

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT (CORWM) PLENARY
10 MARCH 2015, LONDON**

Present: (CoRWM): Laurence Williams (Chair), Francis Livens, Brian Clark, John Rennilson, Helen Peters, Stephen Newson, Simon Harley, Rebecca Lunn, Janet Wilson Paul Davis, Lynda Warren, Gregg Butler, Dharshana Sridhar(secretariat), Mojisola Olutade (secretariat).

Agenda Item 1: Meeting Open and Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed the Committee and members of the public who were observing the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest

2. Helen Peters informed the Committee that she was working for the NDA on a contract matter at Capenhurst but there was no conflict of interest involved. There were no declarations of interest from other members.

Agenda Item 3: Chair's Update

Chair's Forthcoming Meeting with Katrina Williams, DG for International, Science and Resilience

3. The Chair reported that he was due to meet Katrina Williams following his request to meet with the DECC Permanent Secretary. Members thought that the meeting agenda should include:
 - An update on the current work of the Committee and its draft work programme for 2015/16 going forward.
 - The role of NDA, the recent organisational changes it has undergone and the role it will play in the Committee's current and future work.
 - The level of resource in DECC in terms of people working in the nuclear waste policy area as well as the impact on knowledge continuity when staff move on.
 - The role for the Committee to play in helping to build the public's trust in GDF by reviving its public meetings or participating in other such relevant meetings and if so would the funding and extra resource be made available to the committee to conduct this work efficiently?
 - The current DECC engagement on GDF via the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) only includes Nuleaf and no local parishes or the LGA in terms of local authority representation, a situation that needed to be rectified for more broader engagement.

NIRAB Annual Report Meeting

4. The Chair attended the meeting to publish the NIRAB Annual Report. The full report is available online on the NIRAB website. It was noted that NIRAB's role was purely to advise and make recommendations.

Agenda item 4: Formal Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

CoRWM doc. 3207 March Plenary Minutes

5. The Chair reported that there had been difficulties with the production of the minutes of CoRWM meetings following the change in its secretariat. Minutes of all the meetings since the change had now been produced and the Chair asked the Committee to approve them. The Committee discussed the minutes of the plenary meetings in Dounreay (July 2014), Wylfa (September 2014) and London (November 2014) as well as the note of the public meeting at Anglesey (September 2014) and agreed to their publication on the website.

Action 1: Secretariat to post the approved minutes and the note of the public meeting in Anglesey on the CoRWM website

Agenda Item 5: Formal Approval of the Work Programme (revised by the Chair on 9 March)

6. The Committee discussed and formally approved the revised version of its Work Programme for 2015/16 noting that 56 percent of its time during that period will be devoted to the five main work packages stemming from the GDF White Paper.

Action 2: Secretariat to submit the CoRWM 2015-18 Work Programme to its Sponsor Departments for transmission to Ministers

Agenda Item 6: Triennial Review Response

7. The Committee discussed and formally agreed its response to the CoRWM Triennial Review. The response is due to be sent to DECC by 10 March.

Action 3: Secretariat to submit the CoRWM Response to the Triennial Review Questionnaire to the DECC Triennial Review Team

Agenda item 7: CoRWM Response to the Welsh Government

8. The Chair reported that the Committee had been asked to comment on Welsh Government's (WG) draft policy and consultation documents. The Chair of the Welsh Sub group reported that a response had been sent to the WG. The details of the CoRWM response could not be discussed in public because it was policy development.

Agenda Item 8: Feedback from the sub-groups

Geological Screening

9. Rebecca Lunn reported that she had had a conversation with RWM's Chief Scientist. As a result of this conversation RWM had agreed to meet with CoRWM following this plenary meeting.

