



## Open Plenary – 30<sup>th</sup> November

**Timing:** 10.00-12.00  
**Chair:** Nigel Thrift (CoRWM Chair)  
**Members:** Claire Corkhill, Penny Harvey, Neil Hyatt, Ray Kemp, Mark Kirkbride, Derek Lacey, Geraldine Thomas and Stephen Tromans

**CoRWM Secretariat**

**BEIS:** Mariana Ghosh and Shubhnit Seera

**Attendees:** Roy Payne (GDF Watch), Catherine Draper (Nuleaf), Pete Roche (Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates), Bruce Cairns (RWM), Eileen Mckeever (RWM), Matthew Whyte (N/A), Romain Garcier (Ecole normale supérieure de Lyon), Robert Heymer (WMG), David Brazier (Environment Agency), Professor Brian Clark (CoRWM Member 2003-2016), Professor Mike Fairweather (TRANSCEND), Carmel McDowell, Alison Jeynes, Alison Guiney, Diane Hamilton, Corynne McGuire, Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong

### Agenda:

#### 1. Meeting open, welcome and introductory comments (Chair)

Chair's recent meetings

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

#### 3. Approval of [Minutes from the September Open Plenary](#)

#### 4. Annual Update on Subgroup Activities and Plans

*Key topics:*

- a. SG 1 Working with Communities (Penny Harvey)
- b. SG 2 GDF Geology and Delivery (Mark Kirkbride)
- c. SG 3 Planning and Regulation (Ray Kemp)
- d. SG 4 Scottish Government Activities (no update)
- e. SG 5 Welsh Government Activities (Gerry Thomas)
- f. SG 6 Storage of Waste, Spent Fuel, and Materials (Derek Lacey)

#### 5. Presentation 11.00

**Speaker: Professor Mike Fairweather (University of Leeds)- [“Overview of the work of the TRANSCEND consortium talk”](#)**

#### 6. Questions from the public



7. **Any other business**



## Minutes

### Agenda item 1. Meeting open, welcome and introductory comments (Chair)

1. Nigel Thrift (NT) introduced CoRWM and their role as an independent advisory committee.
2. NT discussed CoRWM's interest in the SMRs rollout and waste
3. NT mentioned CoRWM's visits to CCFE (Culham Centre for Fusion Energy), Sellafield, LLWR (Low-Level Waste Repository) and NNL (National Nuclear Laboratory).
4. NT informed attendees that "[Radioactive wastes from fusion energy: preliminary position paper](#)" is due to be published imminently.
5. NT stated he has been liaising with John Harrison, Chair of COMARE.
6. NT stated CoRWM have been preparing the new work programme 2022-2023.

### Agenda item 2. Declaration of Interests

7. None

### Agenda item 3. Approval of [Minutes from the September Open Plenary](#)

8. The minutes from the September Open Plenary were approved. (CoRWM doc. [3771](#))

### Agenda item 4. Annual Update on Subgroup Activities and Plans

#### a) *SG 1 Working with Communities*

9. Penny Harvey (PH) stated that SG1 continued to focus on Communications and Working with Communities, keeping regular contact with the communications team at RWM as Working Groups develop.
10. PH discussed the visit of CoRWM to LLWR, commending their community engagement activities, providing an example of their support of local initiatives in the community.
11. PH informed the attendees there will be a meeting on the Principles of Engagement with RWM on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, as well as a GDF conference on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.
12. PH stated that SG1 will contribute to CoRWM's discussion of the issues surrounding the safety case.



*b) SG 2 GDF Geology and Delivery*

13. MK discussed the SG2 workstreams.
14. MK provided an update regarding the status of the Inshore GDF position paper and the contributions to the paper by the wider CoRWM.
15. MK discussed the review of deep borehole disposal and the plans for publishing a technical summary note.
16. MK discussed the visit to Sellafield and how they were able to view different types of package forms.

