

Engagement Liaison Group

Meeting Report from 16 July 2008

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Summary

This report covers discussions during a meeting of the Engagement Liaison Group, 16 July 2008. The group brings together representatives from national organisations that sponsor national stakeholder engagement processes in the UK nuclear sector. The aim is to enable stakeholder engagement efforts to be better coordinated by sharing learning and event calendars.

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Contact: Telephone 020 8683 6833
Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement
7th Floor, Ambassador House, Brigstock Road
Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 7JG

Rhuari Bennett rhuari@3kq.co.uk

The Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement

The Convenor is an independent third party that engages stakeholders in the NDA's business of cleaning up the nuclear legacy. The Convenor is a contractor to the NDA and is a partnership between two organisations:



3KQ focuses on consultation, dialogue and conflict management, having particular strengths in designing, organising and facilitating meetings and workshops



Dialogue by Design focuses on using new technologies to engage stakeholders, for example via consultation over the internet

The NDA has a third party contractor as Convenor in order to bring skill, experience, capacity and independence to the engagement of stakeholders in the NDA's business.

1. Updates

Brief and informal email updates were provided by each organisation in advance of the meeting: these are copied below for ease of reference (originally sent out as document ref LG11). Clarifications were discussed in the meeting.

1.1 - CoRWM

CoRWM PSE working group has met a number of times in the last few months (notes of meetings will be available on the CoRWM website) and is in the process of developing a detailed work plan covering key activities for this financial year.

At the June Plenary, the Committee gave the Working Group approval to organise a workshop event in October, with some sort of follow-up event in Spring 2009. The October event will help the Committee assess the level of confidence in, and risks to, the *Managing radioactive waste safely* process (including R&D needs). Its purpose will be to expose CoRWM's thinking to public scrutiny, and specifically to get answers to individual proposals from working groups. Other Working Groups have issues for discussion including storage, R&D and funding; this will also allow for capturing opinions on CoRWM's work more generally. Timing is designed to fit with the Committee's work programme and other events. Participants will mainly be individual stakeholders, including people around nuclear sites, rather than corporate stakeholders (with whom CoRWM was already in contact, including via bilateral meetings) or the wider public (who might be the main component of the next event in February).

The working group is also developing proposals for scrutinising other organisations' engagement processes, initial criteria were agreed at the June plenary. The CoRWM website is in the process of being upgraded and should go live mid/end July.

CoRWM Chair has written to Local Authorities highlighting the Government invitation to express interest in entering discussions about hosting a repository. The letter has highlighted existence of CoRWM and offered advice if needed.

Future dates

- Plenaries 3-4 Nov, 17-18 Dec, 26-27 Jan, 17-18 Mar, 20-21 Apr, 8-9 Jun
- Workshop event possibly on 30 October (tbc)

1.2 - BERR

No update provided

1.3 - ISOLUS (Interim Storage Of Laid-Up Submarines)

ISOLUS Advisory Group (IAG)

- Educational Workshop held in Lancaster on 4th April 2008 which the IAG members found very useful.
- Meetings held in Lancaster on 4th April 2008 and Edinburgh on 18th June 2008. We had one public observer at each meeting.

MoD ISOLUS Steering Group (MISG)

- Committee Meeting held in Bristol on the 7 May 2008

Future Activity/Dates

- 11th September. IAG Meeting (Birmingham)
- 13th November. MISG Meeting (Harwell)
- 3rd December. IAG Meeting (Manchester)

Learning

- To request how other organisations find venues that are in line with disability legislation for example the Disability Discrimination Act.

