

Transcript – CoRWM film

Duration 03:15

Sir Nigel Thrift: The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management, CoRWM is an advisory Committee to the UK Government and the three devolved administrations. Our purpose is to provide independent advice on scientific, technical, planning, legislative, regulatory and public engagement issues relevant to radioactive waste management. We scrutinise government policy on nuclear waste and the strategies, programmes and processes of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Radioactive Waste Management Ltd.

Dr Claire Corkhill: Radioactive wastes, generated over the last 70 years as a by-product of nuclear energy, military operations and medical applications are a legacy that the Government are dealing with. These materials some of which will remain radioactive for many generations, require careful but costly management.

(onscreen : aerial image of Sellafield with graphics:)

Location: Sellafield, NW England

Currently stores: 81,300 m³ of radioactive waste

Due to store an additional 3,280 000 m³

Professor Neil Hyatt: It has long been CoRWM's view that geological disposal - the placement of high activity radioactive wastes in a purpose-built, deep underground engineered facility - is the best available approach for the long-term management of radioactive wastes.

(onscreen: *concept illustration of geological disposal in a GDF*)

Managed correctly, we also believe that this is the best approach to inspire public and stakeholder confidence in the long-term management of radioactive waste.

Dr Claire Corkhill: It is our role to maintain independent scrutiny of the Government's geological disposal policy, its implementation and regulation.

(onscreen: *graphic of disposal, transport, waste treatment and conditioning, packaging and storage*)

In addition, we maintain regular dialogue on the management of radioactive wastes prior to disposal, including transport, waste treatment and conditioning, packaging and storage.

We regularly publish our independent views on important topics, such as the retrievability of radioactive waste from a geological disposal facility, safety requirements, transport of radioactive materials and in-shore disposal concepts.

Professor Neil Hyatt: In England and Wales, a siting process is underway to find a location for a geological disposal facility. The area, or areas, that are finally selected will be in a location where the geology is suitable and where an informed community has positively decided that it is willing to host the facility.

Dr Claire Corkhill: Issues relating to the safety, engineering feasibility and environment of the facility must be also considered, as well as the transport of the construction materials and the radioactive waste itself.

(onscreen: *graphic to show safety, engineering feasibility, environment, transport, community*)

During this process, at each step of the way, CoRWM as a team of independent experts, will challenge, scrutinize and provide advice. We're talking with local communities and other

stakeholders who are using our independent standpoint to guide their journey. This includes answering a wide range of questions about radioactive waste and its disposal and providing our independent perspective on challenging issues.

(onscreen: *questions appear:-*

What is radioactive waste?

How long can radioactive waste stay at Sellafield?

Why would communities volunteer to host a GDF?

What would happen to the radioactive waste if there was no GDF? Is there a plan B?

Will the materials 'not yet designated as waste' go into a repository?

What are the impacts on human health?

Will it be possible to retrieve the radioactive waste in the future?

Is the community incentive really a bribe?

How is CoRWM different from RWM?

What will happen if there is an earthquake or a sea level rise?)

Sir Nigel Thrift: If you, your organisation or your local community group have your own questions, or would like to engage with CoRWM we'd very much like to hear from you.

(onscreen: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management>)