



**COMMITTEE ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT (CORWM)
OPEN MEETING
23 NOVEMBER 2017, EDINBURGH**

- Venue:** Jury's Inn, 43 Jeffrey St, Edinburgh EH1 1DH
- Timing:** 09.00 – 14.00
- Chair:** Campbell Gemmell (Acting)
- Members:** Andrew Walters, Gregg Butler, Janet Wilson, Julia West, Melissa Denecke, Paul Davis, Richard Shaw, Simon Redfern, Stephen Newson, Stephen Tromans
- Attending:** Laurence Williams (Outgoing Chair), Brian Clark (Former Member), John Rennilson (Former Member), Martin Macdonald (Scottish Gov.), RWM Chief Policy Advisor, Phillip Matthews (NuLeAF)
- Secretariat:** CoRWM Technical Secretary, CoRWM Committee Secretary.
- Apologies:** Joanne Hill, Andy Hall (Members)

Summary

Members of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) met in Edinburgh to discuss CoRWM's recent and planned activities, a Scottish Government policy representative was present and provided update to the Committee. The audience included members of NuLeAF and RWM. The outgoing Chair of CoRWM, Laurence Williams, attended and gave update and a review on CoRWM work.

Agenda Item 1: Chair's Update

1. The Chair opened the meeting; he welcomed and introduced the visitors, and explained Laurence William's attendance as Outgoing Chair.
2. The members declared no changes in their interests.

ACTION 1: Secretariat to update and publish the Committee register of interests.

3. The Chair introduced the new Secretariat, comprised of a Committee Secretary and Technical Secretary. He explained how they would be working to improve CoRWM's external communications.
4. The Chair updated the attendees on his status as Interim Chair, and the recruitment process for the next Chair.
5. The Chair provided update on the launch of the GDF consultations; CoRWM are prepared and will communicate information to stakeholders as soon as possible.
6. The Chair highlighted the recent Infrastructure Planning Authority (IPA) Review of Radioactive Waste Management Ltd.'s (RWM) readiness to launch. He noted that CoRWM were concerned that they were not seen as key stakeholders in this review. The RWM Chief Policy Advisor highlighted that the IPA review was an internal government process, and had a very uniform structure.
7. The Chair noted that the review outputs would be heavily linked to CoRWM's scrutiny, and will have significant impacts on the GDF programme.

Agenda Item 2: Update from the Outgoing Chair

8. Laurence Williams (LW), as Outgoing Chair, gave an update on his recent meetings: a sponsors meeting on 18th October and a handover meeting on 3rd November.
9. At the last sponsors meeting, LW highlighted CoRWM's achievements through his tenure. CoRWM members had made key contributions to Implementing Geological Disposal, improved the National Policy Statement (NPS), and had helped shape the Third Party Expert View Mechanism (TPEVM).
10. LW also said the Committee had reinforced the importance of a regulatory framework, driven consideration regarding the role of licensing in the GDF process and public confidence, and had highlighted the importance of focusing on safety rather than simply host geology. The Committee had assisted in making geological safety information available to the public, a key aspect of the voluntary process.

11. LW said that the Committee have enabled the Welsh Government to explore geological disposal, and advised Scottish Government on areas of policy development and near-surface disposal (NSD). The Committee have helped focus RWM on organisational change, prompting the development of lifetime strategy work and consideration of the transition required to deliver a GDF.
12. The Chair thanked Laurence Williams and stated this review would be a part of the Annual Report. He stated it was important to make these contributions visible. Laurence Williams offered to assist on the annual report, as he had been Chair for half of the year.
13. The Chair thanked Laurence Williams for his service to CoRWM.
14. The Chair discussed the IPA review recommendations. The Committee noted that the IPA Review appeared to have gone beyond its initial scope.
15. The Chair gave an update on letters sent to Low Level Waste Repository Ltd. (LLWR) and Sellafield Ltd. after the Committee's visit to these sites. The letters would be published along with responses when the latter are received.
16. The Chair noted that both visits were fruitful, and the Committee agreed annual visits to Sellafield would be useful. He highlighted discussions regarding the classification and treatment of waste, the Letters of Compliance process, and the waste inventory. He informed the public that CoRWM were engaging with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) in these areas.
17. The Committee thanked the LLWR and Sellafield for hosting these meetings, and their time. Janet Wilson felt these visits had highlighted particular physical progress on various projects. The Chair noted that visits to Dounreay and Sellafield had highlighted the importance of knowledge management going forwards.
18. The Chair noted the Committee's frustration regarding the length of time it had taken to publish its 2016/2017 Annual Report, after submitting it on time in June. Melissa Denecke noted how such delays could be seen as detrimental to transparency.