1.4 - Scottish Government

Scottish Nuclear Sites Liaison Group meeting in March 2008

- informal meeting of 40 or so people from Regulators, Government, MoD, SSG's, British Energy etc.
- main focus at last meeting was on skills and socioeconomic development around nuclear sites
- greatly supported as useful forum by stakeholders, useful for informal networks and formal discussions
- stakeholders help set agenda at previous meeting
- agreement that SG will continue to host regular meetings (approx every 6 months)
- minutes will be on internet

SG Attendance at SSG meetings

- SG regularly attends SSG meetings at Scottish sites, Dounreay, Hunterston and Chapelcross and also the equivalent meetings operated at Torness and Rosyth. This is a valuable way to learn more about local issues at sites, meet the local bodies at sites and how others (such as Government and NDA) are perceived at a local level. Helps to put a face to 'Government'

SCCORS: Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances

- Hoping to relaunch in autumn 2008

Future Dates

- 30 Oct - next meeting of Scottish sites

Learning to share:

- value in allowing stakeholders to help set agenda for meetings- gives them ownership and makes them feel they can influence
- greatly improved relationships between Scottish stakeholders and Gov

1.5 - CIRIA

SAFEGROUNDS guidance is in the final stage. Consultation finished in April and the final draft is being prepared for steering group sign-off.

SD:SPUR, (deals with low level waste), reconvened in May, with a workshop to identify the issues stakeholders are facing.

Future Dates

SAFESPUR (contractors and suppliers) events, 23 September, radioactive v non-radioactive contaminants - tools and techniques show case.

1.6 - Environment Agency

No update provided

1.7 - SEPA

No update provided

1.8 - HSE/Nuclear Directorate

Leading from the top: Avoiding major incidents conference

- Held at QEII, London on 29 April 2008. Provided a forum for chief executives and industry leaders in the major hazards sector to discuss and share experiences on how top level commitment and leadership can make such a huge difference to securing the strong, positive health & safety cultures so important if major incidents are to be avoided.

Regulatory Nuclear Interface Protocol (RNIP)

- Signed on 29 April by 14 top managers from across the nuclear sector and is an agreement on ways of working which has arisen from a joint initiative between members of the Safety Directors Forum (SDF) and nuclear safety (and security) regulators (Nuclear Directorate, HSE and Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, DNSR). The protocol describes how the nuclear duty holders and regulators will work together in order to achieve their shared Vision Statement '*to enable the safe, secure, effective use and control of nuclear technology and material for the*

overall benefit of society. At the core of this agreement are the values and behaviours which underpin the delivery of this shared vision – they are built on many elements of signatory organisations existing frameworks and so reflect much existing good practice. Feedback will be collected after many dutyholder/regulator meetings and in respect of significant regulatory interventions. This will be reviewed at the 6-monthly strategic liaison meetings. A short video was produced to accompany the launch of the protocol.

Nuclear inspector recruitment

- NII requires additional resources to undertake the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) process (see GDA update below) and a large number of inspectors are expected to retire over the coming years. NII therefore needs to recruit about 35 new nuclear inspectors each year, over the next 3 years. We are currently looking at different ways to attract the target audience, including working with recruitment specialists with nuclear industry expertise and the possibility of producing a recruitment video. Interviews for the current campaign have just finished and a new campaign will begin in September/October, but CVs always welcomed.

Investors Conference

- The Department for Business (BERR) hosted a conference for senior nuclear energy executives and potential nuclear investors on 12 June. Secretary of State for Business, John Hutton presented the Government's action plan for enabling new nuclear, building on January's Nuclear White Paper. Mike Weightman (HM Chief Inspector of nuclear installations) gave a short presentation, to inform delegates that the regulators have formally started Step 3 of the GDA process (see GDA update below).

Procurement of technical support services to the Nuclear Directorate

- HSE is seeking to appoint a number of suppliers to a framework agreement for the provision of technical support to its Nuclear Directorate (ND). The support will be required to enable ND to complete their programme of work relating to the GDA process and the subsequent site specific licensing process for Nuclear New Build.

HSC and HSE merger

- As of April 2008, the Health and Safety Commission and Health and Safety Executive were merged into a single, unitary body, to be known as the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

HSE's Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee

- An open meeting was held on 3 July 2008.

