

CORWM WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE END OF QUARTER THREE 2015-16
Secretariat

1. This is a report of the Committee's delivery against its 2015-18 Work Programme (CoRWM doc. 3198) at the end of quarter three of the financial year 2015-16.

Summary of CoRWM's Activities During Quarter Three 2015-16

2. The majority of the Committee's time during the period from October 1st 2015 to 31st December 2015 was spent providing advice to DECC on the Work Packages arising from the White Paper "Implementing Geological Disposal". This was done through meetings, correspondence and wider discussions with DECC officials, stakeholders, and other radioactive waste management organisations
3. In addition, CoRWM provided advice to both Welsh and Scottish Governments, held one open plenary meeting of the Committee in London.
4. The Triennial Review of CoRWM was completed and recommended the continuation of CoRWM. As all members of the Committee complete their current terms of office in 2016, Ministers have decided that posts will be advertised for open competition.
5. CoRWM began the process of drafting its Work Programme for 2016-17 with awareness of the potential impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review.
6. The key meetings are summarised below:

i. The Chair of CoRWM / CEO NDA Regular Contact Meeting

The Chair met with the CEO of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) as part of their regular contact meeting. The meeting covered, the Triennial Review of the Committee, intermediate depth disposal, regulation of geological disposal, GDF safety case development, organisational development of Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) and proposals for CoRWM's 2016-17 Work Programme.

ii. Geological Disposal Programme Board Meeting (GDPB)

The Chair attended a meeting of the GDPB in his role as an observer.

iii. The Chair of CoRWM / RWM CEO Regular Contact Meeting

The Chair met with the HSSEQ Director of RWM, (The CEO was not available on this occasion). The meeting covered progress on the Geological Disposal Screening Guidance work stream, the communities and engagement work stream, progress on RWM's thinking on CoRWM's safety case recommendation, Welsh and Scottish

matters, GDF regulation, the organisational transition of RWM, and renewal of the Committee and its membership.

iv. RWM's Technical Advisory Panel

Simon Harley attended the TAP 11 meeting on behalf of CoRWM on 6th and 7th October. RWM updated TAP on the disposal system specification including high level and technical requirements, and how to manage them. A topical session was held on non-radioactive chemotoxins and the Groundwater Daughter Directive, with its implications for a GDF. RWM presented on preparations for siting, with a focus on public communications, and described documents for key events in the next 18 months. This included the communication of uncertainty, risk, societal aspects of large-scale infrastructure programmes and the research that has been done into this area, as well as partnerships and community representation.

The CoRWM observer noted that as the remit of TAP has included a range of topics that are not specifically technical it is appropriate that consideration be given to replacing TAP with an advisory panel for the entirety of RWM's programme, reflecting RWM's role not just in the science and technology behind a GDF, but as the developer. It was also noted that RWM is very responsive to feedback from TAP.

7. Progress against each of CoRWM's tasks as set out in the 2015-16 Work Programme (doc. 3198) is detailed below.

Task 1 – GDF Siting Policy: To provide advice to DECC on the Work Packages arising from the White Paper “Implementing Geological Disposal”.

Task 1a: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 1 – National Geological Screening (NGS).

8. CoRWM provided DECC with its feedback on the NGS Guidance Consultation events held by RWM between October and November 2015. The Committee reported on a number of aspects such as the meeting's facilitation, the attendee pool, timing and the clarity of aims and objectives as areas for development. Overall, CoRWM found that RWM's openness and willingness to answer questions was commended, and well received by those in attendance.

Task 1b: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 2 – Working with Communities.

9. The Committee continued to monitor activities relating to the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG).

Task 1c: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 3 – Developing Land Use Planning Processes.

10. The Land Use Planning subgroup of CoRWM met with DECC in October to discuss progress with the development of a National Policy Statement and provided DECC with informal advice. CoRWM was updated on the current status of the work on this work stream at a closed plenary meeting in December.

Task 1d: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 4 – Developer and Lead Communications and Engagement.

11. CoRWM attended an update meeting with RWM in November. At this meeting RWM set out its plans for communication and engagement with potential host communities during the GDF siting process. The National Geological Screening Guidance public consultation workshops were discussed along with the lessons that can be learnt from them for future similar events.