*c) SG 3 Planning and Regulation*

17. Ray Kemp (RK) discussed the cross-interest nature of the work CoRWM involves itself in.
18. RK outlined SG3's various meetings with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), Nuleaf, the Environment Agency (EA) and a number of internal SG3 meetings. RK stated there are plans for a meeting with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).
19. RK discussed SG3's consideration of regulatory questions posed by an Underground Research Laboratory / Rock Characterisation Facility (URL/RCF), and what is required to move the GDF programme forward.
20. RK discussed the helpful comments received by regulators and others on the Draft Inshore Paper and confirmed the intention to produce a shorter paper on Inshore as well as accompanying explanatory/presentational material.
21. RK finally stated the SG3 are considering NDA's governance arrangements and reorganisation in relation to nuclear site licences.

*d) SG 4 Scottish Government Activities*

22. NT stated that there has been no activity, with a member joining SG4 in the New Year.

*e) SG 5 Welsh Government Activities*

23. Gerry Thomas (GT) discussed the Welsh Government's focus on the post Brexit framework.
24. GT stated the Welsh Government has been monitoring development of Fusion, SMRs and AMRs.

*f) SG 6 Storage of Waste, Spent Fuel, and Materials*

25. Derek Lacey (DL) stated SG6's interest in interim storage and management of waste. He reported the recent visits to Sellafield and NNL, noting the scale of the decommissioning task, plans for future stores and research done by the NNL.



26. SG6 updated attendees on the work done on:
- a. Monitoring of Magnox reprocessing: CoRWM continues to receive updates and recognises the work done by NDA and Sellafield to ensure that remaining fuel can be safely managed.
  - b. Uranics Options: CoRWM has reviewed the inventory of Uranium and the Post-closure safety case. The work will continue into 2022 and CoRWM will look to publish a position paper.
  - c. Fusion and potential radioactive waste thereof: DL discussed the differences in radioactive waste from Fission and Fusion.
  - d. SMR/AMR technology: DL commented on the growing interest in this area.

**Agenda item 5. Speaker: Professor Mike Fairweather (University of Leeds)- [“Overview of the work of the TRANSCEND consortium talk”](#)**

27. Mike Fairweather (MF) introduced himself and the work done on TRANSCEND (Transformative Science and Engineering for Nuclear Decommissioning) and focused his talk on:
- a. The background and objectives of the organisation
  - b. Various research areas and research theme projects underway
  - c. Cross cutting activities and work of the impact committee
  - d. The management hierarchy at TRANSCEND
  - e. The International Advisory Group and its current member organisations
  - f. Outreach programmes, stakeholder and public engagement
  - g. Work done on Integrated Waste Management, Site Decommissioning and Remediation, Spent Fuels and Nuclear Materials
  - h. Facilities and the Active Research Fund
  - i. BEIS Secondments
  - j. The Future of TRANSCEND and need for future funding
28. ST, MF, CC and NH referred to the research success slide and discussed glass ceramics and how they can be affected by Pu or by a Pu surrogate.
29. CC and MF discussed where the driver for future funding of TRANSCEND comes from.
30. NT questioned the current state of GDF related research. NH stated that there is a coordinated effort under NDA contracts with the University of Sheffield and Manchester, significant work under Euratom looking at predisposal management of radioactive wastes, as well a number of grants in this area.
31. NT stated that CoRWM should discuss ways to support MF and TRANSCEND.

**Agenda item 6. Questions from the public**

32. David Brazier (DB) questioned the lack of individuals representing communities in this meeting and engaging with CoRWM. NT, PH and MF discussed how to get more people engaged.



33. CC and MF discussed the career paths of young researchers following TRANSCEND.
34. DL discussed the difference in policy on the disposal of radioactive waste between Scotland as opposed to England and Wales.
35. NT, MG and CC mentioned that CoRWM advertises the plenaries and publications on CoRWM website and signpost them on CoRWM Twitter.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management>

#### **Agenda Item 7. Any other Business**

36. The next Open Plenary will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 in London (TBC)