ND's Nuclear Programme Strategy and Operating Plan 2008

- Published on the HSE website at: (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/jointprogramme.htm>) on 10 July. Comments welcome until the end of Sept. The strategy sets out ND's new visions, aims and objectives that collectively represent the strategies for delivering the ND mission to 'protect people and society from the hazards of the nuclear industry.' A programme of direct discussions and meetings with key stakeholders will be held throughout July, August and September 2008

Generic Design Assessment (GDA)

- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/index.htm>
In March 2008, HSE and the Environment Agency completed their initial assessment of four nuclear power station designs:
 - Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) ACR-1000
 - AREVA and Electricité de France's (EDF) UK EPR
 - GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy's (GEH) ESBWR
 - Westinghouse Electric Company's (WEC) AP1000

The regulators concluded that, after carrying out their initial assessments of these designs, they could see no shortfalls at this stage - in terms of safety, security or the environment - which would prevent any of the designs from ultimately being constructed on a licensed site in the UK. As part of moves towards greater openness and transparency, the regulators have published a series of reports on the initial assessment of the four designs.

Subsequently, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (AECL) announced that the company was withdrawing the ACR 1000 design from the GDA process, to allow the company to focus its marketing and licensing resources on the Canadian Market.

On 12 June 2008, HSE and the Environment Agency announced that they were starting the next, more detailed stage of the GDA process - referred to by HSE as Step 3 - for the remaining three designs, due to last 12 months. Confirmation letters to BERR from Mike Weightman and Joe McHugh are available via the website.

HSE and EA are also closely involved in the Government's (Defra's) **Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)** process and the implications of this will be taken into account in GDA assessments. The nature of the radioactive waste and spent fuel arising from new reactors is not fundamentally different from that arising from existing installations and we have seen no issues arising to date that pose a substantial problem to either process. The provision of a facility to take waste and spent fuel from new build reactors is part of the process being set up by

the MRWS White Paper and we aim to ensure through our involvement in both processes that all relevant factors are addressed.

On 21 May 2008, a fringe meeting on GDA was chaired by HSE and EA at the NDA stakeholder event in Edinburgh. At the event, a number of SSG chairs expressed an interest in the regulators addressing their groups on GDA.

A fringe event was also held at the **Local Government Authorities annual conference** (01 July 2008). The session entitled 'New Nuclear Power Stations - how the regulators are responding' described the GDA process and the efforts the regulators are making to ensure that the GDA is open and transparent. In a short discussion session afterwards, views were sought on how the regulators should engage with Local Authorities (key GDA stakeholders for the regulators) as the public interest in nuclear issues grows over the next few years.

On 12 June 2008, HSE/EA hosted a seminar on GDA in London designed for NGOs. The seminar was designed to achieve a greater understanding of the roles, responsibilities and positions of the parties attending on nuclear new build and GDA, to establish the main issues of interest, and how best to engage on those issues.

Future Dates

- HSE has begun informal engagement with stakeholders re: Licensing of Low Level Waste Facilities and clarification of the meaning of 'Bulk Quantities' in radioactive materials. Formal consultation expected early 2009 in order to develop a policy statement.
- GDA - At the end of step 2 HSE/EA carried out a review of the public involvement process looking at awareness levels on GDA and public involvement, and the effectiveness of arrangements made to allow the public to view design information on the web. A re-launch of the public involvement process is expected in October. Step 4 is due to start in summer 09 (dependant on when Step 3 begins) and is due to last approximately two years. During this time the EA will run a consultation (provisional date Oct 2009 - Feb 2010).

1.9 - Defra

What's happened?

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)

- Managing Radioactive Waste Safely white Paper "A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" published on 12 June 2008.