12. CoRWM welcomed the joined up approach RWM and DECC plan to take with regards to communications and engagement.

Task 1e: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 5 – Regulation (Providing ONR with the legal vires to licence a GDF).

13. CoRWM continued to monitor developments in this area. Of particular interest was the work being done by ONR on the development of its regulator strategy for licensing a GDF.

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

Task 2a: Provide advice to Welsh Government on proposals.

14. The Welsh Sub Group met with Welsh Government on 15th October to discuss CoRWM's response to the Welsh Government public consultation "Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste: Community Engagement and Implementation Processes" (CoRWM doc. 3235).

Task 2b: Scrutinise Welsh Government Consultation and its analysis to inform changes to policy.

15. CoRWM submitted comments to Welsh Government on the draft Community Engagement and Implementation policy on 21st October. CoRWM provided comments on Welsh Government's draft consideration of responses to the Consultation on

“Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste: Community Engagement and Implementation Processes” on 29th October.

Task 3 – Scottish Government: Review the arrangements for implementing the Scottish Government Policy for managing higher activity radioactive waste.

Task 3a: Input to and review the process for developing a Strategy for implementing the Scottish Government Policy for managing higher activity radioactive waste.

16. The analysis of responses to the Implementation Strategy (IS) consultation, and the final IS was planned for publication by Scottish Government before the end of 2015, but has been delayed.

17. The Scottish Sub Group leader presented his analysis of responses at CoRWM's public meeting in October. The main points he highlighted from the responses were:

- People remain concerned that the policy does not address all the waste arisings that require disposal, and in particular those wastes that are not suitable for near surface disposal.
- Other responses covered the availability of supply chain skills; there was a concern that the attraction of new build in England may remove people from decommissioning work in Scotland.
- One main criticism in the responses was that the ‘Implementation Strategy’ has taken so long to develop, with little that is new.

Task 3b: Monitor the management of higher activity radioactive waste in Scotland.

18. A member of CoRWM attended the Scottish Nuclear Sites Meeting on 5th November. No significant developments were reported on monitoring HAW management.

Task 4 – Interim Surface Storage: Review 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 4a: Review the current status of interim storage of radioactive waste, spent fuel and nuclear materials in the UK.

19. CoRWM did not undertake any work on this task in Quarter 3.

Task 4b: Review plans for retrieval of wastes from legacy ponds and silos at Sellafield.

20. CoRWM did not undertake any work on this task in Quarter 3.

Task 5 – Safety Case Development: Review the RWM programme for the development of the 3 generic safety cases and their plans for the transition to site-specific safety cases.

Task 5a: Provide advice to DECC on the RWM Generic GDF Safety Case approach.

21. Members of the Safety Case Sub-Group reviewed RWM's Safety Case Manual.

22. The Committee attended a meeting at RWM's office in Harwell in November to discuss the progress of the generic Disposal System Safety Case (gDSSC) and the development of "rock specific" safety cases for the three rock types in the UK, namely fractured hard rock, clays and salts. There were a number of aspects discussed including the intended audience for the gDSSC, the inclusion of quantitative and qualitative assessments of safety, and the coverage of the three main geological environments.

Task 5b: Produce a clear and consistent understanding of the terminology used for safety cases.

23. From the Safety Case Meeting with RWM, CoRWM arranged a Safety Case Sub Group meeting to discuss and clarify what a generic safety case was, how it should be used, and the associated terminology.

24. CoRWM believes that it is essential for RWM to have a safety case that is developed during the site selection process, and be one of the main vehicles for communication with interested parties. Transparency in the development of the documentation of the Safety Case is deemed vital in order to gain public confidence and understanding.

Task 6 – 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 6a: Representation of CoRWM at external events and conferences, issue of e-bulletins, and maintain the website.

25. The previous list of CoRWM eBulletin subscribers has been successfully retrieved. Investigation is ongoing as to how this can become a working list, with new subscribers added as they sign up. CoRWM hope to restart the eBulletin updates as soon as possible.