

**Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Teams Meeting**

**Board Members:**

Corhyn Parr	<b>Chair</b> – Director of UK Waste Operations, NDA SRO
Stephen Speed	Director Nuclear Directorate, Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Umran Nazir	Deputy Director, BEIS
Karen Wheeler	CEO, RWM
Malcolm Morley	Chair of the Board, RWM
John Corderoy	GDF Programme Director, RWM
James Gibbs	Radioactivity Policy, Welsh Government
Sir Nigel Thrift	CoRWM Chair

**Presenting Items:**

Siting and Engagement Director	RWM
GDF Programme Director	RWM

**Apologies:**

Alan Cumming	Director of Nuclear Operations, NDA
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**Item 1 – Welcome and Chair’s Opening Remarks**

1. Corhyn Parr welcomed the members of the GDPB to the November 2020 meeting. The announcement of the formation of the first Working Group was highlighted as great achievement for the Programme and a key step in the process.
2. CoVID 19 was raised as a safety share to the Board noting that the NDA Group had recently been experiencing outbreaks and that all needed to be mindful of the impact this is continuing to have on the individuals involved with the delivery of the Programme.
3. It was noted that questions had been raised, in relation to the GDF programme, at the recent Public Accounts Committee hearing and that responses had been provided.
4. It was advised that today’s Board will be focussing on the Tranche 3 Business Case, seeking the Board Member’s input in support of the next stages of approval.

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

5. The minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> September Board meeting were agreed and will be published on the GDPB internet page of the GOV.UK website.
6. The GDPB Secretariat updated the Board on the current status of the actions on the Actions Log.

**Item 3 – Siting Update**

7. The RWM Community Engagement & Siting Director presented a progress update, the successful launch of the first Working Group had been a key success within the last week. Steps are in place to fully establish the Working Group to enable it to function and engage with the local community effectively.
8. The Board noted the significant progress made to date and the ongoing pro-active approach being taken to facilitate the wide-ranging stakeholder engagement.

#### **Item 4 – Programme Management Report**

9. The RWM Programme Director provided an update on the delivery performance of the GDF Programme.
10. The Board noted the overall programme performance, current confidence assessment in the siting activities and application of revised and enhanced RWM governance of the GDF programme.
11. The RWM Programme Director provided an update on the NDA Assurance 'Critical Friend Review' for the GDF Tranche 3 business case, in support of readiness for the upcoming IPA review and the submission for approvals of the business case.
12. The Board noted the outcome of the NDA Critical Friend review, the action plan in place to address the recommendations, the progress that has already been made towards them and the proposed assurance approach to outputs.

#### **Item 5 – Programme Delivery – Tranche 3 Business Case**

13. The RWM Programme Director provided an update regarding the progress that had been made to the Tranche 3 Business Case since the last briefing. This included positive engagement with NDA stakeholders and input to the documentation. Furthermore, comments received from the RWM Board had been actioned and reflected within the Business Case as had feedback from the regulators.
14. A summary overview of the key elements of the Business Case was provided with the rationale for the scenario-based approach. The opportunity was given to the Board to ask questions, offer observations and provide feedback.
15. The Board endorsed the Tranche 3 Business case as ready for formal endorsement of the RWM Board at the November meeting.

#### **Item 6 – Stakeholder & BEIS Update**

16. The BEIS Deputy Director advised that the spending review, one year settlement, outcome had yet to be announced and this would still be subject to overall NDA portfolio management for any further proposals.
17. The BEIS representative advised that a GIAA (Government Internal Audit Agency) audit of the GDF Programme – Transition of SRO to NDA was being conducted. It was noted that this is being conducted in parallel with an NDA internal Audit of the same subject. Discussions have been held with the two audit teams to ensure efficiency and a minimisation in duplication, noting there were differences in organisational focus.

#### **Item 7 – Communications – Welsh Government Update**

18. Welsh Government provided a brief update, advising that there was a change in personnel associated with the GDF Programme.
19. It was noted that effective communications engagement continues in advance of any significant announcements or activities.

**Item 8 – AoB**

20. A request to liaise with the MoD Submarine Delivery Agency had been raised in order to share good practice. This request will be taken forward by the SRO to facilitate.