

Regulatory Interface Management (RIM) Group Meeting
Warrington, 29 October 2013
Minutes

Attendees:

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC, by telephone)
Environment Agency (EA)
Local Government Association Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (NDA, Chair & Secretary)
Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

1. Introduction and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed attendees, in particular the representatives from DECC and ONR(CNS) attending the RIM Group meeting for the first time.

It was explained that another commitment on the part of a number of attendees, which would occur mid-way through the RIM Group meeting, meant it would be appropriate to reorder the Agenda items.

2. Minutes and actions from the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting (13 June 2013) were accepted as a true record and approved for publication on the NDA website.

Action RIM2013/07: RIM Group Secretary to publish approved minutes of previous meeting (13 June 2013) on the NDA website.

Actions

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| RIM2012/11 | RIM Group Secretary to include item on 'Update on implementation of Localism Act 2011 amendments to major infrastructure development provisions' on the agenda for the next RIM Group meeting – on-hold . Awaiting outcome of Government's review of MRWS siting process. |
| RIM2013/02 | RWMD to reengage with CLG regarding representation (by exception) on the RIM Group – complete . CLG advised that DECC is best placed to provide central Government view, but will attend where there are specific planning issues on the agenda that CLG might be able to help with. |
| RIM2013/04 | Publish approved minutes of previous meeting (26 February 2013) on the NDA website – complete . |
| RIM2013/05 | DECC representative Feed question of the publication of responses to the call for evidence back to DECC for consideration – complete . DECC published responses (with personal details redacted) alongside the consultation document. |

RIM2013/06

RIM Group Secretary Confirm date for RIM Group meeting in September/October 2013 – **complete**.

3. DECC update

DECC provided an update on the review of the MRWS siting process. The call for evidence inviting views on the site selection aspects of the MRWS process had closed in June. The themes identified by DECC from the responses were used to inform the development of proposed changes to the site selection process. The proposed changes were outlined in a consultation document published on 12 September 2013.

The consultation document reaffirms that geological disposal remains Government policy for the long-term management of higher-activity radioactive waste in England and Wales, and that the approach to siting continues to be based on voluntarism and partnership. The purpose of the consultation is to gather views on how aspects of the siting process for a geological disposal facility for higher activity radioactive waste could be revised and improved. The consultation is due to close on 05 December 2013.

DECC plans to hold a number of events to support the consultation. Attendance at events will not replace the need for individuals or organisations to make written responses to the consultation. The nuclear regulators in England and Wales will attend these events to observe and answer questions on their roles in geological disposal.

It is expected that any resulting changes to the MRWS site selection process would be introduced during 2014.

4. NuLeAF update

NuLeAF has provided advice to DECC on the programme of events to support the consultation. NuLeAF is concerned that notice of the events has been short and that there may well be problems with senior members of local authorities being able to attend. NuLeAF is also concerned about the limited time between some of the later events and the deadline for responding to the consultation. DECC noted that it may be appropriate to extend the deadline for attendees of the later events.

NuLeAF membership includes about 25% of local authorities in England and Wales, so there is considerable reliance on the Local Government Association to encourage the many local authorities that are not NuLeAF members to recognise the relevance of the consultation and consider engaging.

NuLeAF reported that the preparation of its response to the consultation on the MRWS site selection process is NuLeAF's highest priority. The response has been drafted and will be finalised following feedback from the consultation events.

NDA funding of NuLeAF for 2014-15 has been agreed.

NuLeAF's AGM agreed NuLeAF's Service Plan for 2013 to 2015, which includes a Work Programme containing a number of key tasks and proposed tasks relating to geological disposal.

Action RIM2013/08: NuLeAF representative to provide RIM Group Secretary with electronic copy of NuLeAF's Service Plan for distribution to RIM Group membership.

5. **RWMD update**

NDA work to form RWMD into a subsidiary in April 2014 is progressing. A management board has been established, comprising a Chairman (NDA Strategy and Technology Director), five Non-Executive Directors (three from NDA, two independent) and two Executive Directors. An independent HSSE advisor to the Board is also being sought.

The subsidiary's role will be limited to delivery of geological disposal for higher activity wastes and provision of higher activity waste management solutions (e.g. providing packaging advice).

