

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Programme of work, 2008-2011

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management Programme of work 2008 - 2011

Contents	Page
1 Introduction by the Chair	3
2 Summary	3
3 Background to our work	4
4 The task Government has set us	5
5 How we propose to work	7
6 What we expect to deliver: the programme in summary	10
7 Risks, opportunities and the way forward	13
8 Conclusion	13
Annexes:	
A: Our Terms of Reference	14
B: Who we are	20
C: Working Group remits and membership	21
D: Work areas, topics and tasks	23

Would you like this in bigger print? please call 020 7238 1721

1 Introduction by the Chair

I have pleasure in presenting CoRWM's draft work programme for 2008-2011 to our sponsor Ministers - the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Environment Ministers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In section 3, we summarise why CoRWM was set up, then re-constituted with revised Terms of Reference. Section 4 describes our main task and some current events and plans that will affect our programme. Section 5 shows how we are setting about our work, including how we drew up this programme. The programme is contained in section 6 and Annex D, including the results we expect to deliver and when. We end by describing some risks, opportunities and other issues that we shall need to address.

CoRWM has an important role to play in scrutinising the successful delivery of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme. This comprises geological disposal as the end point for the long term management of radioactive wastes, together with robust storage in the interim period, and a staged process including partnership with communities willing to participate in the siting process. We must ensure public confidence in our work, which must be independent, open, fair and built on a sound evidence base.

Professor Robert Pickard

2 Summary

1. The Committee was first set up in 2003 to recommend a long-term management strategy for the UK's higher-activity waste. The Committee reported in July 2006. Government re-appointed CoRWM, with revised Terms of Reference, to provide independent scrutiny of UK radioactive waste management and in particular its plans to implement CoRWM's recommendations.
2. Government has asked CoRWM to agree with Ministers a 3-year rolling programme, including annual reports in June of each year. This is our draft programme for the first 3-year period.
3. The programme closely reflects CoRWM's 2006 recommendations, including:

2006 recommendations:

- Geological disposal as the end point for the long term management of radioactive wastes (recommendation 1), via a flexible and staged process

2008/9 proposed reports:

- A report to Government in June 2009 on the implementation of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme and progress on geological disposal.

2006 recommendations:

(recommendation 3) including partnership with communities willing to participate in the siting process (recommendations 10ff).

- Robust storage in the interim period (recommendation 2) and clarity on the waste inventory including spent nuclear fuel, plutonium and uranium (recommendations 6ff).
- Intensive research and development into the long-term safety of geological disposal, including pursuing developments in alternative management options (recommendations 4 and 5).

2008/9 proposed reports:

Position papers during 2008-9 on regulatory processes, waste conditioning and packaging standards, funding, and other issues including lessons from international experience.

- A report to Government in March 2009 on the interim storage of radioactive waste. Position papers during 2008-9 on interim storage of waste, spent fuel, plutonium and uranium.
- A report to Government in June 2009 on research and development, including skills capacity and development. Position papers during 2008-9 on the NDA research and development strategy and other issues such as peer review and international collaboration.

4. The Committee must continue to win public confidence in its work. It is building on the principles and practices developed by CoRWM's original Members, including openness, transparency and a significant element of public and stakeholder engagement. This involves scrutiny of the effectiveness of others' engagement, as well as CoRWM's own work with citizens and stakeholders.

3 Background to our work

5. The Committee was set up in 2003 to provide independent advice to Government on the long-term management of the UK's solid higher activity radioactive waste. The "legacy" of waste, when current nuclear and other facilities are decommissioned, will eventually reach approximately 500,000 cubic metres in packaged form. The radioactivity in some of these wastes will take several hundred thousand years to decay to safe levels.
6. CoRWM's report in July 2006 ¹ presented an integrated set of recommendations to Ministers, covering three interdependent strands. It

¹ *Managing our radioactive waste safely - CoRWM's recommendations to Government*, July 2006, document 700. (Our website <http://www.corwm.org.uk> is currently being re-vamped so we are not giving links to individual documents. Do phone us on 020 7238 1721 if you need help finding a document on our site.)

recommended geological disposal as the end point for the long term management of radioactive wastes, together with robust storage in the interim period, including provision of contingency against delay or failure in reaching the end point. The third strand focused on implementation, including the need for a staged process, flexibility in decision making, and partnership with communities willing to participate in the siting process.

7. Government responded on 25 October 2006, ² accepting most of CoRWM's recommendations and, in June 2007, ³ published its proposals for implementing geological disposal. It said that CoRWM would be re-constituted with revised Terms of Reference, to provide independent scrutiny and advice on the implementation plans and programmes of the Government and of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the UK's main radioactive waste management organisation.
8. On 25 October 2007 ⁴ Government announced that Members had been appointed. The Committee's Terms of Reference are at Annex A, and Annex B lists Members.
9. The reconstituted Committee met for the first time on 28 November and since then Members have been gathering information, meeting a range of people and organisations, and visiting nuclear facilities, to help us plan our forward work programme. This is discussed in the next section.

