

**CORWM WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE END OF QUARTER TWO 2015-16****Secretariat**

1. This is a report of the Committee's delivery against the CoRWM 2015-18 Work Programme (CoRWM doc. 3198) at the end of quarter two of the financial year 2015-16.

***Summary of CoRWM's Activities During Quarter Two 2015-16***

2. The majority of the Committee's time during the period from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 was spent providing advice to DECC on the Work Packages arising from the White Paper "Implementing Geological Disposal". This was done through meetings, correspondence and wider discussions with DECC officials, stakeholders, and other radioactive waste management organisations.
3. In addition CoRWM provided advice to both Welsh and Scottish Governments, held one open plenary meeting of the Committee in Edinburgh, and attended a number of meetings to discuss issues to inform CoRWM's scrutiny role.
4. The key meetings are summarised below:

- i. Chair with the Chief Executive of Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM)*

RWM's response to the CoRWM Triennial Review consultation was discussed, along with: the licensing and regulation of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), "Letters of Compliance" and waste acceptance criteria, storage strategy, the need for 3 rock-type specific generic Safety Cases and the emerging findings of the triennial review.. The CE invited CoRWM to visit RWM at Harwell for an update on Safety Case work and on RWM organisational development.

- ii. Committee meeting with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)*

SEPA informed CoRWM that its Project Board is now disbanded. Discussions were held on Scotland's decision to have near surface disposal for high activity waste (HAW). CoRWM noted that it had been informed that 70% of the waste would not be suitable for near surface disposal. Other issues discussed centred around proportion of resources in SEPA dedicated to issues around radioactive waste, and its ability to cope when the near surface disposal policy is implemented. Succession planning was also discussed and its role in ensuring knowledge is retained within the organisation

iii. Triennial Review Meeting

The Chair of CoRWM (Laurence Williams) met with the Triennial Review Board to discuss the ongoing Triennial Review of the Committee. There was support for the Committee to retain its current makeup of a Chair and 11 members. He was informed that funding of the Committee and hence the number of working days allocated to members to deliver the work for the Committee would be conditional on the outcome of the Government's Spending Review that would be available in November.

iv. Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF)

On 30<sup>th</sup> September CoRWM observed a NuLeAF Seminar on Radioactive Waste Management: Making Communities Heard, which dealt with NDA Strategy III, and the GDF Siting Process. CoRWM felt that a more diverse range of NuLeAF members should be encouraged to attend. Aspects of the GDF siting process were discussed, including the possibilities for community benefits.

5. Progress against each of CoRWM's tasks as set out in the 2015-16 Work Programme (CoRWM doc. 3198) is detailed below.

***Task 1 – GDF Siting Policy: To provide advice to DECC on the Work Packages arising from the White Paper “Implementing Geological Disposal”.***

***Task 1a: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 1 – National Geological Screening.***

6. The National Geological Screening Guidance Consultation by RWM started on 8<sup>th</sup> September and is intended to run until 4<sup>th</sup> December. Public consultation workshops for the screening guidance will be held in October and CoRWM members intend to attend to observe and provide feedback on these.

***Task 1b: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 2 – Working with Communities.***

7. CoRWM observed two meetings of the Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> September. CoRWM has advised DECC that the information available to the public via the website is somewhat limited. The Group aims to define what a community is, community representation and the benefits available to that community within the GDF siting process. CoRWM has indicated to DECC that using as open and inclusive a process as possible, including placing more information on the website, could lead to potentially greater support when CRWG reports its findings to DECC.

**Task 1c: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 3 – Developing Land Use Planning Processes.**

8. CoRWM did not undertake any work on this task in Quarter 2.

**Task 1d: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 4 – Developer and Lead Communications and Engagement.**

9. CoRWM did not undertake any work on this task in Quarter 2.

**Task 1e: Provide advice to DECC on Work Package 5 – Regulation (Providing ONR with the legal vires to licence a GDF).**

10. CoRWM continued to monitor developments in DECC/ONR/EA in relation to the development of a licensing framework for a GDF.

***Task 2 – Welsh Policy: To provide advice to the Welsh Government on its Review of Radioactive Waste Policy in respect of HAW.***

**Task 2a: Provide advice to Welsh Government on its proposals.**

11. CoRWM published its response to the Welsh Government's consultation "Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste: Community Engagement and Implementation Processes" (CoRWM doc. 3235). CoRWM welcomes the Welsh policy and agrees that possible volunteer communities in any of England, Wales or Northern Ireland should be treated equally. CoRWM advised that any arrangements for implementation and community engagement should be prepared on the basis that a Welsh community is as likely to volunteer as an English one.

12. It is planned that CoRWM will meet with Welsh Government in October.

**Task 2b: Scrutinise Welsh Government Consultation and its analysis to inform changes to policy.**

13. CoRWM did not undertake any work on this task for Quarter 2.

***Task 3 – Scottish Government: Review the arrangements for implementing the Scottish Government Policy for managing higher activity radioactive waste.***

**Task 3a: Input to and review the process for developing a Strategy for implementing the Scottish Government Policy for managing higher activity radioactive waste.**

14. CoRWM published its response to Scottish Government's "Consultation on an Implementation Strategy for Scotland's Policy on Higher Activity Radioactive Waste" on

4<sup>th</sup> August (CoRWM doc. 3220). The Scottish Government's policy formulated in 2011, is that the long-term management of HAW will be on the basis of near site, near-surface facilities. There is no prescriptive definition of near site other than as near to the site where waste was produced as practicable. Scottish Government do not support geological disposal. This consultation was about implementing the 2011 policy, and a policy review is some years away in 2021.

***Task 3b: Monitor the management of higher activity radioactive waste in Scotland.***

15. CoRWM observed the Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSLRL) noted they were awaiting the Scottish Government's publication of their Implementation Strategy before taking further action regarding their ILW.

***Task 4 – Interim Surface Storage: Review of the current status of interim storage of radioactive waste, spent fuel and other nuclear materials in the UK and the implications for the GDF.***

***Task 4a: Review the current status of interim storage of radioactive waste, spent fuel and nuclear materials in the UK.***

16. CoRWM did not undertake any work on this task for Quarter 2.

***Task 4b: Review plans for retrieval of wastes from legacy ponds and silos at Sellafield.***

17. CoRWM did not undertake any work on this task for Quarter 2.

***Task 5 – Safety Case Development: Review the RWM programme for the development of the 3 generic safety cases and their plans for the transition to site-specific safety cases.***

***Task 5a: Provide advice to DECC on the RWM Generic GDF Safety Case approach.***

18. CoRWM continued to monitor RWM's safety case development activities.

***Task 5b: Produce a clear and consistent understanding of the terminology used for safety cases.***

19. CoRWM did not undertake any work in this area during Quarter 2.

***Task 6 – CoRWM Outreach: Provide effective engagement with the public and other stakeholders to raise the profiles of CoRWM and help inspire confidence in its work.***

**Task 6a: Representation of CoRWM at external events and conferences, issue of e-bulletins, and maintain the website.**

20. CoRWM attended an international radioactive waste management conference in Finland focussed on Regulatory Frameworks. There were a number of presentations and workshops related to gaining an understanding of the approach to GDF licensing overseas. A number of points were very relevant to the UK. It was useful to note that each country had a unique regulatory structure meaning no universal approach to regulating a GDF is expected to be adopted.