RWMD's executive structure has been further developed. A new role of Science and Technology Director has been formed from the previously separate roles of Engineering Director and Science Director. The newly formed role has responsibility for RWMD's Research, Disposal System Specification, Engineering and Disposal System Assessment functions. A new Waste Management Director role has also been created (recruitment in progress), which will have responsibility for the existing Packaging Assessment and Upstream Optioneering functions. These two new Executive roles are in addition to the existing roles of HSSE Director, GDF Siting Director and Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Director.

A successful candidate has been identified for the part-time position of Chief Geologist. The recruitment of a structural geologist and a hydrogeochemist to support the Head of Research is also underway. The Head of Design position, which was vacated earlier in the year, is now "Head of Engineering" and is expected to be filled shortly. A temporary (6 month) position of Senior Packaging Assessments Manager has been created and filled.

RWMD's 3-year organisational development action plan has been agreed and is to be expanded to incorporate RWMD's wider business activities, in addition to HSSE activities.

A member of RWMD's Nuclear Safety and Environment Committee will be stepping down towards the end of the year. A replacement has been identified and is in the final stages of being recruited. ONR will be informed of this change in membership in writing in due course.

RWMD has revised its Permissions Schedule to reflect the legal and regulatory developments that have occurred since its publication in 2010. A draft revision was circulated to the RIM membership in September, but there are no plans to publish it. Instead, a new version of the Permissions Schedule will be prepared and published following the publication of the outcome of the Government's review of the MRWS site selection process, to account for any changes to the process.

RWMD plans to meet with representatives of Natural Resources Wales (formed 01 April) to discuss possible future interactions. RWMD also plans to meet CoRWM in early November to discuss RWMD's role, organisation and capability and aspects of its planned future activities.

6. **Regulators' update**

The Department for Work and Pensions has appointed Nick Baldwin as Chair of ONR. ONR is in the process of appointing a new Chief Inspector: its recruitment campaign closed at the end of September and it is in the process of assessing the applicants. It also plans to appoint five Deputy Chief Inspectors

and recruit approximately sixty new members of staff, during 2014. ONR's radioactive materials transport (RMT) programme is also being restructured.

The IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service's 2013 mission has been completed and its report is expected within the next three months.

ONR expects to publish its first Chief Nuclear Inspector's Report (presenting a view of safety and security standards across the nuclear industry) in November.

ONR reminded attendees that the new Government Protective Marking Scheme will come into effect on 01 April 2014. The new Scheme provides for the replacement of the six tiers of protective marking established by the existing Scheme, with three tiers (Official, Secret and Top Secret). Those required to apply the Government Protective Marking Scheme should continue to use the "Finding a Balance" guidance note to determine what information should be released under Freedom of Information requests etc.

EA has restarted its work on the development of a permit application form, permit template and associated guidance for the regulation of intrusive investigations under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010. It anticipates having prepared drafts of these documents in the next two or three months.

EA expects to continue to provide Natural Resources Wales with support on nuclear regulation for the short to medium term.

EA and ONR expect the report from their joint inspection and audit of RWMD's disposability assessment processes (carried out in June) to be available within the next month.

EA, ONR and RWMD discussed feedback received on a number of ongoing disposability assessments.

7. **Any other business**

None

8. **Proposed date and venue of next meeting**

The next meeting was proposed for February/March 2014 at the NDA's Warrington office.

Action RIM2013/09: RIM Group Secretary to confirm date for RIM Group meeting in February/March 2014.

Summary of ongoing actions

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| RIM2012/11 | RIM Group Secretary | Include item on 'Update on implementation of Localism Act 2011 amendments to major infrastructure development provisions' on the agenda for a future RIM Group meeting. |
| RIM2013/07 | RIM Group Secretary | Publish approved minutes of previous meeting (13 June 2013) on the NDA website. |
| RIM2013/08 | NuLeAF representative | Provide RIM Group Secretary with electronic copy of NuLeAF's Service Plan for distribution to RIM Group membership. |
| RIM2013/09 | RIM Group Secretary | Confirm date for RIM Group meeting in February/March 2014. |