ACTION 2: Chair to liaise with sponsors as to the status of the 2017-20 Work Programme and 2016/17 Annual Report.

19. The Committee followed up the actions from the previous Open plenary. Two actions remained open, 9 actions were ongoing monitoring activities or activities extended due to external factors, 2 actions were superseded by events, 10 actions had been closed.

Agenda Item 3: Update from Scottish Government

20. Martin Macdonald (MM) thanked the attendees for their time and Laurence Williams for his work as Chair. He highlighted the assistance of CoRWM in

shaping and crafting higher activity waste (HAW) policy in Scotland. He also highlighted CoRWM's advice at Dounreay, and their recent letter to Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd. (DSRL), which had been helpful for Scottish Government to monitor site issues including the approach taken to achieve the Interim End State. He further highlighted recent communications from Scottish Government to the NDA and UK government regarding Dounreay, which touch on CoRWM observations.

ACTION 3: Secretariat to circulate Roseanna Cunningham's (Scottish Government) letter regarding Dounreay, which touches on CoRWM observations, to members.

21. MM updated attendees on a senior, high profile Japanese government and industry delegation visit to Dounreay as part of the UK/Japan Nuclear Dialogue, which had taken place in October. The delegation was keen to develop dialogue with the Scottish Government.
22. MM highlighted the LoC process and its applications at Dounreay. He had met with Sam Usher, Director at DSRL, who was keen to liaise with RWM on this.
23. CoRWM and MM had attended the Near Surface Implementation Group's (NSIG) first meeting with CoRWM in Edinburgh on 2nd October 2017. He was hoping to continue dialogue James McKinney at the NDA and RWM. A follow up meeting is planned in January or February.
24. The RWM Chief Policy Advisor asked if the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) were a part of this process. SEPA were present and ONR were invited but made their apologies at this first NSIG meeting.
25. MM informed attendees on repatriation of wastes reprocessed at Dounreay. It was hoped that a contractual option to return 51 cemented drums to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation in Australia could be exercised, but a human rights impact assessment in Australia may be required before the process could move forward. MM was open to any assistance CoRWM could offer on this potentially politically and legally complex issue. The Chair stated the Committee were happy to be consulted on specific areas. Scottish Government's commitment to due diligence and responsibility in this issue was noted by the Committee.
26. The Scottish Government are performing internal analysis on Euratom exit implications. The Scottish Government looks forward to advice CoRWM could offer in this area, particularly on any committee assessment on impacts specific to Scotland.
27. SEPA and the Scottish Government are in consultation on the Integrated Authorisational Framework. Workshops are being set up to take in stakeholder views and CoRWM are being kept informed.
28. The Chair noted the high workload of the Scottish Government in these areas, and thanked MM for his time. CoRWM will consider how best to provide assistance with regards to the issues raised.

Agenda Item 4: Committee Activities

Subgroup 1: Working With Communities and Communications

29. Janet Wilson described changes in the BEIS communications team, and had met with BEIS and RWM to coordinate on 26th October 2017. The next meeting is planned for before the January 2018 Plenary unless events supersede this.
30. Regarding the Integrated Communications Team which had been established between BEIS, the NDA, and RWM: CoRWM's view was that this team should communicate with clarity and consensus but ensure the separate roles and boundaries between the member organisations are well defined for the public.
31. The Integrated Communications Team is focusing on planned activities after the consultation launch.

