

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT (CORWM) PLENARY 24TH JUNE 2015, CARDIFF

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

Apologises: Janet Wilson

Agenda Item 1: Meeting Open and Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed the Committee and the member of the public who was observing the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Declarations of Interest

2. The following Members declared issues of potential interest to the Committee:
 - Helen Peters informed the Committee that she was working on a NuGen Project.
 - Stephen Newson informed the Committee that he was working on specific activities for Algar associates, which in the past worked in the UK Nuclear field and in Nuclear industries in other parts of the world.
 - Laurence Williams reported on being appointed to chair a panel for the European Commission to review the 2007/13 Euratom FP7 Research Programme for fission & fusion. RWM is a contributor to the research.
 - Gregg Butler reported that he was working as part of a group at IDM, engaging on a job for DECC on small modular reactors (SMRs) that is subcontracted to NNL. They are particularly examining emerging technologies in the SMR field.
3. The Chair noted these declarations and stated that he did not believe any constituted a conflict of interest.

Agenda Item 3: Chair's Update

4. The Chair reported that he met with Katrina Williams (*DG for International, Science and Resilience*), following his request to meet with the DECC Permanent Secretary. The meeting lasted for an hour and there was a general discussion around the role of CoRWM, the Nuclear Industry and Radioactive Waste Management. The meeting was aimed at raising the profile of CoRWM and what the Committee does.
5. The Chair reported that he had met with Norman Harrison on 22nd April. Norman is currently on a Committee that looks at decommissioning funding. Norman wanted an update on the activities of CoRWM and its relation to decommissioning.
6. The Chair and Professor Clark attended the ABG meeting 4th & 5th of May. This was an OECD meeting of Countries that had advisory committees on radioactive waste. Germany was the host and there were delegations from France, Switzerland, Sweden, the United States of America and the UK. The discussions showed that there was a range of approaches to Geological Disposal but all the Countries faced similar challenges. The key issues included: siting arrangements, safety case and engagement with the public. The range of geological disposal facilities being investigated included those in hard rock, clays and salts. The Chair noted that the Advisory Committees varied in size, scope, funding and secretarial support. He

reported that the German, Sweden and American Committees are very well-funded, compared to CoRWM.

7. The Chair reported that he had attended the Sponsors Meeting on 13th May.
8. The Chair represented CoRWM at the NIRAB (Nuclear Innovation Advisory Board) meeting on 11th June. The Chair reported that NIRAB is a high level board that advises the government on nuclear research. Members were encouraged to read its Annual Report

Agenda Item 4: Formal approval of minutes

9. The minutes for February and March were discussed and approved by the Committee. The Chair asked for the minutes to be uploaded on the CoRWM website as soon as possible. The Committee reviewed the actions from both the February and March meetings, as shown in the Action Summary below.

ACTION 1: Secretariat to post the approved minutes of the February and March on the CoRWM website.

Agenda Item 5: CoRWM response to Scottish Consultation

10. John Rennilson updated the Committee on the first draft of the Scottish Consultation response that had been circulated to all members. John reported that the Scottish Sub- Group still welcomed comments from other Members and that any further comments should be sent to him by 1st week in July.

Agenda Item 6: CoRWM response to Welsh Government Consultation

11. Lynda Warren updated the Committee on the Welsh Government Consultation on Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste: Community Engagement and Implementation Process. Lynda noted that responses are required by 18th August. It was agreed that CoRWM would submit a formal response. The Welsh sub-group was actioned to draft an initial response for the Committee to consider. The revised Welsh sub-group now consists of: Lynda, Francis, Helen, Simon, Gregg, Paul, Stephen. It was agreed that the final submission to the Consultation would be agreed by correspondence.

ACTION 2: The Secretariat is to arrange a meeting for the Welsh sub group

ACTION 3: Members to consider the draft submission prepared by the Welsh sub-group and respond to Lynda Warren who will agree the final submission with the Chair.

