

Engagement Liaison Group

Meeting Report from 7 November 2007

Document Ref: LG7

Summary

This report covers discussions during a meeting of the Engagement Liaison Group, 7 November 2007. 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. The end of the report outlines a timetable of future stakeholder events as they are known at the time of writing.

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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 verbal updates were provided by each organisation.

1.1 NDA

NDA has drafted a thorough response to stakeholder feedback received over the last 6 months, offering responses and actions to each key issue raised. Will be published in November along with an updated NDA Engagement Plan.

Today published draft 3yr Business Plan for consultation, the deadline for which is 31 January 2008. The Overview section in the Business Plan highlights some strategic challenges facing the NDA such as:

- Funding and therefore changes to decommissioning priorities
- Magnox Operating Plan (B205 closure at 2016 at the earliest)
- Commercial operations and the competition schedule slippage

Reference Group met on 10 October. Group reports to the Convenor to act as a sounding board for dilemmas which need to be managed in terms of the process.

Future Activity:

- NSG meeting on 22/23 November. Supported by 2-side Briefing Papers that focus NDA lead managers and stakeholders on what the key questions are for input. Independent Convenor liaises over these and designs agenda around the papers and key questions.
- Local Arrangements review progressing, now getting NDA view on exactly what it wants from the local arrangements given that much experience is now under the belt since NDA inherited the arrangements from the DTI 3 years ago.
- Future NSG meetings on 21-22 May and 5-6 Nov 2008
- 2008 Strategy review end 07 to 08

For more info contact Richard.griffin@nda.gov.uk at the NDA or rhuari@3kq.co.uk at the NDA's independent Convenor.

1.2 DEFRA, MRWS

3 events delivered in the autumn as part of the MRWS "Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" consultation process. Aimed to raise awareness of the consultation process and give stakeholders a chance to ask questions and inform their responses. Have co-ordinated input with the NDA into other summer conferences including NuLeAF, Geological Society, Site Stakeholder Groups etc. The consultation has just closed on 2 November, DEFRA is now analysing responses and plans to publish a

response document. Additionally DEFRA is considering the parts of the BERR nuclear power consultation that address waste management.

Future Activity:

- The ultimate outcome of the consultation will be the basis of a White Paper in the first half of 2008. Current thinking is that the White Paper will accompany invitations to communities to express their interest to enter without prejudice into discussions about hosting a repository. DEFRA is liaising with other Government bodies, the NDA, NuLeAF and CoRWM to produce additional information material to support the issue of an invitation to express interest.

Additional related consultations in near future:

January 08. Regulations transposing Directive 2006/117/EURATOM on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel. The new Regulations will 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.

March 08. UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges 2006-2030 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).

March 08. Statutory Guidance to the Environment Agency on the regulation of radioactive discharges into the environment from nuclear licensed sites. Statutory guidance provides the mechanism by which the objectives of the discharges strategy will be delivered. The current draft has been much revised from that consulted on in 2001. It is now a shorter, more high level document, that is intended to be read in conjunction with the Environment Agency's "Environmental Principles" document (on which they plan to consult in early 2008).

May 08. UK National Coordination Plan for Orphan Source Incidents. 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 Directive. The coordination plan will not replace or alter current response arrangements, but will add an overarching tier of information exchange and provide a structure within which strategic decisions can be taken.

1.3 CoRWM

The new committee was announced on 25 October and DEFRA have posted a press release on their website, including the Terms of Reference and new membership. CoRWM's primary task is to provide independent scrutiny on the Government's and NDA's proposals plans and programmes to deliver geological disposal, together with robust interim storage, as the long-term management option for the UK's higher activity wastes. It is hoped that a work programme will be in place by April 2008.

1.4 CIRIA : SAFEGROUNDS, SD:SPUR, SAFESPUR

SAFEGROUNDS

Currently mid-way through revising their guidance for the management of contaminated land. There are 4 main documents being consulted on:

- main Land Management Guidance
- Site Characterisation document
- Citizens guide, including where people can find more information
- Technical options comparison document

SAFEGROUNDS is also aiming to draft a 3yr business plan for the project to map out how the guidance documents will be implemented and 'rolled out' via launch events and training. An additional element is getting a 'living case study' off the ground.

