

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CORWM CHAIR WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS
10 MAY 2013, EDINBURGH**

Secretariat

Present

Scottish Government: George Burgess (Deputy Director, head of Environmental Quality Division), Charles Stewart Roper, Claire Dodd, *CoRWM:* Laurence Williams, John Rennilson, Laura Butchins (secretariat)

1. Attendees introduced themselves. It was the first time that the CoRWM Chair had met with Scottish Government since taking up the CoRWM post.

CoRWM Update

2. The CoRWM Chair provided an overview of the Committee's priorities for 2013-14 stating that the main focus would be on providing advice to DECC on potential improvements to the MRWS process; however the Committee would continue to work in other areas such as scrutinizing the management of waste storage, and providing advice to Scottish Government on the development of its Implementation Strategy for Higher Activity Waste. There was a general discussion about the MRWS process that had taken place in West Cumbria.
3. The Chair informed SG that the CoRWM deputy Chair had recently handed in his resignation.

Scottish Government Update on HAW Implementation Strategy

4. The Scottish Government provided an update on the Implementation strategy for Higher Activity Waste. The project to develop the Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy had not progressed as much as the SG would have hoped during 2012. However, they were aiming to move the project forward during 2013 and a meeting of the Project Board had recently been held. A draft skeleton outline for the strategy had been presented at the meeting and had received positive feedback
5. The main aim of the Strategy will be to provide a high-level framework within which waste management decisions can be taken to ensure that the Scottish Government Policy for HAW is implemented in a safe, environmentally-acceptable and cost-effective manner. It would also provide advice to operators on which and when decisions would have to be made.
6. The Scottish Government stated that CoRWM's involvement in providing advice on the strategy would be very important, as it had been in the past. It was agreed that CoRWM would continue to work with Scottish Government by attending the project board in observer status, and feeding back observations on progress via the CoRWM Task Group.

7. CoRWM informed SG that the current committee reaffirmed the original statement made by CoRWM in 2007 that Geological Disposal was still the best option for long term management of higher activity waste.
8. CoRWM said that it was important that the SG to clarified what 'near site' meant within the policy. Scottish Government explained that this would be considered further as the strategy was developed
9. The SG clarified that they were working closely with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to ensure that the policy is reflected in forward planning assumptions and lifetime plans.

Other Areas

10. A referendum will be held in September 2014 on Scottish independence. Details of the Scottish Government's proposals on independence will be provided in the White Paper to be published in November 2013.
11. The Scottish Government informed CoRWM that their other priorities were development of a strategy for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Waste (NORM), and monitoring developments at Dalgety Bay.

Future Meetings

12. It was agreed that the CoRWM sub-group would meet with Scottish Government 3-4 times per year to feed back observations on the progress of the HAW Implementation Strategy and in addition, the CoRWM Chair would meet with Mr Lochhead, the Cabinet Secretary this coming year in addition to officials at suitable intervals.