from NDA and RWM governance boards.

Item 3 - Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting

4. The minutes of 29th November 2018 Board meeting were agreed (subject to correcting the attendee list) and will be published on the GDBP internet page.
5. The GDPB Secretariat updated the board on the current status of the actions on the Actions Log.

Item 4 – Reporting on Community Interest

6. The GDPB discussed the handling of information on community interest in the siting process. It was agreed that a note should, if possible, be developed for discussion at the next GDPB setting out the protocol for handling such information.

Item 5 – Strategic Engagement Approach post-launch

7. BEIS and RWM presented a paper outlining the overall strategic stakeholder engagement approach after the launch of the siting process. The Board discussed the roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved in the GDF programme and agreed that the approach between RWM, NDA and BEIS should be open and transparent with information shared quickly between the three parties.
8. It was agreed that because RWM is the delivery body for the GDF that it is important for RWM to develop its brand and be seen as the lead organisation that communities should engage with. While BEIS would support RWM by providing information on the policy behind the GDF, it was preferable for communities to view RWM as the go-to point of contact.

Item 6 –June 2018 PAR Recommendation

9. Umran Nazir provided an update on the recommendations from the previous PARs in 2017 and 2018. It was agreed that BEIS would update the PAR report and then circulate it by correspondence to the GDPB for input and comment.

Item 7 – Key Developments

10. Umran Nazir explained that the draft NPS has gone through quality review with a view to being laid in Parliament in due course.
11. Ann McCall mentioned that RWM are about to undertake eight Site Evaluation consultation events in England and two in Wales.
12. The Welsh Government gave an update on the launch of its GDF siting process on 16th January 2019.

Item 8 – AoB

13. None