

Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning Research Forum
Terms of Reference
April 2015

Objectives and Scope

The Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning Research Forum (NWDRF) is a cross industry group that aims to enhance coordination of research, development and technical programmes (R&D) across UK Site Restoration and Integrated Waste Management activities. As defined in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Strategy, April 2011 the NWDRF and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Research Board (NDARB) are key elements of the NDA estate R&D governance structure. NWDRF reports to NDARB¹, which has as one of its objectives:

“Promote strategic coordination, a common understanding and collaboration between relevant bodies across the UK with respect to research & development needs, risks and opportunities in the fields of decommissioning, radioactive waste management and radioactive waste disposal.”

The NWDRF objectives are:

1. Promote a common understanding and collaboration between all relevant nuclear industry organisations on R&D related to Site Restoration (Decommissioning, Land Quality Management and Site End States) and Integrated Waste Management (Higher Activity Waste, Lower Activity Waste and Non-Radioactive and Hazardous Waste).
2. Identify and publicise common R&D needs, gaps and opportunities in order to sponsor and facilitate collaboration. Areas for collaboration should cover topics of interest for several members of NWDRF; purely site specific aspects are deferred to the site operators.
3. Support the delivery of R&D for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority community of Site Licence Companies.
4. Support the delivery of R&D for other nuclear operators.

Activities

1. Share through presentations, reports and site visits both established good practice and the development of new technology for the delivery of Integrated Waste Management and Site Restoration in the nuclear industry.
2. Identify through discussion and analysis a prioritised list of Integrated Waste Management and Site Restoration topics of interest to more than one NWDRF member.
3. Implement Working Groups to identify and facilitate the delivery of work programmes against identified topics. This may include the preparation of technical scopes, reviewing of proposals, supplying information, providing comments on reports and disseminating information within member organisations.

4. Provide guidance and endorsement to NWDRF member R&D programmes as appropriate.
5. Provide capability for peer reviews of R&D reports and projects through the identification and development of an appropriate expert community.
6. Network with allied special interest groups to support delivery of R&D across the nuclear industry both nationally and internationally.
7. Discuss and agree consolidated industry views on strategic R&D issues.
8. Annual review of the NWDRF Terms of Reference including a consideration of the scope of the NWDRF and its Working Groups.

Deliverables

1. An annual NWDRF report to the NDA Research Board summarising the progress of the NWDRF activities and the associated outcomes.
2. A 2yr forward programme for NWDRF and the associated Working Groups that indicates priority areas being addressed or proposed for collaboration and how these will be delivered.
3. Meeting records for members and a meeting summary for publication on the NDA website.
4. Recommendations for and, if appropriate, endorsement of R&D being undertaken by the specific organisations represented in the NWDRF.
5. Proposals to the NDA to fund specific R&D into appropriate topics that provide NDA estate benefit and potentially broader cross industry benefit.
6. Information to support the delivery of appropriate R&D projects *e.g.* existing practice, characterisation results.
7. Reports summarising the views of NWDRF members.
8. An annual technical conference to showcase work across the NWDRF community, supply chain and academia reflecting the scope of the NWDRF.

Membership

Participating Members of NWDRF

- Chairman (on a rotation basis)
- Technical Secretary (as above)
- Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE)
- EDF Energy
- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- NDA Site Licence Companies (SL, Magnox, DSRL, LLWR)
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
- Government Decontamination Services (GDS)
- Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE)

- Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM)
- Other Nuclear operators
- Other specialists at the Chairman's discretion

Observer members of NWDRF

- Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)
- Regulators (ONR, EA, SEPA, NRW)
- Other specialists at the Chairman's discretion

Meetings

There shall be typically four meetings each year, nominally January, April, July, and October.

The Technical Secretary will produce the agenda and distribute information at least 14 days prior to meeting date. The Technical Secretary shall generate formal minutes within 28 days of each NWDRF meeting. These will be filed, along with agendas, presentations and papers, in the relevant e-room (*e.g.* NDA Knowledge Hub). The Technical Secretary shall also prepare a meeting summary that will be published on the NDA web site.

Review

The NWDRF Terms of Reference will be reviewed at least annually by NWDRF members and any proposed changes recommended to the NDA Research Board for approval.

Glossary

DSRL – Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd

LLWR – Low Level Waste Repository Ltd

NWDRF – Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning Research Forum

NDA – Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

R&D – Research and Development

SL – Sellafield Ltd

SLC – Site Licence Company

References

1. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Independent Research Board, Terms of Reference, Issue 2