4 The task Government has set us

10. The Terms of Reference say that

"... The role of the reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) will be to provide independent scrutiny and advice to UK Government and devolved administration Ministers on the long-term management, including storage and disposal, of radioactive waste. 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."

"CoRWM will provide appropriate and timely evidence-based advice on Government and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) plans for the delivery of a geological disposal facility for higher activity wastes

² *Oral statement by David Miliband in response to the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's report - Wednesday 25 October 2006*, on Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/ministers/statements/dm061025.htm>

³ *Managing radioactive waste safely - a framework for implementing geological disposal*, on Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/waste/hilw/index.htm>

⁴ *Reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management*, on Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071025c.htm>

under the Managing Radioactive Waste Safety programme. The work programme may include review of activities including waste packaging options, geological disposal facility delivery programmes and plans, site selection processes and criteria, and the approach to public and stakeholder engagement. Testing the evidence base of the plans for the delivery of a geological disposal facility will be a key component of the work. As well as ongoing dialogue with Government, the implementing body, local authorities and stakeholders, CoRWM will provide an annual report of its work to Government."

11. This is only an extract. The Terms of Reference define our work, and our methods, in other ways. For example, they also say that

"With the agreement of CoRWM's sponsoring Ministers, other parts of Government, the NDA and the regulatory bodies may request independent advice from CoRWM. Relevant Parliamentary / Assembly Committees may also propose work to sponsoring Ministers, for consideration in the work programme ... sponsoring Ministers may also ask the Committee to provide advice on other radioactive waste management issues as necessary."

12. This gives us considerable flexibility: while we have to agree our programme with Government, we and others can take the initiative in identifying issues that we should examine.
13. Our work must also be seen in the context of national and international development and events. This is illustrated by two recent policy developments which impact on the work of CoRWM.
14. In October 2006, all sponsor Governments, including Scotland, accepted CoRWM's recommendation of geological disposal as the end-point of the management strategy ⁵. But in June 2007, the new Scottish Government decided not to endorse this ⁶. This creates uncertainty for a UK programme. However, all Governments also agree that, in any event, wastes will remain in storage for many years; and CoRWM's 2006 recommendations ⁷ emphasised the vital role of robust interim storage.
15. In January 2008, the UK Government announced plans to go ahead with a new generation of nuclear power plants ⁸. CoRWM has advised on the implications of "new build", both in its 2006 recommendations and more recently ⁹. CoRWM's position is that its recommendations were for existing waste and that waste from new build would pose different ethical issues and should be subject to consideration by a separate process. We shall

⁵ **Radioactive waste disposal plan**: see Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/10/25143454>

⁶ **Ministers decline to endorse deep storage**: see Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/06/25101822>

⁷ **Managing our radioactive waste safely - CoRWM's recommendations to Government**, July 2006, document 700, Chapter 14, recommendation 2

⁸ **UK Government invites new Nuclear Power into the energy mix** - Government website at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/nuclear-whitepaper/page42765.html>

⁹ **Re-iteration of CoRWM's position on nuclear new-build** doc. 2162.2

consider the implications of the Government announcement in April and subsequently during our programme.

16. Issues associated with interim storage and geological disposal will continue over many years and are therefore subject to significant potential change. Committee Members have been appointed for three years and it will be important for us to ensure continuity and be flexible and adaptable to future change.

5 How we propose to work

17. CoRWM is committed to working openly and transparently. We have adopted guiding principles¹⁰ including openness, fairness, upholding the public interest, safety, sustainability and efficiency. We have a transparency policy including a formal "publication scheme"¹¹ under the Freedom of Information Act.
18. Effective public and stakeholder engagement has been essential to the Committee's success, and will be essential to the work of CoRWM, Government and others. In section 6 we describe our plans for scrutinising others' engagement activities, as well as carrying out our own. A user friendly website is a key tool for the Committee when offering people independent information, advice and opportunities to influence decision making, and we shall improve the structure and content of ours.
19. We have tried to put these principles and policies into effect in our work, and in particular, in drawing up our work programme. This is how we have set about it.
20. In **November 2007**¹² we discussed CoRWM's purpose and started drawing up plans for developing the work programme. We agreed that CoRWM should continue to hold its plenary meetings - where all significant decisions would be made - in public, and to publish reports of all other meetings.
21. We agreed to continue publishing "e-bulletins" after each plenary, to inform people and make them aware of any discussions or events in which they might want to take part. These go to around 1,000 people or organisations. A further 4,000 people or organisations are on our mailing list so that we can send them annual reports and other significant news.
22. Starting in **December 2007**, we met a range of organisations to gather information and views about our work programme. We began with Government¹³ and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority¹⁴, the organisations we shall be scrutinising most closely under our Terms of

¹⁰ *CoRWM's key guiding principles*, doc. 2248

¹¹ *Publication scheme and transparency policy*, doc. 2249

¹² *Report of the CoRWM meeting on 28-29 November 2007*, doc. 2240

¹³ *Meeting with Government sponsor officials, 19 December 2007*, CoRWM doc. 2244

¹⁴ *19 December 2007, CoRWM – NDA bilateral meeting*, doc. 2246

Reference. This gave us some idea of likely key developments in 2008-2011, areas where our advice might be sought, and roughly when we might start to see initial proposals. Our Government budget is limited (currently £0.5m a year) and we need to work efficiently, including anticipating when our advice may be needed and ensuring that we have the right people available at the right time.