ACTION 4: Janet Wilson to share her note of the 26th October 2017 RWM meeting. RWM Chief Policy Advisor to provide the slides from this meeting.

32. The Subgroup had planned to attend public events and workshops following the launch of the 'Working with Communities' consultation document with BEIS and RWM. However, with the delay in the launch of this document, these have also been delayed.

Subgroup 2: Safety Case and Geology

33. Paul Davis discussed CoRWM recommendations regarding RWM's public-facing safety information. The Subgroup will meet with RWM tomorrow, 24th November 2017, to discuss RWM's progress.

ACTION 5: Paul Davis to share Public-Facing Safety Information when it is possible to do so.

34. The Subgroup described how RWM are preparing public-facing National Geological Screening outputs using information from the British Geological Survey.

ACTION 6: Secretariat and Paul Davis to circulate the status of the public facing narratives and safety information after their meeting on 24th November.

35. The Subgroup will check the veracity of the public-facing statements against the gDSSC, BGS information, and other sources to ensure everything is defensible. John Corderoy (Programme Director, RWM) believed this to be in place, but the Subgroup believes the credibility and auditability of these statements may be a key factor in maintaining public confidence.

36. The Subgroup is also eager to analyse the site down-selection criteria and ensure these are tied to safety concerns rather than simply geological.

Subgroup 3: Planning and Regulation

37. Andrew Walters said there would be a briefing session on land use planning in the next few weeks, in terms of a planned National Policy Statement and its effects on geological disposal infrastructure.
38. Stephen Tromans discussed how the Subgroup is waiting to see the updated draft Statutory Instrument to see if their concerns have been addressed.

Subgroup 4: Organisational Development

39. Stephen Newson detailed the Subgroups activity regarding the IPA review. CoRWM had provided advice regarding the review's initial design.
40. Stephen Newson and Campbell Gemmill attended the review briefing day at Harwell, and Stephen Newson and Janet Wilson had attended the review briefing day in London. CoRWM had helped clarify some of the background information that the review team were not aware of.
41. Stephen Newson noted that the review was too short a process to interview everyone of value. He noted the Committee have not yet seen the outputs from this review.
42. Laurence Williams raised his belief that CoRWM should have been invited to review these outputs.
43. BEIS were leading on the action plan to address these recommendations, although some of these are very long term.

Subgroup 5: Scottish Government Activities

44. Andrew Walters provided an update on Subgroup work regarding the Integrated Organisational Framework. All comments provided by CoRWM had been positive, but some clarity was required in organisational definitions. Andrew Walters believed this framework will be a useful benchmark for licensing and permits regarding other environmental issues.
45. The Chair highlighted how the framework would hopefully be complete following ONR changes, as it was an important tool for license holders and regulators alike.
46. The Chair was hoping to meet with Scottish Cabinet in January or February.
47. It was raised that the different responses to the consultation between the UK, Scottish, and Welsh Governments may be interesting for CoRWM to appreciate.

ACTION 7: Secretariat to ensure January Plenary includes preparatory consideration of the committee's response to consultations.

Subgroup 6: Welsh Government Activities

48. Gregg Butler highlighted how the Subgroup had provided comment on three Welsh draft consultation documents and is ready to provide further advice when required.
49. He highlighted Welsh Government valuing CoRWM advice and scrutiny going forward into the consultation.
50. It was further noted that there may be value in assessing BEIS plans for consultation responses and comparing these to Welsh plans.

ACTION 8: SG1 to analyse BEIS' plans and expectations for addressing consultation responses and report on these at the January Plenary

Subgroup 7: Storage of Radioactive Waste, Spent Fuel and Nuclear Materials

51. Gregg Butler had attended a preliminary meeting on Interim Storage with the NDA. A review of the NDA's 2009 report is planned.
52. The Subgroup was hoping to meet with BEIS in January and the NDA in March to continue coordination.

