

**NOTE OF CORWM MEETING WITH WELSH GOVERNMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCE WALES
19 FEBRUARY 2014, CARDIFF**

Present

CoRWM: Laurence Williams (Chair), Francis Livens, Brian Clark, John Rennilson, Gregg Butler, Rebecca Lunn, Helen Peters, Janet Wilson, Stephen Newson, Simon Harley, Paul Davis, Lynda Warren, Laura Butchins (secretariat), Chanelle Gibson-McGowan (secretariat).

Welsh Government: Robert Williams, Michelle Grey

NRW Participant: Bob Russ

Welsh Government Update

1. The Welsh Government reported positive feedback from the meeting of the CoRWM Chair and the Welsh Environment Minister that took place earlier that morning (see separate minutes, CoRWM doc. 3153).
2. The Welsh Government welcomed CoRWM's proposal to allocate 20% of resource to providing advice to the Welsh Government over the next financial year, subject to advice being required, particularly if the Welsh Government were to look at reviewing their policy on Higher Activity Radioactive Waste.
3. The Welsh Government had issued DECC's Siting consultation in Wales for information and to allow the people of Wales an opportunity to comment, and had co-hosted a consultation event in North Wales.

CoRWM Update

4. The CoRWM Chair agreed that the meeting with the Welsh Environment Minister had been positive and remarked on the Minister's professional background in the nuclear sector, and current interest in nuclear developments, noting the Minister's recent visit to Washington DC which had included discussions with the Department of Energy about radioactive waste disposal and the closure of the Yucca Mountain facility.
5. CoRWM informed the Welsh Government of the work they had been doing in providing DECC with advice on the GDF Siting Policy. CoRWM had also observed the engagement events that DECC had organised, and promised to send the Welsh Government a summary of their observations.

Action: CoRWM to send Welsh Government a summary of observations from the GDF Siting consultation events.

6. CoRWM did not foresee any issues from the recent NDA publication on graphite wastes. In terms of volume, Wylfa has the largest reactor core and therefore volume of graphite but this is still relatively small in terms of all the Intermediate Level Waste in the UK inventory, and is currently being stored safely. CoRWM informed the Welsh Government of on-going research that may be able to strip out contaminants from the graphite.

NRW update

7. NRW was established in April 2013 and has statutory responsibility for the regulation of radioactive substances in Wales including radioactive waste and transfrontier shipments of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. It currently has support agreements with the Environment Agency in relation to the regulation of non-nuclear and nuclear sites as well as the permitting of transfrontier shipments. Under the nuclear support agreement, Environment Agency carries out compliance assessment and permitting recommendations for nuclear sites, and NRW issues nuclear site permits and deals with enforcement action. These arrangements are currently under review, but the nuclear support agreement is not expected to change significantly in the foreseeable future.
8. CoRWM asked about nuclear specialist resource within NRW. Sustaining nuclear regulatory expertise in NRW is the subject of an NRW resource plan, and a number of options have been identified in the plan to sustain resilience. Nevertheless, CoRWM agreed that this issue needed active consideration.

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