

Geological Disposal Steering Group
14:00 – 16:00, Tuesday 18 February 2014
55 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AW

Attendees

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
HM Treasury (HMT)
Ministry of Defence (MoD)
Welsh Government
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD)

Minutes and actions from last meeting

1. The minutes of the 19 December 2013 meeting were agreed and will be published on the DECC website. All actions were either complete or in hand.

Programme Highlight Report

2. DECC reported that it is on track towards publication of the summary of consultation responses and towards delivery of the White Paper in summer 2014.
3. Ministerial clearance has been given for RWMD to be a Wholly Owned Subsidiary of the NDA from 1 April alongside the clarification of governance arrangements. The group agreed that establishing the Wholly Owned Subsidiary shows momentum and as we move towards policy implementation.
4. The benefits of creating Wholly Owned Subsidiary (of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) status for RWMD were outlined. These included the ability of RWMD to hold regulatory permissions which brings their activities as the site developer under the purview of the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency.
5. DECC reported that in the preceding week the 2013 Radioactive Waste Inventory has been published. MoD had also published a list of sites for interim storage of nuclear submarines.

Stakeholder Engagement Work Package

6. The Group discussed key strategic aspects of this work going forward, including: how to involve relevant colleagues in the development of the communications and engagement plans; how to communicate the launch of the siting process White Paper; and the general longer term approach towards raising awareness and engaging communities.

Governance Arrangements

7. The Group agreed to the creation of a formal programme board – the Geological Disposal Programme Board (GDPB) - to be chaired by the Chief Executive of the Office for Nuclear Development as the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), which will replace the Geological Disposal Steering Group from 20 March 2014.

Draft Terms of Reference were tabled at the meeting and comments invited from the Group. Once the Terms of Reference have been agreed (following the next meeting on 20 March) they will be published on the .gov.uk website.

Action 1: GDSG members to provide comments on draft Terms of Reference.

8. The Group also agreed that the membership of the GDPB should include all current members of the GDSG with the addition of representation from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and be reviewed at a later stage. The new governance arrangements would allow Government to make relevant decisions on all aspects of policy and on key issues during the early phase of delivery. It was agreed that governance arrangements should be reviewed annually.

Action 2: DCLG to be invited to participate as a member of the GDBP

Siting Policy Update

9. DECC provided an update outlining work that is being undertaken in relation to the siting policy review. All individual responses to the consultation would be published. DECC proposed that personal contact details should be redacted in line with best practice, which was agreed by the Group. Alongside responses, there will be a summary highlighting the key themes raised by respondents. There will also be a high level report on the public and stakeholder events that supported the consultation.

Meetings scheduled for 2014

- 20 March
- 13 May
- 15 July
- 10 September
- 11 November

