

ITEM 3: UPDATE ON GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY SITING PROCESS

Report to RWPG, April 26th 2017

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

- Consultation on the GDF framework
- Feedback on geological information

1. 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.

2. Consultations on the GDF framework

Two consultations, one on the community and one on land use planning/NSIP aspects of the GDF siting process will be launched later this year. Prior to the announcement of a snap general election, launch had been expected in late May or early June. We hope to be able to provide a verbal update on the timetable at the meeting.

A draft response to the consultations will be prepared and circulated to members for feedback, and discussed at either or both the next Steering Group or RWPG meeting.

NuLeAF is engaging with the Local Government Association (LGA) and associated bodies to help raise awareness of the consultations to as wide a local authority audience as possible. NuLeAF's Director met with BEIS and the County Council Network to discuss the GDF on the 7th April; and a meeting with the District Council Network is planned for the 10th May.

In addition, NuLeAF's Director held a phone meeting with Rupert Clubb, the President of ADEPT (Association of Director of Environment, Economy, Planning and

Transportation) and it has been agreed to hold regular meetings in the coming months.

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

3. Feedback on geological materials

RWM is also developing information materials on geology, to be made available to communities. NuLeAF members have provided feedback on initial drafts of these materials, and RWM will attend the RWPG to present and discuss the latest iterations of these.