Subgroup 8: Euratom

53. Stephen Tromans had taken on Laurence Williams' role as Subgroup Chair.
54. Laurence Williams had provided the Committee with his draft analysis. This work is planned to be formalised and presented to sponsors before the January plenary.
55. Laurence Williams' analysis focussed on ensuring UK legislation will provide safety regarding radioactive waste management after the Euratom exit. No significant gaps in legislation have been identified at this stage.
56. Stephen Tromans thanked Laurence Williams for his comprehensive draft analysis.

ACTION 9: SG8: Euratom/Chair to update Martin Macdonald on their work before the January Plenary.

57. It was explained that this analysis focuses on spent fuel and radioactive waste management. Focused analysis of safeguards, research programmes, and skills are beyond the remit of this work and are being addressed elsewhere.

Annual Reports and Work Programmes

58. The Chair raised how that much of the Committee's future activities depend on the timing of the consultation launch. Regardless of this, the Committee will prepare the 2018/19 Annual Report and 2018-2021 Work Programme.

ACTION 10: Secretariat to produce a timeline for the completion and submission of the annual report, for presentation at the January 2018 plenary.

59. Janet Wilson explained how some of the 2017/18 Annual Report's main deliverables were responses to the consultations, which would roll into next year's work program.

Agenda Item 5: Tailored Review

60. The Chair gave an update on the delays to the tailored review.

61. The Committee thanked Martin Macdonald for his contribution and Laurence Williams raised the importance of capturing the views of all sponsors.

62. Gregg Butler highlighted the importance of tabulating the member's skills and experience and cross-examining this with the Committee's requirements. The Chair agreed, highlighting it was important that the Committee covers all necessary socio-political areas.

ACTION 11: Secretariat and Chair to revise the skills matrix information regarding the Committee before the January 2018 Plenary. Secretariat to liaise with Laurence Williams for a template.

Agenda Item 6: CoRWM Methods of Working

63. The Chair believed that the CoRWM methods of working should be analysed as a priority to ensure external communications are effective going forward.

64. The Chair said that this should include making plenary meetings more open. This may be facilitated by the relevant GDF policy launch moving into the public domain.

65. The Chair noted that, as the GDF programming meetings are becoming more frequent and decision making is likely to accelerate. The Committee should be flexible to the increased level of scrutiny potentially required.

66. The 21st/22nd March 2018 plenary meeting was agreed to be moved to the 22nd/23rd March 2018 in order that issues arising from the Geological Disposal Programming Board meeting on the 21st March 2018 can be discussed.

ACTION 12: Secretariat to update the meeting calendar to account for movement of the March plenary, and include the GDPB meetings and planned Subgroup meetings.

ACTION 13: Secretariat and Chair to revise the agendas and format of meetings for update at the January Plenary. Members to provide suggestions to the Secretariat/Chair by the 3rd January.

67. The Chair asked Subgroup Chairs to inform the Chair and secretariat as to their planned meetings and work programme.

ACTION 14: Subgroup Chairs to keep Secretariat updated regarding their work programme and meetings.

68. The Committee have agreed that Sellafield and Dounreay should be annual visits. It was highlighted that it would be useful to combine the Dounreay visit with the Edinburgh plenary in June 2018.

ACTION 15: Secretariat to coordinate the June 2018 plenary in Edinburgh with a connected visit to Dounreay.

69. It was suggested that it would be useful to have staff from Dounreay and Sellafield accompany visits to their alternate site, but the complexity of this was highlighted in terms of each licensee being a commercial, essentially competing, entity.

70. The Committee agreed that a visit to the Sizewell dry fuel store would be useful. Simon Redfern offered to host the Plenary Meeting before such a visit, which was welcomed.

ACTION 16: Secretariat to ensure consideration of a visit to the Sizewell dry fuel store in next year's work programme.

71. The Chair discussed potential international engagement and fact-finding. The near-surface facilities as well as GDF programmes in Finland and Sweden (hard rock) were discussed, along with the Bure Underground Laboratory in France (clay).

