



## Special Open Plenary Agenda – 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Timing:** 10.00 - 11.00  
**Chair:** Nigel Thrift (CoRWM Chair)  
**Members:** Claire Corkhill, Penny Harvey, Ray Kemp, Mark Kirkbride, Derek Lacey, Geraldine Thomas, Stephen Tromans, Clare Bond, Catherine Mackenzie, Simon Webb

**CoRWM Secretariat**

**BEIS:** Anastasia Aidoo and Shubhnit Seera

**Guest**

**Speakers:** Benoît Jacques (CLIS) and Claire Mayes (*Institut Symlog de France*)

**Attendees:** Catherine Draper (Nuleaf), David Moore, Karen Agnew (NWS), Kelly Anderson (NWS), Bethany Rance, David Brazier (EA), Anne Broome (NDA), Matthew Buckley (NDA), Andy Pratt, Claire Dobson (NDA), Chloe Gamble (NDA), Pete Gorman (BEIS), Phil Green (NWS), Liz James (Arvato), Harold John Mark Evans (Arvato), Annabelle Lillycrop (NDA), Mary Bradley, Eileen McKeever (NWS), Gillian Thorne (NDA), Dawn Walker (NDA)

### Agenda:

<b>1. Meeting open, welcome and introductory comments (Chair)</b>	10.00
<b>2. Presentation</b>	10.05
<b>Speaker: M. Benoît Jacquet - Local involvement in a geological disposal decision-making process – insights from France</b>	
<b>3. Question and Answer session</b>	10.20
<b>4. Summary (Ray Kemp)</b>	10.50
<b>5. Thank you</b>	11.00
<b><u>Close of meeting</u></b>	<b><u>11:00</u></b>

Here is a [link to the CLIS de Bure website](#) for those who can read French.



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

1. Nigel Thrift (NT) welcomed attendees to this meeting, and thanked Benoît Jacques (BJ), General Secretary for the *Comité Local d'Information et de Suivi du Laboratoire de Bure* (CLIS), and Claire Mayes (CM), Co-founder and Executive Director of *Institut Symlog de France*, for joining.
2. NT explained how CLIS collects information from Andra (the French National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management) and the National Safety Authority (NSA) and any other organisation involved in the development for a GDF, making it understandable and available to the general public, with CLIS remaining neutral in the process.

### Agenda item 2., Presentation

3. BJ presented on the "[Local involvement in a geological disposal decision-making process – insights from France](#)".
4. CM provided an overview in how CLIS' role in networking with French organisations is used to empower the communities and develop societal confidence.

### Agenda item 3. Question and Answer session

On retrievability:

5. Attendees discussed the complexities of the implementation of retrievability, with David Moore (DM) commenting on the current position with developers and communities having different views on this over the past 30 years.
6. CM referred to a series of white papers developed by the *Association Nationale des Comités et Commissions Locales d'Information* (ANNCLI) with *Livre Blanc n° 4 - Les enjeux de la réversibilité et de la récupérabilité liés au projet de stockage profond Cigéo* on retrievability and reversibility.

The collection of white papers are found here: <https://www.anccli.org/les-livres-blancs/>

7. Ray Kemp (RK) outlined the position of the UK regulator
8. BJ explained the position of the regulator in France, stating:
  - a. How the National Safety Authority works with the *Institut de radioprotection et de sûreté nucléaire* (ISRN) to explore retrievability.
  - b. That current thinking in France suggests retrievability contradicts the passive safety concept. Debates on this matter will likely continue over the coming years. In summary, the concept of reversibility in France has been



dropped. Emplaced containers may be retrieved during the operational phase, but not after closure.

On Community Self-Empowerment & Competence:

9. BJ discussed how community thinking has evolved since 1994, with local people able to imagine the effects this project will have on their daily lives following proposals on locations and transport methods in 2008, prompting them to become more involved in the process.
10. Roy Payne (RP) asked for advice surrounding:
  - a. Concerns from communities on their competency and capacity to fully participate in the process
  - b. Concerns that their views are disregarded no matter the competency

BJ described how CLIS facilitated training on complex topics (such as geology, engineering, etc.), organised numerous site visits and utilised subject matter experts within different working groups. CM commented on the role of ISRN, a neutral party providing necessary technical expertise as a public expert. CM and NT discussed how CoRWM could perhaps fulfil that role in the UK.

11. Penny Harvey (PH) asked how self-empowerment in communities can be supported. CM highlighted the collective nature of the research, commenting on the role of ANCCLI. BJ stated the ANCCLI is funded through the NSA, with CLIS funded by 50% from state and 50% from waste producers and that the CLIS members are volunteers. BJ stressed the importance of the relationships with numerous bodies, with the NSA and particularly with ISRN nationally, as well as CLIS being involved in the Community Waste Management (COWAM) experience and the Sustainable network for Independent Technical Expertise on radioactive waste management (SITEX) - which is a network providing information from other countries. BJ discussed further involvement with the *Commission d'Orientation du PNGMDR (Plan National de Gestion des Matières et Déchets Radioactifs)*, which includes CLIS, IRSN, ANDRA, waste producers, and national associations such as Greenpeace, Global chance, FNE or ANCCLI, providing advice to the *Direction générale Energie et Climat (DGEC) du ministère de la transition écologique*.

#### **Agenda item 4., Summary and Agenda item 5., Thanks**

12. RK thanked BJ and CM for joining, and commented on:
  - a. The difficulties for high technology industries engaging effectively with local communities
  - b. The benefits of an independent voice on technical issues which local communities can rely on



- c. The importance of supporting communities through this demanding process, through investment and ensuring their voices are heard

RK suggested there was benefit in further discussions with BJ and CM with CoRWM in due course.

- 13. NT echoed the thanks to BJ and CM, and wanted to remind attendees that CoRWM provide independent and technical advice and encouraged communities to contact CoRWM when needed.
- 14. BJ thanked CM and welcomed any questions which can be sent to him at [bj@clis-bure.fr](mailto:bj@clis-bure.fr).