SD:SPUR

The Steering Group has supported the specification for drafting of guidance on options for managing Very Low Level Waste. CIRIA are liaising with the NDA to ensure the guidance is complementary, and does not duplicate, work the NDA are planning to do. A paper is being drafted to outline the situation and define funding requirements.

SAFESPUR

This is a forum run by CIRIA specifically for consultants and contractors in the nuclear sector. Quarterly seminars are run on various aspects of interest: previous topics have included contracting, skills, and communication of technical information. These events may be opened up to a wider audience in future.

Future event on 5/6 December focussing on the review of Exemptions Orders. This is being run in partnership with DEFRA.

It is anticipated that somebody from the SAFESPUR network will represent the network on the NDA's National Stakeholder Group, as long as formal Terms of Reference for representation are in place.

1.5 MoD ISOLUS

IAG: ISOLUS Advisory Group

- Meeting held at Devonport on 27 September, preceded by visit to Dockyard and tour of COURAGEOUS on 26 Sept
- Les Netherton, ex-Plymouth City Council, elected as IAG Chairman (also a member of the new CoRWM)
- Details of technical studies undertaken to date were issued to IAG members on 2 Nov. Members invited to comment on suitability of format and presentation prior to this information being placed on the ISOLUS website
- IAG will be involved in forthcoming technical options study. Workshop to be held 5 Dec to provide opportunity for comment and to ensure scope of review includes the relevant aspects in terms of fulfilling the requirements of future public consultation
- A process to track progress on recommendations from two previous public consultations was presented to IAG, to be discussed in more detail at next meeting, 10 Jan 08

MISG: MOD ISOLUS Steering Group

- Next meeting Thursday 8 Nov at MOD Abbey Wood
- Attempting to show how comments from stakeholder Groups are being taken into account in our planning and future work

Links with Civil Nuclear

- MOD has met with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to discuss decommissioning issues, including possibility of seeking common solutions to storage of Intermediate Level Waste. An overarching working arrangement is expected to be in place by the end of the year. Once this framework is established, this will enable Project ISOLUS to develop its own, more detailed involvement with the NDA on siting, technical and consultation issues.
- A statement on MOD Nuclear Decommissioning and Disposal Policy is being produced by MOD Centre for publication on the Defence internet and will be available shortly.

Future activity includes:

- MISG 8 Nov
- Attend NDA NSG meeting on 22-23 November
- IAG workshop on 5 Dec
- IAG meeting 10 Jan

1.6 BERR

The consultation on the Future of Nuclear Power has consisted of 3 strands of consultative work:

- Web based consultation, around 2500 individual submissions
- Deliberative events for members of public on 8 September, responding to stimulus materials. Green groups decided to withdraw in advance of these.
- Regional Stakeholder meetings and stakeholder meetings near existing nuclear sites

The framing of the consultation is coming under scrutiny, and it is possible that a Judicial Review could will be launched by some green groups. Already a challenge to a contractor's process has been made.

BERR is now analysing all the submissions received in response to to the various strands of consultative work. An Overview Analysis Document will be published to summarise the themes emerging from all strands of the consultation work. BERR expects that the announcement of the outcome of the work will be made at the turn of the year: this announcement will cover the Government's view on the question of whether to support nuclear power 'in principle' and will be made available via a Decision Paper. This will be published at the same time as the Analysis Document.

BERR may reconvene some of the stakeholder events to feed back the rationale for whatever decision is made. If (and the IF is emphasised here) the decision is made by Government to go ahead with new build, a significant future engagement strategy would need to be brought together, taking account future consultative actions surrounding new build for example on siting issues.

BERR is also considering the responses given to the relevant sections of the MRWS consultation as well.

1.7 Environment Agency

No update provided for this meeting (see last meeting report LG5 for previous update).

