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| Meeting: | NuLeAF Steering Group, 7 September 2016 |
| Agenda Item: | 4 |
| Subject: | Update on the GDF siting process |
| Author: | Philip Matthews |
| Purpose: | To report on recent developments related to the Geological Disposal Facility |

Introduction:

This report provides an update on recent developments related to the process for identifying a Geological Disposal Facility. It covers:

- NuLeAF/RWM event at Local Government Association (LGA) conference;
- RWM stakeholder engagement; and
- CoRWM update.

Recommendation:

This report is for noting.

Background information

The Call for Evidence can be found on the DECC website¹, as can information on the Communities Representation Working Group².

You can read more about the national geological screening exercise on RWM's website³ and find out about the Independent Review Panel on that of the Geological Society (see page 3, footnote 3).

1. NuLeAF/RWM event at Local Government Association (LGA) conference

In partnership with RWM, NuLeAF hosted a fringe event at this years' Local Government Association (LGA) conference in Bournemouth, entitled '**Local benefits of hosting major infrastructure projects – myth or fact**'.

The event was chaired by Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman of Crossrail 2 Growth Commission and former Chairman of the Local Government Association, and featured presentations from senior managers drawn from five organisations with a variety of perspectives and expertise in infrastructure development. There was a good turnout and presentations were followed by a useful

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-geological-disposal-working-with-communities>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/implementing-geological-disposal-community-representation-working-group>

³ <http://www.nda.gov.uk/rwm/national-geological-screening/>

discussion on the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) and wider issues for local authorities in delivering the maximum benefits from such large scale investments.

It is planned to hold another event at the 2017 LGA conference.

2. RWM Stakeholder engagement

Consultations on the community and land use planning aspects of the GDF siting process are expected to be launched in the coming weeks and NuLeAF will notify members as and when more information is available. RWM is also continuing to develop the information materials on geology that it intends to make available to communities. An early draft of these was tested at the last meeting of NuLeAF's Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG) and it is intended that RWM will run another engagement workshop on this issue at the next RWPG in October 2016.

As RWM prepares for the launch of the GDF siting process in summer 2017, the organisation is keen to involve NuLeAF as an advisor, ensuring it is geared up for the launch and that its workings are as effective as possible.

NuLeAF's Executive Director will be participating in RWM's 'organisational readiness review' in Oxfordshire on the 3rd and 4th October. This will advise the organisation of the preparations, internal and external, that will be required to engage communities and local authorities in the GDF siting process. In addition, NuLeAF's Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director will be attending RWM's annual stakeholder meeting in Manchester on the 13rd and 14th October.

NuLeAF has been invited to take part in a meeting with RWM and organisations representing District, Unitary and Parish Councils to discuss the siting process. The date for this is expected to be finalised shortly and the outcomes will be reported back to members at the next Steering Group meeting.

Finally, NuLeAF will continue regular update meetings with RWM and DECC and to take part in RWM's Stakeholder Action Group.

3. Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) Update

The new members of CoRWM have been announced. The Government had identified local government expertise as something they were seeking, but it does not appear that any of the members brings significant experience of working in or with local government⁴. NuLeAF has written to the Chair of CoRWM, Prof. Laurence Williams, to highlight the need to ensure that CoRWM takes on board the perspectives of NuLeAF and local government.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-board-members-appointed-to-corwm>

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