

# Talk for NuLeAF

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**Committee on Radioactive Waste  
Management (CoRWM)**

The logo for the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). It consists of the acronym 'CORWM' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark blue rounded rectangle. This rectangle is itself centered within a larger white circle that has a dark blue outline. The entire graphic is positioned on the right side of the slide, overlapping a vertical blue bar that runs down the right edge of the page.

**CORWM**

A solid blue rounded rectangle located at the bottom right of the slide. It contains a URL in a small, white, sans-serif font.

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management)

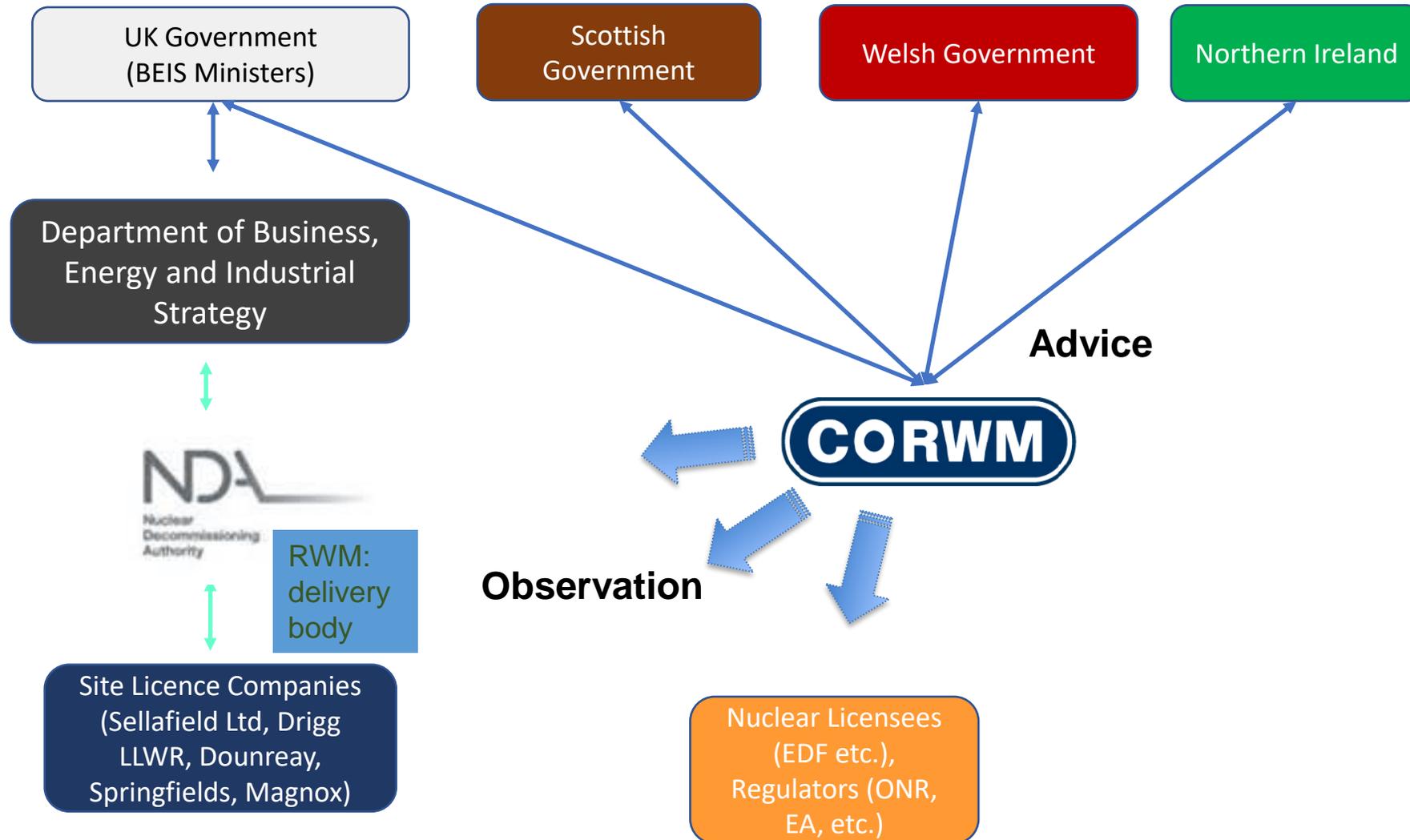
# Talk for NuLeAF

- An overview of CoRWM: remit and ways of working
- Current and future work programme
- The GDF siting process, potential barriers to progress and opportunities
- The role of local authorities and engagement with communities
- Comment on international good practice