- Coupled with an invite to local authorities to 'express an interest' in opening discussions with Government about what hosting a facility might entail.
- Letters sent from Defra Secretary of State to all local authorities in England.
- In addition worked with Nuleaf to ensure there were LGA electronic alerts and articles in specialised LGA publications.
- Letters sent to all key stakeholders alerting them to the publication
- Dedicated information website launched – www.defra.gov.uk/mrws

Other

- 18 June 08 – UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges 2006-2030 consultation published. This is a revision of the first UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges 2001-2020, which the Government issued in 2002, and shows how the Government will continue to implement the OSPAR Strategy for radioactive substances. The scope of the revised strategy has been expanded to cover aerial (as well as liquid) discharges and all sources of discharges (not just the nuclear sectors).
- 18 June 08- Statutory Guidance to the Environment Agency on the regulation of radioactive discharges into the environment from nuclear licensed sites – consultation published. Statutory guidance provides the mechanism by which the objectives of the discharges strategy will be delivered.

What's happening?

MWRS

- Not proposing to hold events or target media in specific regions or areas of the country. Initially the aim will be to raise awareness within particular stakeholder groups, in particular local government. In contact with Nuleaf to identify opportunities.
- Engagement with local authorities and others where requested.

Other

- July 2008 - Publication of responses to the Shipments Directive (2006/117/EURATOM) consultation - new Regulations to replace an existing regulatory regime that currently covers radioactive waste shipments only. They will extend the scope of regulation to cover shipments of spent fuel that are sent for reprocessing. They also provide a clearer and more certain timetable for the authorisation procedure. Transposing legislation must be in place by 25 Dec 2008.
- October 2008 - Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP) phase II consultation (including proposals for staged regulation of solid radioactive waste disposal facilities)

- February 2009 – UK national Coordination Plan for Orphan Sources consultation to be published. Defra is leading for the UK in developing a plan to coordinate responses to orphan source incidents, in order to implement a provision of the HASS
- Early 2009 - Non Nuclear Industry Low Level Waste strategy consultation - Defra is currently gathering data on non-nuclear LLW arisings and treatment facilities with a view to consulting on a strategy in early 2009. Working closely with the NDA with regard the nuclear LLW strategy.

1.10 - NDA

National Stakeholder Group (21-22 May)

- 136 stakeholders attended over two days
- main focus was NDA's Strategy review and new Strategy Management System
- broadly supported as long as the Strategy review can include the plethora of issues raised by stakeholders in the meeting
- some stakeholders uncomfortable with number of breakout sessions and lack of opportunity to 'hold NDA to account' in plenary session
- NDA looking at how best to simultaneously meet the different needs of both the local and national representatives

Strategy Review

- mainly captured above but additional headlines include...
- aiming for public consultation and then publication end 2010
- individual Topic Strategies within the main Strategy will also be subject to a degree of stakeholder engagement

Value Framework / Annual Site Funding Levels

- project has been refocused on to the short term objective of developing the site funding levels
- this will act as a trial run for the fledgling Value Framework
- learning will be built into the longer term project

Interim Storage workshop

- anticipated to hold a stakeholder workshop around September
- will present the results of the initial study on Waste Stores, and allow input into the next stages of work

Revised NDA Guidance for SSGs

- revised Guidance has received good support from stakeholders including SSGs
- various comments received via surveys, workshops and meetings as well as via written submissions during consultation period (ended 30 June)

- will be finalized in July and then implemented over next 6 months
- site meetings being set up for NDA to discuss the detailed implications of the new Guidance for both secretariats and SSGs, as well as NDA Site Programme Managers

RWM Directorate

- proposed R+D Strategy for consultation now, deadline end Nov, and is hosting an R+D workshop in Oct to support this
- consulting on PSE and Comms Strategy soon, setting out framework for engagement around developing and implementing geological disposal facility: end July – Nov. Workshop in mid-October.
- Consultation on SEA and sustainability appraisal, probably to be issued mid-August. Formal consultation on site assessment methodology will follow once the SEA framework is published, but overlapping with the SEA consultation.
- Industry Day in mid-November. Aim is to manage expectations in the White Paper that there is a long timescale to the process before engineering contracts are let.

