

Meeting:	NuLeAF Steering Group, 11 th March 2020
Agenda Item:	6
Subject:	Update on the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process
Author:	Philip Matthews
Purpose:	To report on recent developments related to the proposed Geological Disposal Facility

Introduction:

This report provides an update on recent developments related to the process for identifying a Geological Disposal Facility and provides an update on activities at RWM.

Recommendation:

This paper is for noting.

Background information:

The UK Government's policy on **Working with Communities – implementing geological disposal** was published in December 2018¹, with the equivalent policy for Wales published in January 2019². The **National Policy Statement**, governing the planning aspects of the GDF in England, was published in July 2019³.

1. RWM Update

3.1 In February, RWM launched a tendering process to provide '*Specialist advice and support for RWM's engagement with local authorities on matters involving disposal of higher activity radioactive waste*'. This contract covers a range of services similar to those provided in the current and previous years by NuLeAF. NuLeAF has submitted a tender and an update on the status of this process will be provided to members at the meeting.

3.2 RWM's final **Site Evaluation** document⁴ for England has been published. RWM will deliver a presentation on the proposed approach to this Steering Group and be able to respond to any questions that members have.

3.3 The **GDF Programme Business Case** for RWM's work on Community Engagement and Site Evaluation has been approved by Treasury. This

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-geological-disposal-working-with-communities-long-term-management-of-higher-activity-radioactive-waste>

² <https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/190116-geological-disposal-of-higher-activity-radioactive-waste-working-with-communities-en.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-geological-disposal-infrastructure>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/site-evaluation-how-we-will-evaluate-sites-in-england>

process began in 2017 with the development of an 'outline' business case which supported the launch of the siting process, but specifically excluded permission for Community Investment Funding, a vital element of the overall project. Having cleared this final hurdle, RWM now has the greenlight to proceed with Community Investment Funding.

3.4 NuLeAF's Chair and Executive Director have been invited to meet the new RWM Chief Executive, Karen Wheeler, on the 16th March. A full report will be provided to the next Steering Group meeting in June.

3.5 RWM attended the District Council Network (DCN) conference in Kenilworth on the 6th and 7th February as part of their wider work to raise awareness of the GDF across local government.