

## **CORWM WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE END OF QUARTER ONE 2014-15**

### **Secretariat**

1. This is a report of the Committee's delivery against CoRWM's 2014-17 work programme (CoRWM doc. 3151) at the end of quarter one of the financial year 2014-15.

#### ***Summary of CoRWM's activities during Quarter One 2014-15***

2. The majority of the Committee's time during the period from 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014 was spent on providing advice to DECC on the revision of the GDF Siting Policy. This was done through meetings and correspondence, much of which was provided at request at short notice including:
  - two meetings with DECC officials to provide advice on the Siting Review, and
  - provision of advice to Government's Major Projects Authority review of the GDF Programme
3. In addition, CoRWM has:
  - provided advice to Scottish Government on the Implementation Strategy following its policy on the management of Higher Activity Waste (HAW)
  - drafted and submitted a response to the Welsh Government's Call for Evidence for the review of its policy on HAW.
  - visited the Sellafield site to inform the Committee's scrutiny of the arrangements for robust interim storage of HAW,
  - met with the NDA for an update on HAW and spent fuel Management across the NDA estate,
  - held a public meeting in Workington to understand the views of the public
  - held one plenary meeting in Workington,
  - developed and submitted the annual report for 2013-14 to CoRWM's sponsoring Ministers
  - observed meetings to inform CoRWM's scrutiny role including:
    - i. the Nuclear Innovation and Research Advisory Board (NIRAB),
    - ii. the Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB),
    - iii. the Nuclear Waste Research Forum (NWRF),
    - iv. the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Research Board (NIRAB),
    - v. the DECC- Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) forum,
    - vi. the Radioactive Waste Management Limited's (RWM) Technical Advisory Panel (TAP),
    - vii. the Geological Disposal Facility Users Group,
    - viii. the Scottish Government Higher Activity Waste Implementation Board, and
    - ix. the Scottish Nuclear Sites Meetings
  - members have presented CoRWM's work at the Westminster Energy and Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar and at the Nuclear Issues Group.

A full list of the meetings that CoRWM has attended is contained in Annex A.

4. Progress against each of CoRWM's tasks as set out in CoRWM's Work Programme 2014-17 (CoRWM doc. 3159: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proposed-work-plan-corwm-doc-3151>) are set out below.

## **CoRWM's Progress against the 2014-15 Work Programme**

### **Task 1: GDF Siting Policy: Provide advice and scrutiny of DECC's GDF Siting Process Review and any subsequent revision to the Policy and its implementation in England and Wales.**

**Task 1a:** Informal advice to DECC on CoRWM's scrutiny of DECC's analysis of consultation responses.

CoRWM noted the summary of analysis of responses that was published by DECC in February 2014 and will complete this scrutiny of DECC's analysis of responses when the proposed changes to the GDF Siting policy have been published. CoRWM also expect to be able to complete its scrutiny when Government's response to the consultation has been published. This task was allocated 5 % of CoRWM's resources for 2014/15 and is expected to be completed in Q2 of 2014/15.

Therefore this work has been partially completed and the target date changed to July 2014 (replacing original target date of May 2014).

**Task 1b:** Provide advice to DECC on any proposed revision to the GDF Siting Policy. **This work has been completed.**

CoRWM members have provided advice to DECC on a number of issues on the GDF Siting Process including decision making, roles and responsibilities, planning, regulation, geological screening, safety case development and the proposed GDF inventory. This task is now complete.

**Task 1c:** Provide scrutiny of DECC and RWM's engagement plans and activities.

This work has not yet started (target date September 2017)

**Task 1d:** Provide advice to DECC on the Regulatory Framework for a GDF.

This work has not yet started (target date June 2015)

**Task 1e:** Provide advice to DECC on RWM's Generic System Safety Case approach for a GDF.

This work has not yet started (target date September 2015).

**Task 1f:** Inform CoRWM's understanding of the conceptual bases of safety cases.

Not yet started (target date December 2014)

**Task 1g:** Provide advice to DECC on the communication and use of Safety Cases in the siting process.

Initial discussions taken place with DECC (target date September 2017).

**Task 1h:** Provide advice to DECC and other Sponsors on stakeholder engagement as

required by the new siting process

This work has not yet started (target date December 2014).

***Task 2: To provide advice to the Welsh Government on its Review of Radioactive Waste Policy with respect to HAW.***

**Task 2a:** Provide advice to Welsh Government on its proposals to update the Welsh Policy on Radioactive Waste and any further developments.

CoRWM have provided a written response to Welsh Government's Call for Evidence on its review of its policy. CoRWM will continue to provide advice to Welsh Government on its proposals to update the Welsh Policy on HAW and any further developments. **This work is on track and although an initial target date was set for 12/14, there may be further work depending on the outcome of the Call for Evidence.**

**Task 2b:** Scrutinize Welsh Government Consultation, analysis of the responses and changes to the policy.

CoRWM are on track to commence this work for completion by 12/14.

***Task 3: RWMD Transition. To provide scrutiny of, and advice to DECC and other Sponsors on the transition of the NDA (RWM) to an effective GDF Delivery Organisation***

**Task 3a:** Scrutinise the transition of RWMD into a wholly owned subsidiary of NDA. The subgroup has agreed the way forward and the first task will be a fact finding meeting with RWM, building on information received last year. The target date is September 2014.

