

ITEM 5: UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS

Report to RWPG, 24th January 2017

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

- Welsh GDF process
- NuLeAF meeting with CoRWM
- Consultation on the GDF framework

Introduction

The Government White Paper – **Implementing Geological Disposal: A Framework for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste** – was published on 24th July 2014. It proposed a range of activities to be taken forward between 2014 and 2017 to set the framework for the GDF site selection process. This paper provides an update on progress with these activities over recent months.

1. Welsh GDF Process

NuLeAF's Executive Director attended a Welsh National Stakeholder event on the GDF siting process, held in Cardiff on January 6th 2017. While the Welsh Government is not actively seeking to host a GDF in Wales, they have committed to supporting any Welsh community which is interested in being considered as a possible location for the repository. The workshop was attended by representatives of local and national government in Wales, along with regulators, enterprise bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), including those opposed to nuclear power.

The meeting was intended to inform a planned consultation on the GDF siting process in Wales. This consultation is likely to be undertaken roughly in parallel to the BEIS consultation, but will be a distinct process reflecting the unique characteristics of a siting process in Wales, including the different planning and local government systems and the Welsh language. NuLeAF will respond to the Welsh consultation and is likely to participate in future engagement events in Wales.

2. Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) meeting

NuLeAF's Executive Director was invited to address CoRWM at their meeting on the 12th January. CoRWM is tasked with providing independent advice to the UK and

devolved governments on the management of Higher Activity radioactive wastes (HAW).

There have been significant changes in the membership of the Committee in recent months and so it was felt opportune to discuss both the general role of NuLeAF and also how local government can best be engaged within the GDF siting process. Following this positive meeting, CoRWM has indicated that they would be interested in attending a NuLeAF meeting later in 2017.

3. Consultations on the GDF framework

Consultations on the community and land use planning aspects of the GDF siting process are planned. The latest indications are that the consultations will begin in spring 2017. 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. A website is in development, with background information and access to the materials produced for the Geological Screening Exercise. NuLeAF staff have been given sight of this and have fed back comments to RWM. Two members of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group also provided their comments.