

This note is in addition to the comments at para 4.5, Item 8, Update on NDA Strategy and Operations.

IWM TOG MEETING, 12 DECEMBER 2013

The IWM TOG met on 12 December and was attended by representatives from NDA, DECC, Scottish Government, ONR, EA and SEPA. Richard Griffin (Cumbria County Council) attended on behalf of NuLeAF and a summary of the main points from the day is below.

RWMD Update

- The main piece of work currently underway was the “Boundary Waste Study”, which was looking at four tasks related to the boundary between LLW and ILW. The four tasks are to assess the value of size and volume reduction of packaging; to look at the use of reagents in waste management; to review disposal containers; and the use of polymers as an ILW encapsulant.
- Going forward, RWMD’s focus for 2014/15 would be to consider the value of a centralised ILW “finishing” facility; to look at the optimised management of radioactive sources as waste; and to prepare to become a site licence company of the NDA and a “supplier” of services to the industry.
- RWMD only had a budget for this work until the end of the 2014/15 financial year, so another key task would be to prepare a business case to secure funding beyond that point.

MoD Update

- The MoD representative was unable to attend, but had spoken to the Chairman who reported that the MoD were imminently going to announce a shortlist of sites where ILW from the submarine dismantling project might be stored. The list would include two NDA sites, two MoD sites and one from the private sector, but not date for the announcement was specified.

UK Radioactive Waste Inventory (UKRWI)

- The 2013 inventory is due to be published in January 2014 and it will be available on a new, more accessible, website. NDA admitted there was still some way to go before the website could produce all of the different reports that stakeholders required, but they felt the new website was a huge step forward and encouraged everyone to keep an eye out for the launch of the updated RWI.
- NDA would be creating a “National Inventory Forum” to enable the waste producers to share experience and good practice. Although aimed at the waste producers, there may be opportunities for the wider

stakeholder community to feed in views and/or participate in specific projects relating to the RWI.

Thermal Treatment

- Galson Sciences gave a presentation (on behalf of themselves, the National Nuclear Laboratory and the University of Sheffield) on their work to develop a strategic business case for a thermal treatment demonstration facility. This was just an update as the work is still in progress and due for completion in February 2014.
- The project relates to a commitment in the NDA Strategy and was highlighted in a credible options paper published in February 2013 and was considering four options – (1) NDA withdraws (not considered to be credible as it is inconsistent with NDA strategic position); (2) NDA supports SLCs work in this area (the current position); (3) NDA supports a demonstration facility for NDA waste; and (4) NDA supports a demonstration facility for UK waste. The business case is due for completion by 14 February and it will then be presented to the NDA Executive and DECC before decisions are taken on next steps.

Co-location

NDA reminded everyone that there was still time (until 31 January 2014) to comment on their preferred option.

Richard Griffin
10 January 2014