

Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB)

14:00-16:00, Thursday 9th February 2017

3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW

Present:

Mr Stephen Speed

Chairman - Director Civil Nuclear & Resilience, Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) & GDF SRO

Mr Tom Wintle

Programme Director, BEIS

Mr Bruce McKirdy

Managing Director, Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM)

Mr David Batters

CFO Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)

Mr Robert Williams

Welsh Government

Attendees:

BEIS Policy Lead

BEIS GDF Team

Integrated Programme Manager

BEIS GDF Team

Secretariat

BEIS GDF Team

Professor Laurence Williams

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) – Observer

Minutes from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 20th October 2016 meeting were agreed in correspondence after the meeting and published on the GDPB web page of the Gov.uk website.

GDPB Terms of Reference

2. Stephen Speed, the new SRO, suggested a few changes to the terms of reference, these were agreed:
 - i. Meetings held every eight weeks for 3 hours;
 - ii. Expanding the membership to formally include the BEIS Programme Director and to add the role Independent Member(s) to invite external challenge and perspective of the programme;

Progress on GDF Governance Enhancement

3. The Board discussed the proposed 'Vision' and 'Scope' of the Programme and agreed to finalise the proposals via correspondence.
4. The Board were asked to consider and approve the new GDF Programme Management & Controls Framework. During the presentation and discussion, the Board were content that the new framework would strengthen the governance of the programme and that it clearly set out the expectations for seeking approvals for the various work-packages/business-cases and clarified roles/responsibilities. The proposal was approved subject to inclusion of regulatory milestones in the programme plan as recommended by the CoRWM Observer and a small clarification with NDA on approvals. The new BEIS Programme Manager was commended on the work and tasked with implementing the framework.

RWM Readiness Review

5. The final meeting with the Readiness Review Panel took place in January. The

panel reported that good progress had been made, and that they considered final readiness to launch can be achieved if planned actions are successfully implemented.. It was recorded that RWM and BEIS had embraced the process and their ability to engage enthusiastically was a great asset. The Panel expect their final report to be ready in late February and will be invited to present the report at the next Board meeting.

Welsh Government Update

6. The Welsh Government gave an update on their plans for implementing geological disposal and advised the Board that their recent pre-consultation stakeholder engagement events were well received. Good progress is being made with RWM working closely with the Welsh Government to understand how the siting process should be implemented in Wales.

Update on progress with Initial Actions and Preparations for Siting

7. **National Geological Screening** – RWM are continuing work to produce the draft Regional Narratives. It is expected that these will be shared with the Independent Review Panel in the Spring for comment.
8. **National Policy Statement (NPS) and Working with Communities** – Consultations on both the Working with Communities and National Policy Statement are expected to take place in the Spring. BEIS have been holding events with various national level stakeholder groups, these have been well attended with positive comments received.
9. **Regulation and licensing** – work continues on the delivery of the two main outputs (i) revising legislation to bring GDFs within the licensing regime and (ii) the joint ONR/EA guidance on GDF licensing.
10. **RWM's Preparation for Siting** – RWM are working closely with BEIS on the development of the Site Evaluation Framework and implementation of the working with communities' policy.
11. **Communications Forward Look** – RWM are working closely with BEIS Comms to secure approval for communications spend for next financial year.
12. **Programme Risks & Issues** – A discussion took place regarding the revised Integrated Programme Risk Register and the key risks.

AOB

13. Members were invited to suggest potential candidates to be considered for the NED role.
14. Following the suggestion by the CoRWM Observer, it was agreed that consideration would be given to whether CoRWM should be asked to provide independent advice on the recent decision to leave EURATOM and the implications this may have for the GDF Programme.

15. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2017.