Future Dates

- 23 July+24 Sept: Reference Group
- Aug/Sep: Annual Site Funding Limits consultation (tbc)
- autumn, dates tbc: Business Plan 12-week consultation
- RWMD October workshop: SEA and PSE focus
- RWMD mid November workshop: on proposed R+D Strategy
- RWMD 'Industry Day': in Nov
- 5-6 Nov: NSG (including 4 Nov National SSG Forum meeting)
- 19 Nov: Liaison Group

Learning

- To share: there is a limit to how well it is possible to meet a diversity of stakeholder needs in one forum like the NSG
- To request: how do other organisations in the Liaison Group report back on the influence of stakeholder input?

2. Sharing Learning

2.1 Disability Legislation and Venues

- Legal onus is on the venue to accord to legislative requirements, although these are sometimes interpreted flexible with listed buildings
- Local Authorities have an 'access officer' who can give advice
- Worth asking what provisions a venue has to accommodate disabilities
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2.2 Letting Stakeholders build the agenda

- Good to give an explicit invitation to stakeholders to input to the agenda, for example at the NSG

- Stakeholders like to see this possibility even if they do not take the opportunity up every time

2.3 Demonstrating Influence

- Hard to strike a balance between demonstrating influence openly and resource intensiveness
- Options include:
 - Tabulate responses next to recommendations and actions
 - Tabulate responses next to comments made
 - Pull out key points in discussions and list responses next to them
 - Write to stakeholders with a narrative response to the event
- All these options have pros and cons
- Must be recognised that it is good practice to provide feedback to stakeholders to show that they are being listened to, so effort is necessary or otherwise stakeholders will not engage

3. Way Forward

It was agreed that the next Liaison Group meeting will take the same format as this one:

- Key update on their process, via email (+monthly dates circulated)
- Dates of future activities
- Sharing learning

Future dates of this Liaison Group agreed are:

Wednesday, 19 November 2008, 1230-1630 (DEFRA venue?)
 Wednesday, 18 March 2009, 1230 – 1630 (venue to be offered)

4. Actions

What	Who
Check that Scottish Gov are involved in the Orphan Source consultation	Lewis M
Include NDA LLW update in next Liaison Group mtg	Rhuari
Ensure Scottish Gov are on invitation list for Interim Storage workshop	Rhuari
Solicit dates monthly from Liaison Group	Rhuari
Circulate checklist of venue requirements	Rhuari
Consider using Local Guidance site meetings to share ideas on future of NSG and Chairs' Forum	RichardG
Circulate mtg note and next dates	Rhuari

5. Attendees

Rajnika Patel, CIRIA

Richard Harris, Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement

Rhuari Bennett, Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement

Lewis Mortimer, DEFRA

Marianne Cook, Scottish Government

Tony Lokier, MoD

Richard Griffin, NDA

Christine Snaith, HSE/ND

Nicola Martin, CoRWM

John Dalton, NDA

Timetable of Events in Nuclear-related Stakeholder Engagement

Updated: 16 July 2008

	NDA	BERR	MRWS: DEFRA et al	CIRIA	ISOLUS: MoD	Scottish Executive	CoRWM	Liaison Gp
Jul	23 Ref Gp RWMD R+D Strategy consultation	No update provided						16 Liaison Gp
Aug	RWMD SEA consultation starts, plus Site Assessm't Methodology consultation							
Sep				23 SAFESPU R Forum event	11 IAG			
Oct	RWMD SEA and PSE workshops		EPP Phase II consultation starts			30 Scottish SSG mtg with ScotGov	30 workshop	
Nov	4 SSG Chairs 5-6 NSG RWMD Industry day RWMD R+D workshop Business Plan consultation starts (12 wk)				13 MISG		3-4 Plenary	19 Liaison Gp
Dec					3 IAG		17-18 Plenary	
Jan 09							26-27 Plenary	
Feb 09			Orphan Sources consultation starts					
Mar 09			Non-nuclear LLW Strategy consultation starts (early 09)				17-18 Plenary	18 Liaison Gp
Apr 09							20-21 Plenary	
May 09	SSG Chairs?? NSG ??							
Jun 09							8-9 Plenary	