# What is CoRWM?

- **An Advisory Committee to the UK Government and the three devolved administrations, consisting of 12 highly experienced members.**
- **‘Its purpose is to provide **independent** advice ... based on scrutiny of the available evidence on the long-term management of radioactive waste, arising from civil and, where relevant, defence nuclear programmes, including storage and disposal... together with material that could potentially be included in the inventory for disposal in a geological disposal facility but has not yet been declared as waste ...This involves ... advice on scientific, technical, planning, legislative and regulatory issues relevant to radioactive waste management, including government policy and the NDA’s and RWM’s strategies, programmes and processes.’**
- **It’s remit includes ‘community and public engagement to promote the work of the committee and support its advice as it pertains to policy of the UK Government and Devolved Administrations.’**
- **Nearly every country has a similar ‘offshore’ body that gives independent and therefore trustworthy advice. **Instruments of public confidence.****

# Our main interactions



# Site Visits

- We regularly visit UK and international nuclear sites to observe waste management practices across all stages of the nuclear cycle to inform our advice.



# Seven Subgroups

- a) SG 1 Working with Communities (Penny Harvey)
- b) SG 2 GDF Geology and Delivery (Richard Shaw)
- c) SG 3 Planning and Regulation (Stephen Tromans)
- d) SG 4 Scottish Government Activities (Campbell Gemmell)
- e) SG 5 Welsh Government Activities (Gerry Thomas)
- f) SG 6 Storage of Waste, Spent Fuel, and Materials (Derek Lacey)
- g) SG 7 Task and Finish. Near Surface Disposal (Mark Kirkbride)

**Ways of working:** 4-5 Plenaries (closed and open) each year, meetings with BEIS and Minister, subgroup meetings (with RWM, NDA, Regulators, etc.), site visits.

Soon a new website! (Sheffield)

# Current Work Programme

- Government Review of Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Substance Policy
- Near Surface Disposal
- Innovation
- Regulation and Planning
- Community outreach
- GDF Costs
- NDA Strategy
- Plutonium and uranium
- Scottish Government Review

# Position Papers

1. Deep borehole disposal
2. Why geological disposal?
3. Retrievability considerations for geological disposal
4. Geological disposal of radioactive waste - safety requirements
5. Radioactive waste: support for disposal rather than indefinite storage
6. Selecting a geological disposal facility site based on the best geology
7. Transport considerations for radioactive materials
8. GDF Construction Costs
9. Near Surface Disposal
10. Innovation
11. Regulation
12. Communication Strategies

# Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

- Originally put forward by CoRWM in 2006
- Long history of start and stop!
- Now looks like it may hit the road
- CoRWM's role is to scrutinize work of NDA and RWM and advise government accordingly
- Also a role in giving disinterested advice to possible communities. Have already had a long session with Copeland

# Possible Problems with GDF

- Sheer length of time of process (political change)
- Local government reorganization (unitary authorities)
- Approach to communities needs to be inclusive but keep momentum
- Definition of a community
- Test of public support
- Planning and regulation (e.g. of near surface disposal)

# Role of Local Authorities in Getting to GDF

- Will be vital. All kinds of issues over planning and regulation (environmental impacts, planning permissions, etc.)
- Will inevitably become an important part of working groups/community partnerships
- Will have to decide what their 'community' is. (May not coincide with a local authority boundary)

# International Comparators

Numerous international comparators:

- Finland/Sweden. Participatory to a point. Moving on rapidly though Sweden still going through legal challenges.
- Canada. Participatory. Heavily participatory in both content and design. Collective organization of permanent negotiation at each stage. 'Open mindset'. Excellent model for liaising with minority groups as well.
- France. Participatory to a limited degree only. But introduced reversibility in 2016 in response to public pressure.
- Australia. Ray.
- United States. Hmm.

# Not a One Trick Pony

- CoRWM is not just about the Geological Disposal Facility.
- CoRWM is involved in many other issues: recently - recategorizing waste so that some can be put into NSD rather than GDF; what to do with plutonium/uranium (not waste currently); deep borehole disposal; technological change - Small Modular Reactors (2030s)
- Net zero carbon budget energy white paper and COP26 add to the pressure. Nuclear currently at c.19% of energy supply from 8 operational power stations. But c. 40% of low carbon energy.

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**Stephen Tromans: the work of  
Subgroup 3**

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**Andrew Walters: planning  
issues**

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**Ray Kemp: public participation  
and communication**