Agenda Item 7: Discussion on the 2014/15 Annual Report

12. The Chair noted that the original intention was for the Committee to agree the Annual Report prior to submission to Ministers at the end of June. However he had been notified that DECC and the other Sponsor Departments had agreed that the submission of the Report could be delayed until mid-July. The Chair reported that he had agreed with DECC that in view of the short time stakeholders had had to review the first draft a revised version would be resent to the stakeholders for comment on factual accuracy only.
13. Given the delayed submission date the Chair proposed a revised process:
 - the Committee would review the need for recommendations;
 - the Committee would review the comments received and advise on any required changes;

- the chair would revise the Annual Report as agreed;
- the secretariat would circulate the Report to stakeholders for comment with a response date of 9 July;
- the Chair/Deputy Chair would review any responses and decide if changes are necessary
- Secretariat would submit the agreed final Annual Report to the Sponsor Departments on the agreed timescale.

14. The Committee agreed that it was appropriate to include recommendations to Ministers in the Annual Report. However it was agreed that some changes could be made to the two recommendations to make the intent clearer.

15. The Committee reviewed the comments from ONR, RWM and NDA. The Committee agreed to take on comments on factual accuracies but not those that reflect a difference in opinion.

16. Members of the Committee expressed their gratitude to Lynda Warren for her contribution to the editing of the Annual Report. Lynda confirmed she would forward the revised draft of the Annual Report to all members as soon as possible.

ACTION 4: Lynda Warren to revise the draft Annual Report in light of the Committee's comments.

ACTION 5: Secretariat to circulate revised draft to stakeholders for comment on factual accuracy only.

ACTION 6: Chair/Deputy Chair to consider any additional comments from stakeholders and produce final version of the Annual Report.

ACTION 7: Secretariat to submit final version of the Annual Report to Sponsor Departments

AOB

17. The Chair reported that this was Rebecca Lunn's last meeting. He noted that Becky had served on the Committee for 8 years. He thanked her for her outstanding commitment and contribution to the work of the Committee over the years and he acknowledged that she would be missed.

18. RL expressed her thanks to all Members of the Committee and expressed her delight in working with Committee Members over the years. She stated that she has enjoyed the diversity of backgrounds, intelligence and interesting discussions and would miss massively being on the Committee.

Question and Answer Session

19. The member of the public who had observed the plenary meeting was asked if he had any questions or points to be raised with the Committee. The member of the public expressed his interest on areas of the resources and human intrusion in respect to GDF. The Committee thanked him for his interest.

ACTION SUMMARY

Action no.	Action	Progress
5th February 2015 (Minutes: CoRWM Doc 3204)		
02/2015/001	Members to meet in February to draft response to the Triennial Review Consultation and this will be reviewed at the March meeting	Complete
02/2015/002	Secretariat to follow up on arranging the meeting with MOD radioactive waste management team	In progress
02/2015/003	CoRWM to provide advice to RWM and DECC on the structure of the proposed National Geological Screening Guidance.	Complete
02/2015/004	The Secretariat to arrange a meeting with RWM to discuss the Draft National Geological Screening Guidance.	Complete
02/2015/005	JR/BC to meet with DECC before the next meeting of the CRWG, to convey CoRWM's current views	Complete
02/2015/006	Secretariat to contact the leaders of each of the work streams in DECC / RWM and compile a meetings schedule.	Complete
02/2015/007	The secretariat is to send the meetings tracker to all members every month.	Complete
02/2015/008	The secretariat to arrange for the Sub group to visit to Sellafield in September 2015	Ongoing
10th March 2015 (Minutes: CoRWM Doc 3207)		
03/2015/001	Secretariat to post the approved minutes and the note of the public meeting in Anglesey on the CoRWM website	Complete
03/2015/002	Secretariat to submit the CoRWM 2015-18 Work Programme to its Sponsor Departments for transmission to Ministers	Complete
03/2015/003	Secretariat to submit the CoRWM Response to the	Complete

	Triennial Review Questionnaire to the DECC Triennial Review Team	
03/2015/004	Secretariat to set up a meeting before the end of March with the RWM lead on the communications strategy.	Complete
03/2015/005	The Secretariat to discuss with Scottish Government Officials to arrange a meeting between the Chair and the Scottish Minister.	Complete
03/2015/006	Gregg Butler to update the Committee on the group's discussions with NDA	Complete
03/2015/007	Paul Davis to send his proposal to the Chair for consideration.	Complete
03/2015/008	The Secretariat to arrange a follow-up meeting with RWM to discuss GDF Safety Case Development	Complete