Working with the Community

10. John Rennilson and Brian Clark updated the committee on their recent meeting with the DECC leads on the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG). They reported that the meeting was positive. The Working Group is scheduled to meet every six weeks until the end of the year and they will be observing the next CRWG meeting taking place in two days, on behalf of the Committee. They also informed the Committee that they were still awaiting clarification on their role as observers at the CRWG meetings although DECC officials had indicated that as observers they can make certain comments within reason at the meetings. Copies of the meeting papers for the CRWG will be circulated to the Committee for information..

National Land Use Planning

11. Lynda Warren updated the Committee on the progress of the parliamentary motion to amend the Planning Act 2008. The motion had been discussed at the House of Lords and was due to be debated in the House of Commons shortly. At a preliminary meeting with this work strand's leads DECC had indicated that it was agreeable with the Committee scrutinising the NPS process.

Developer Led Communications and Engagement

12. The Committee noted that the new communication strategy lead in RWM was due to start in his role shortly and it was agreed that the secretariat will arrange for the Communications and Engagement Sub group to meet the new incumbent as soon as he is in a position to do so. The Committee agreed that communications was key to the success of the GDF and that the various strands of communications and engagement be it with communities, stakeholders or the general public needs to be more holistic in approach taking into account all of the other strands. The Committee also stressed the importance of educating and raising awareness amongst those members of the general public who wouldn't otherwise be interested as key to gaining the support of the wider community.

ACTION 4: Secretariat to set up a meeting before the end of March with the RWM lead on the communications strategy.

GDF Regulation

13. Helen Peters updated the Committee on the sub group's conference call with the DECC leads of the work strand. DECC indicated that they were agreeable to the sub group meeting ONR to discuss this work strand. The sub-group has sent ONR a list of questions and was waiting for their response. It was agreed that if no responses were received the Chair would formally write to the Chief Inspector requesting to meet. The Committee indicated its view that it was essential to have a clear and robust the regulatory framework in place in order for the public to have the confidence in the process.

Welsh Policy Review

14. Lynda Warren reported that the Committee had provided advice and scrutiny as requested by the Welsh Government. The next phase of the Committee's work will commence once the consultation is published.

Scottish Policy Implementation

15. John Rennilson updated the Committee on the situation in Scotland and he noted that the Scottish Government has not yet published its HAW Implementation Strategy. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for the Chair to meet with the Scottish Minister.

ACTION 5: The Secretariat to discuss with Scottish Government Officials to arrange a meeting between the Chair and the Scottish Minister.

Interim Storage, RW, Spent Fuel and Nuclear Materials

16. As reported at the last meeting, the sub group would meet with NDA on 20 March and Gregg Butler would give a detailed update at the next CoRWM meeting.

Action 6: Gregg Butler to update the Committee on the group's discussions with NDA

Safety Case Development

17. Paul Davis updated the Committee on his work on the GDF safety case development activities. He agreed to send his recommendations and next steps to Chair. Once agreed by the Chair he would discuss them with RWM. It was agreed that a second meeting with RWM will be set up once this is completed.

Action 7 Paul Davis to send his proposal to the Chair for consideration.

Action 8 The Secretariat to arrange a follow-up meeting with RWM to discuss GDF Safety Case Development

RWM Development

18. Steve Newson gave an update on his work on the review of the transition of RWM. He reported that he had produced a first draft of the sub-group's report on RWM's transition. Overall, the sub-group is satisfied with progress to date. Future scrutiny by the Committee will concentrate on aspects of the organisational development through the future phases of the GDF project. He reported that it was important to understand exactly how RWM will evolve into an entity capable of delivering the project, especially from now until the start of construction. Additionally, he thought there must be a clear 'road map' showing how the status of a site licensed company will be achieved in practice.

Q & A

19. Members of the public who had observed the plenary meeting were asked if they had any questions or points to raise with the Committee.

20. A point was raised enquiring if the Committee would be submitting a response to the low level waste strategy given that one of the questions raised in the document was on whether there should be only one strategy for all levels of waste. Another question was on the classification of radioactive waste. The Chair responded that the Committee would not be responding as it is not within its remit.