1.8 HSE/ND/ NII

A new Communications and Stakeholder Engagement team is in place, and they are putting in place a new strategy for communications and engagement across HSE's Nuclear Directorate (ND). A key development is that the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) joined HSE's ND in April. It is intended that the new strategy will bring an increasing focus to improving transparency and raising awareness about the role of ND and how it relates to the other bodies with responsibilities in the area of nuclear safety and security.

The public involvement process associated with Generic Design Assessment was launched on 10 September. This work precedes any work necessary under the Nuclear Installations Act, 1965 (as amended), to licence new reactors if a decision is made by Government to pursue new build. The Joint Programme Office www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors has been formed, made up of both HSE and EA, with a dedicated website and associated e-bulletin service. Key aspects of safety cases have been published and feedback is being solicited by the requesting parties/companies. The companies are:

- General Electric
- Atomic Energy Canada Limited
- EDF/Arriva
- Westinghouse

The public comment process for Stage 2 closes on 10 December [update: since the 7 November meeting it has now been decided that comments will continue to be received beyond this date]. Stage 3 will only be implemented if BERR announce that new build is to be supported in the New Year.

All libraries in GB have been sent flyers to alert those particularly without web access to the public involvement process.

There are many bodies and regulations/laws that bear on this area, and the Liaison Group discussed how valuable a paper would be to illustrate how these all interrelate e.g. planning, RadWaste, regulation etc.

1.9 Scottish Executive

No update provided to the meeting due to illness.

2. Way Forward

It was agreed that for the next Liaison Group meeting each organisation will provide an update via email, one week in advance containing:

- Key update on their process
- Dates of future activities
- One or two key learning points (headings only, not detail)

The Liaison Group meeting itself can therefore focus on questions of clarification around these updates, any overarching calendar issues, and then learning that has emerged from each process.

Future dates of this Liaison Group agreed are:

Wednesday, 12 March 2008, NDA London 1230-1630
Wednesday, 16 July 2008, NDA London 1230-1630

3. Actions

What	Who
Agree ToRs for representation of SAFESPUR at NSG	CIRIA+RhuariB
Invite CoRWM-2 to join Liaison Group	RhuariB+LewisM
Update Liaison Group on dates as they get agreed	ALL, ongoing
Liaise over local engagement arrangements if there are implications after the BERR announcement in new year	RichardG, Hergen
Circulate draft meeting report	RhuariB
Add in attendees in this report	RhuariB
Circulate NDA funding stakeholders policy when cleared	RhuariB/RichardG

4. Attendees

Hergen Haye, BERR
Owen Jenkins, CIRIA
Mark Bentley, CIRIA
Richard Harris, Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement
Rhuari Bennett, Convenor for NDA Stakeholder Engagement
Lewis Mortimer, DEFRA
Maggie Taylor, MoD
Tony Lokier, MoD
Richard Griffin, NDA
Christine Snaith, NII

Timetable of Events in Nuclear-related Stakeholder Engagement

Updated: 6 December 2007

	NDA	BERR + Dev Ads	MRWS: DEFRA et al	CIRIA	ISOLUS: MoD	Scottish Executive	EA	Liaison Gp
Nov	21 SSG Forum 22-23 NSG		2 Consultation ends	6 SAFEGROUNDS workshop	8 MISG			7 Liaison Gp
Dec	Business Plan consultation 7 Nov - 31 Jan			5/6 SD:SPUR event	5 IAG workshop			
Jan 08		Announcement expected on way fwd in New Year	Shipments consultation (Jan)		10 IAG		Consultation on Guidance for Authorisation of solid waste disposal facilities	
Feb 08	Discharge Strategy consultation (Mar)							
Mar 08			Discharge Guidance to EA (Mar)				12 Liaison Gp	
Apr 08								
May 08	21-22 NSG		Develop MRWS White Paper (Jan-Jun)					
Jun 08			Orphan source incidents const'n (May)					
Jul 08							16 Liaison Gp	
Aug 08								
Sep 08								
Oct 08								
Nov 08	5-6 NSG							
Dec 08								
Jan 09								
Feb 09								