**Task 3b:** Review the attributes and capabilities of a GDF delivery organisation

This work has not yet started. (The target date is December 2014).

**Task 3c:** Scrutinise the GDF Delivery Organisation development plans

This work has not yet started. (The target date is December 2015).

***Task 4: Scottish Government: Review the arrangements for implementing the Scottish Government policy for managing HAW.***

**Task 4a:** Input to and scrutiny of the process for developing a strategy for implementing the Scottish Government policy for managing HAW

Both the CoRWM sub-group on Scottish policy and the Committee as a whole have provided advice to Scottish Government in the development of its implementation strategy for the HAW policy. This has been done through attendance of the Scottish Government Higher Activity Waste Implementation Board and by providing written comments on a further draft of the document.

This task is now complete ahead of its target date of December 2014.

**Task 4b:** Monitor the management of HAW in Scotland

This is on track for its target date of September 2016. CoRWM's has plans to visit the Dounreay Site, meet with Scottish Government Officials and the NDA to understand the

management of HAW in Scotland.

**Task 5: Interim Surface Storage: Consideration of the current status of interim storage of radioactive waste, spent fuel and other nuclear materials in the UK and the implications for the GDF.**

**Task 5a:** Consider the current status of interim storage of radioactive waste in the UK

In May 2014, the Committee met with the NDA to understand the current status of interim storage across the NDA estate, waste types, expected volumes and timings of waste arisings. The Committee found out about the current plans for packaging designs across the estate and the work that the NDA were doing to facilitate the sharing of best practice and techniques between sites, as well as the upstream optioneering programme which takes a holistic approach to waste management across the estate with final disposal in mind.

This year's work on this task is on track for completion by September 2014 however the Committee has identified the need to focus on this area in next year's work programme.

**Task 5b:** Consider the plans for retrieval of wastes from legacy ponds and silos at Sellafield

In May 2014, CoRWM visited the Sellafield site. The Committee visited one of the legacy ponds, current and future stores for the waste and met with the NDA and Sellafield Ltd to understand the status of the facilities that the Committee was not able to visit.

This task is on track for completion by December 2014.

**Task 5c:** Consider the delivery of NDA's radioactive waste plans.

This task is on track for completion by March 2016.

**Task 6: Spent fuel, plutonium and uranium management: Consideration of the current position on spent fuel and plutonium management and the implications for the GDF**

**Task 6a:** Consider the current status of spent fuel, plutonium and uranium management in the UK including storage, recycling and conditioning for disposal.

In May 2014, the Committee met with the NDA to understand the current status of spent fuel and nuclear materials management. The work is on track for completion by December 2014 and the Committee has agreed to look at uranium in more detail.

**Task 6b:** Consider the NDA's proposed options and implications for geological disposal and the GDF Safety Case.

This work has not yet started but is on track for completion by December 2014.

**Task 6c:** Scrutiny of spent fuel management activities in relation to open and closed cycle options and the implications for interim storage and for geological disposal.

This work has not yet started but is on track for completion by December 2015.

**Task 6d:** Spent Fuel and Pu Management: Review of NDA strategy implications for the GDF in the UK.

This work is on-going and has no set delivery target.

***Task 7: CoRWM Outreach: Provide effective engagement with the public and other stakeholders to raise the profiles of CoRWM and help inspire confidence in its work.***

**Task 7a:** Representation of CoRWM at external events and conferences

The CoRWM Chair presented CoRWM's work at the Westminster Energy and Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar in May 2014 and a member presented CoRWM's work at the Nuclear Issues Group in Oxford in May 2014.

**Task 7b:** Keep the website current, send out e-bulletins, publish minutes and documents.

The website has been kept up to date, e-newsletters have been sent out to encourage attendance CoRWM's public and plenary meetings. The minutes of CoRWM's plenary meeting in Workington has been published (CoRWM doc.3162).

**Task 7c:** Hold open meetings and specific engagements with the public and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

CoRWM hosted the first of a series of three public meetings scheduled for this financial year in Workington on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The turn-out to the meeting was greater than anticipated and CoRWM had to change the venue at late notice. It was a useful meeting as members were able to address the questions posed by those attending and understand the views of members of the public on geological disposal and radioactive waste management.

**Annex A: List of CoRWM Meetings from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Capacity in which CoRWM Attended</b>
16-Apr-14	GDF users groups	observer
22-Apr-14	NGO-DECC GDF policy meeting	observer
23-Apr-14	NDA Research Board	observer
30-Apr-14	CoRWM Meeting with NDA on interim storage and spent fuel management	Participant
30-Apr-14	Public Meeting in Workington	Participant
01-May-14	Sellafield Site Visit and meeting with Sellafield Ltd.	Participant
02-May-14	Plenary	Committee Meeting
06-May-14	Public Chairs Forum	Participant
08-May-14	Nuclear Issues Group	Participant / speaking
8-9 May-14	RWM Technical Advisory Panel	Observer
13-May-14	Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)	Observer
20-May-14	Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar: Nuclear energy in the UK	Speaking
21-May-14	CoRWM Sponsors Meeting	Participant
19-Jun-14	Annual Report Drafting Meeting	Committee meeting
24 & 25 June 14	Nuclear Waste Research Forum (NWRF)	observer