

**Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)**  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Teams Meeting**

**Board Members:**

Corhyn Parr	<b>Chair</b> – Director of UK Waste Operations, NDA SRO
Umran Nazir	Deputy Director, BEIS
Karen Wheeler	CEO, RWM
Malcolm Morley	Chair of the Board, RWM
John Corderoy	GDF Programme Director, RWM
Welsh Government Official	Welsh Government

**Presenting Items:**

Siting and Engagement Director	RWM
GDF Programme Director	RWM

**Apologies:**

Alan Cumming	Director of Nuclear Operations, NDA
Stephen Speed	Director Nuclear Directorate, Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Sir Nigel Thrift	CoRWM Chair

**Item 1 – Welcome and Chair’s Opening Remarks**

1. Corhyn Parr welcomed the members of the GDPB to the September 2020 meeting, noting that there was a full agenda and a lot to be considered during the session.
2. A proposal was made to widen the participation in the group to facilitate discussions with a wider group of key stakeholders.

Decision: Group to be widened in future subject to clarity on decision making.

**Item 2 - Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting**

3. The minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> June Board meeting were agreed and will be published on the GDPB internet page of the GOV.UK website.
4. The GDPB Secretariat updated the Board on the current status of the actions on the Actions Log.

**Item 3 – Programme Management: Programme Report & GDF Facts & Figures**

5. The RWM GDF Programme Director presented the GDPB highlight report and draft GDF Facts & Figures. The key items highlighted were; continued development of the Tranche 3 Sub Programme Business Case and recent RWM Board workshop and review, consideration of the acceleration of some scope to reduce programme uncertainty, readiness review for the next stage for community engagement and progress with the Contact Service Centre.
6. An update to the programme resourcing was provided, highlighting the strengthening of various skills areas in order to support the changes as the programme moves through the next phase of delivery.
7. The Board noted the report, the progress being made with the project 2 activities and the Tranche 3 business case and the draft set of facts and figures for reference purposes.

#### **Item 4 – Siting Update**

8. The RWM Siting and Engagement Director presented a progress update with regards to the ongoing positive stakeholder engagement being managed effectively, noting the continuing constraints due to CoVID 19.
9. The Board noted the progress being made, the pro-active approach being adopted and the mitigations in place to facilitate stakeholder engagement in response to the ongoing risks associated with CoVID 19.

#### **Item 5 – Programme Delivery – Tranche 2 & Tranche 3**

10. The RWM Programme Director provided an update on the GDF programme schedule including the development of the integrated schedule covering Tranche 2 & Tranche 3 and the associated illustrative plans on a page. The schedules will be used to monitor the programme delivery and also to inform planning decisions and opportunities with the aim of shortening the overall GDF timescales.
11. The Board noted the significant step forward made through the development of the integrated schedule and the value that it will add to understanding future proposals and informing decisions.

#### **Item 6 – Programme Assurance – Actions status & IAAP**

12. The RWM Programme Director provided papers including a status update of actions resulting from recent assurance activities, evidencing action closure and ongoing work.
13. The Board noted that it was useful to have a comprehensive record of the follow up of the actions, recommendations and the findings from the various assurance reviews completed and that there was nothing substantial or critical remaining to complete in response.
14. An introduction to and overview of the Integrated Assurance & Approvals Plan (IAAP) was presented by the RWM Programme Director. It was highlighted that the IAAP will be used by the Programme to chart key assurance and associated activities required to ensure successful approvals to proceed and for future funding.
15. The Board noted the excellent work in compiling the IAAP and the intent for this to be a live document maintained alongside the planning and business case work to inform future key activities and decision points.
16. Decision: Assurance action status and updates and the IAAP were endorsed by the GDPB in preparation for the forthcoming IPA assurance review.

#### **Item 7 – Strategic Issues**

17. The RWM CEO presented an overview of strategic issues that were being considered on a prioritised basis that may have an impact (positive and negative) on the delivery of the GDF programme. This included reference to the work already in progress to consider strategic topics that needed to be addressed early within the life of the programme including the Test of Public Support.

18. The Board thanked the CEO for visibility of the strategic topics and welcomed the presentation of more detailed aspects in future, noting the potential opportunities for the GDF programme delivery and reduction of uncertainty.

**Item 8 – Stakeholder & BEIS Update**

19. The BEIS Deputy Director provided an update regarding the current spending review activities and process, thanking RWM for the provision of a number of scenarios in support of the review. It was stated that the SR outcome would still be subject to the overall NDA portfolio management and RWM would need to take any further proposals through that process.
20. The Board discussed the inherent uncertainty of future expenditure due to the nature of the programme and the potential for nugatory spend noting the approach being taken. The Board noted that this position is understood as part of the SR submission as is the history for the development of a GDF.

**Item 9 – Communications – Welsh Government Update**

21. Welsh Government provided a brief update, noting that some activities and engagement continue to be postponed due to the ongoing CoVID 19 restrictions.

**Item 10 – AoB**

22. A Spending Review update was provided as part of Item 8.