72. Paul Davis said that CoRWM should be clear in what it hoped to achieve from each visit. Janet Wilson highlighted the importance of covering the community engagement efforts of CoRWM counterparts.

ACTION 17: Richard Shaw and Paul Davis to provide Secretariat with a scoping document for international visits (e.g. Finland, Germany), summarising the scope/potential benefits of each visit for presentation at the January Plenary.

ACTION 18: Secretariat to consider how international visits can be achieved making best use of budget available.

Agenda Item 7: AOB and Questions from the Public

73. Brian Clark highlighted his concerns with CoRWM's current state of external communications, especially highlighting the poor state of the website.

74. He further highlighted his desire to for more public information regarding waste policy in Scotland.
75. He expressed his annoyance with the delay in the launch of the Working with Communities consultation document.
76. In response, Laurence Williams highlighted the new Secretariat who would be addressing the issues regarding external communications.
77. CoRWM are also assisting the Scottish Government with their ongoing development of Scottish radioactive waste management policies.
78. CoRWM will communicate any developments regarding the consultation launch as soon as possible.
79. The Chair thanked the public for attending.
80. The next meeting is planned to take place on 9 January 2018 at 1 Victoria St., London.

Appendix A - Abbreviations

BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BGS	British Geological Survey
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
DSRL	Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd.
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
GDPB	Geological Disposal Programme Board
gDSSC	Generic Disposal System Safety Case
IPA	Infrastructure Planning Authority
LLWR	the Low Level Waste Repository
LoC	Letters of Compliance
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NGS	National Geological Screening
NSD	Near Surface Disposal
RWM	Radioactive Waste Management Ltd.
SRO	Senior Responsible Officer

Appendix B – Actions

Actions from the Open Plenary	Status
ACTION 1: Secretariat to update and make visible the committee register of interests.	Ongoing
ACTION 2: Chair to liaise with sponsors as to the status of the 2016/17 Work Programme.	Closed
ACTION 3: Secretariat to acquire Roseanna Cunningham letter, which touches on CoRWM observations, and circulate to members.	Closed
ACTION 4: Janet Wilson to share her note of the 26th October RWM meeting. RWM Chief Policy Advisor to provide the slides from this meeting.	Closed
ACTION 5: Paul Davis to share Public-Facing Safety Information when it is possible to do so.	Closed
ACTION 6: Secretariat and Paul Davis to circulate the status of the public facing narratives and safety information after their meeting on 24 th November 17.	Closed
ACTION 7: Secretariat to ensure January Plenary includes pre-emptive consideration of the committee's response to consultation responses, in Wales and wider UK.	Closed
ACTION 8: SG1 to analyse BEIS' plans and expectations for addressing consultation responses and report on these at the January Plenary	Ongoing
ACTION 9: SG8: Euratom to update Martin Macdonald on their work before the January Plenary.	Closed
ACTION 10: Secretariat to produce a timeline for the submission of the annual report.	Closed
ACTION 11: Secretariat and Chair to revise the skills matrix information regarding the committee before the January Plenary. Secretariat to liaise with Laurence Williams and/or Pete Gorman for a template.	Closed
ACTION 12: Secretariat to update the meeting calendar to account for movement of the March plenary, and include the GDPB meetings.	Closed
ACTION 13: Secretariat and Chair to revise the agendas and format of meetings. Members to provide suggestions or feedback to the Secretariat.	Closed
ACTION 14: Subgroup chairs to keep Secretariat updated regarding their work programme and meetings.	Closed
ACTION 15: Secretariat to coordinate the June plenary in Edinburgh with a visit to Dounreay.	Ongoing

ACTION 16: Secretariat to ensure consideration of a visit to Sizewell dry fuel store in next year's work program.	Closed
ACTION 17: Richard Shaw and Paul Davis to provide Secretariat with a scoping document for international visits, summarising the potential benefits of each visit	Closed
ACTION 18: Secretariat to consider how international visits can be achieved making best use of budget available.	Closed