

6Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 15 March 2017
Agenda Item:	6
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:

- Welsh GDF process
- Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) meeting
- Staff changes at RWM; and
- Consultation on the GDF framework

Recommendation:

This report is for noting.

Background information

The White Paper – Implementing Geological Disposal is available on the website of the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy¹.

You can read more about the national geological screening exercise on RWM's website².

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

1

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/332890/GDF_White_Paper_FINAL.pdf

² <http://www.nda.gov.uk/rwm/national-geological-screening/>

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. Staff changes at RWM

As it gears up for the launch of the GDF siting process, Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) Ltd. has recruited a number of new staff, most particularly around stakeholder engagement and communications.

An organogram of RWM's organisational structure is provided in Appendix 1. Given the restrictions of the nuclear industry, it is not RWM's policy to publically release the names of staff below Director level. However, NuLeAF can advise individual local authorities on other specific contacts as required.

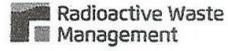
4. Consultations on the GDF framework

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 late spring 2017. NuLeAF will notify members as and when more information is available.

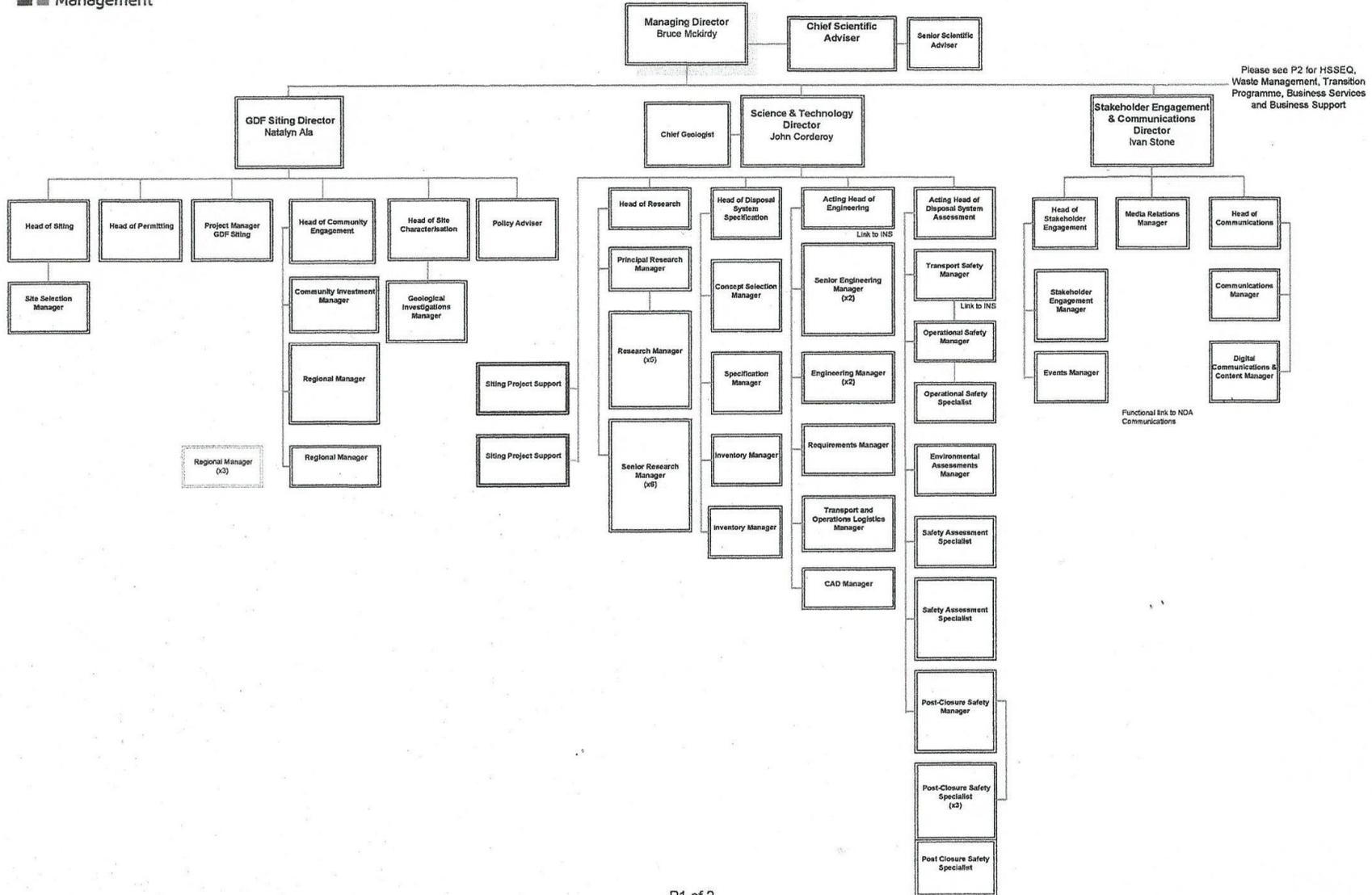
NuLeAF is engaging with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the County Council and District Council Networks to develop new ways of alerting local authorities ahead of the launch of the consultations. NuLeAF is also in discussions with BEIS and RWM regarding the scope for hosting an event on the GDF consultations at this year's LGA conference.

Given that the consultations are being launched later than anticipated, it is now likely that the siting process will not be officially launched until early 2018.

Appendix 1: RWM organisational chart



Radioactive Waste Management Limited Organisation Structure – 01 February 2017



Please see P2 for HSSEQ, Waste Management, Transition Programme, Business Services and Business Support

Functional link to NDA Communications

Please see P1 GDF Siting, Transition Programme, Science & Technology, Stakeholder Engagement & Communications

