

# RWM STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2016





*Dear delegate,*

*As we look forward to the launch of the siting process for a UK geological disposal facility (GDF), I wanted to remind you of the conference we held with a diverse group of stakeholders last autumn.*

*The two-day meeting, in Manchester in October, was held so that we could listen to, and engage in debate with, people from different backgrounds and a variety of viewpoints. The discussion was at times robust and passionate – we welcome debate on this important national issue!*

*One conclusion was that with such a wide range of stakeholders we need to find a way of bringing more people to these events. We're working on that!*

*I'd like to thank all those who took part: we appreciated your involvement and the time you gave us. I also want to recognise the commitment of others who were unable to attend but continue to engage with us in our work.*

*I hope this short summary of the Manchester conference succeeds in capturing the key points.*

*As I mentioned, we are focussed on preparation for the launch of the GDF Siting Process. More immediately, we are supporting both the UK and Welsh governments with forthcoming consultations. We will keep our stakeholders up to date on all these developments.*

*Links to all of the presentations at the conference can be found on our website at [www.gov.uk.rwm](http://www.gov.uk.rwm). If you would like us to send you a copy of the full slidepack from the conference, please send a request to [RWM2016@nda.gov.uk](mailto:RWM2016@nda.gov.uk)*

*Bruce McKirdy*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. McKirdy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Managing Director, RWM*

A video showing the range of activities undertaken by RWM in its development of the GDF was shown at the conference. It is now available at [www.gov.uk/rwm](http://www.gov.uk/rwm)

## THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING:

Abbott Risk Consulting  
Amec  
Arcadis  
Areva  
Arup  
Atkins Global  
AWE  
BDB Law  
Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group  
Birmingham University  
Bradwell Site Stakeholder Group  
British Geological Survey  
ch2m  
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)  
Direct Rail Services (DRS)  
Dounreay Site Restoration (DSRL)  
Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group  
EDF  
Environment Agency  
Ernst & Young  
Geological Society of London  
Harwell Site Stakeholder Group  
Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group  
Horizon Nuclear Power  
Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group  
Imperial College  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers  
International Nuclear Services  
Jacobs  
Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR)  
Magnox  
National Nuclear Laboratory  
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)  
Nuclear Free Local Authorities  
Nuclear Industry Association  
Nuclear Industry Council  
Nuclear Innovation and Research Office  
Nuclear Institute  
Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)  
Nuclear Liabilities Fund  
Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates  
NuGen  
Nuvia  
Office of Nuclear Regulation  
Risktec  
Sellafield  
Sizewell Site Stakeholder Group  
Urenco  
Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group  
Wylfa Site Stakeholder Group

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to see the slides from the presentations, they can be downloaded from our website at [www.gov.uk/rwm](http://www.gov.uk/rwm), or you can email a request to [RWM2016@nda.gov.uk](mailto:RWM2016@nda.gov.uk) and we will send them on to you.

## THE CONFERENCE

### DAY ONE – Thursday 13 October 2016



**Bruce McKirdy, RWM's Managing Director**, described how RWM is setting out to deliver a geological disposal facility for the UK.

*“With support from the Government’s Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) as well as the Major Projects Association (MPA), RWM’s implementation plan ensures we are adequately prepared for delivery of this nationally significant infrastructure project.”*



Keynote speaker: **Claes Thegerström, one of RWM's Independent Non-Executive Directors**, and former President of Sweden’s radioactive waste management organisation SKB, explained how other countries had developed their GDF programmes.

*“A host community has to want to participate from the beginning and be actively involved. The community needs to receive national recognition for what it’s doing on behalf of the nation.”*



**Natalyn Ala, RWM's Siting Director**, set out plans for working with communities on this process, creating a framework tailored to the needs of individual communities.

*“Communities will understandably want the same, fair treatment as each other. It is important to engage with and listen to all members of a community, including young people.”*

## DAY TWO – Friday 14 October

Keynote Speaker: **Tom Wintle, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)**, emphasised Government's commitment to delivering the geological disposal programme and pressed the importance of RWM's role to make it a reality. He also highlighted the importance of RWM's communications and engagement with stakeholders to create the right environment for launching the siting process and making this programme a success.

*“The Government is delivering the actions set out in the 2014 Implementing Geological Disposal White Paper, making good progress with the National Policy Statement and developing the policy for working with communities in the GDF siting process. (...) Ahead of the launch of the siting process, we are working closely with RWM to ensure that the organisation has the capacity and capability to deliver the next phase.”*

**John Corderoy, RWM's Science & Technology Director**, explained what safety means to RWM and he described the work being undertaken to demonstrate that a GDF will be safe. This covers design and construction, transportation to – and operation of the facility, as well as the long period following closure of the GDF.

*“Proven, scientifically-tested and robust processes, products and procedures in our packaging, handling, transport and storage, can reassure the public that we can dispose of waste safely.”*

**Ann McCall, RWM's Waste Management Director**, discussed the need to manage waste effectively today and in the future. RWM is gaining knowledge all the time about the characteristics of the waste and the safety case. We advise the producers of waste to ensure that it will be compatible with the GDF design and safety case.

*“50,000 packages are ready to go into a GDF now. The industry creates around 3,000 packages a year. Over 60% of waste in inventory has been through our disposability assessment process so far and our plan is to increase that to 100%.”*



## WORKSHOP THEMES

Delegates shared their views on RWM's immediate priorities in a one-hour workshop. These ideas were fed back to the entire meeting and provided cues for further discussion. Among the topics raised were:

- understanding priorities and explaining the urgency to act - here and now
- resolving disagreements within communities
- identifying the unique needs of each community
- leveraging the legacy of experience and knowledge transfer
- inter-generational nature of the project
- engaging the younger generation
- being open and honest about challenges and negatives
- adopting an integrated, transparent and collaborative approach
- parallels with fracking
- how to create momentum
- the impact of political and economic cycles on the programme
- balancing all the factors: geology; environment; economics; social issues; employment; transport, location
- the role of engineering in designing a GDF and creating a safe facility
- messaging – needs to be precise, accurate, consistent, timely and managed
- communicating complex information without people switching off
- long term research, training and skills programmes
- will Brexit have any effect?
- accessing funding and sharing benefits



## THE REGULATORS

*No GDF will be constructed in the UK unless RWM is sure it will be safe. Equally, no GDF will be built unless regulators approve the detailed proposals. After the afternoon's formal sessions, the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) hosted a fringe event, explaining their role in the programme.*