23. In **January 2008**¹⁵ we discussed initial proposals for our work programme¹⁶ including issues that we thought we should scrutinise, and ways of organising ourselves. We have formed seven working groups with specific remits and the details are set out in Annex C. There will need to be a great deal of flexibility between the groups, particularly on cross cutting issues such as public and stakeholder engagement. The potential areas for scrutiny and advice are wide ranging.
24. To ensure maximum impact and value for money, we drew up criteria for prioritising candidates for inclusion in our programme. The criteria, as amended at that meeting, are
- the effective delivery of geological disposal,
 - the safe and secure interim storage of radioactive waste;
 - the involvement of and support for local communities in the siting of geological disposal facilities;
 - sensitivity to the concerns and priorities of stakeholders and the public, and their involvement in decision making;
 - concentration on key strategic issues and potential risk areas;
 - ensuring that there is no overlap with the work of other organisations;
 - optimising the timing of CoRWM involvement - as far as possible CoRWM should be involved in the early stages i.e. preview; and
 - ensuring that CoRWM can have real influence on the outcome and offer value for money.
25. The meeting identified four main areas for scrutiny: Government's plans including the ***Managing radioactive waste safely*** programme for geological disposal; NDA's and others' plans for implementing safe and secure interim storage; NDA's plans for implementing geological disposal; and NDA's (and others') plans for research and development.
26. During January 2008, individual Members also attended a number of meetings organised by outside organisations - such as the Environment Agency¹⁷, and Westlakes Research Institute - on scientific, technical and social issues.
27. At the February 2008 Plenary¹⁸, we had a debate on the work programme, agreed prioritisation of the potential elements and cross referenced the likely resource requirement for the proposed programme against available resource. Following the Plenary, an e bulletin was sent

¹⁵ *Minutes of the CoRWM meeting on 15-16 January 2008*, doc. 2265

¹⁶ *CoRWM work programme*, doc. 2255

¹⁷ *Report on Environment Agency Workshop Review of Technical Issues Associated with Deep Repositories in Different Geological Environments*, Jan 30th 2008, doc. 2285

¹⁸ *Minutes of CoRWM Plenary meeting 18/19 February 2008*, doc. 2274

out detailing progress of the draft work programme and informing people that the work programme would be placed on the CoRWM web site for comment on the 29th of February, with responses due by the 11th of March. During February, the programme of meetings continued with meetings being held with Greenpeace ¹⁹, Friends of the Earth ²⁰, and local authorities in Cumbria ²¹.

28. In **March** 2008 we received comments on the draft work programme ²² and these were logged ²³ and reviewed on the 18th at a meeting of the work programme group and the Chair ²⁴. The revised document was circulated to our Members for final comment and the final version sent to Government on the 31st of March. We also had a series of visits and meetings with nuclear regulators on the 7th ²⁵, Dounreay 12/13th, Highland Council 14th ²⁶ and Sweden and Finland on 25/28th of March. ²⁷
29. During this period from November 2007 to March 2008, we also benefitted from advice and suggestions from a range of people and organisations, including some who travelled to our plenary meetings, and some who sent their comments to us.
30. During this period, our advice was sought on a number of occasions before we had the opportunity to agree a work programme with Government. As our Terms of Reference require, or allow us to advise the NDA, regulators and others, we responded to those requests. These included
- initial comments, sought by the Environment Agency, on its draft of revised guidance on requirements for authorisation of disposal facilities for solid radioactive waste, also known as the "GRA". We commented ²⁸ on 12 December 2007.
 - comments sought by the NDA on its proposed "design principles" for short-listing sites for a disposal facility from any communities that have entered into siting partnerships. We commented ²⁹ in February 2008.
 - A meeting was held with Government officials to discuss the implications of the Planning Bill for geological disposal. Early

¹⁹ *Note of meeting with Greenpeace, 5 February 2008*, doc. 2272

²⁰ *Note of meeting with Friends of the Earth, 4 February 2008*, doc. 2290

²¹ *Note of meeting in Cumbria, 15 February 2008*, doc. 2304

²², John Stoker: doc. 2296, Sellafield Ltd: doc. 2292, NuLEAF: doc. 2293, NDA: doc. 2294, MKG: doc. 2295, SEPA: doc. 2301

²³ *CoRWM Work Programme – log of responses, March 2008*, doc. 2302

²⁴ *Note of meeting to review draft work programme, 18 March 2008*, doc. 2303

²⁵ *Note of CoRWM Meeting with regulators, 7 March 2008*, doc. 2300

²⁶ *Visit to UKAEA Dounreay & Highland Council, 12-14 March 2008*, doc. 2297

²⁷ *Report of visit to Scandinavia 24-28 March 2008*, doc. 2299

²⁸ *CoRWM comments on Environment Agency GRA proposals for any geological disposal facility*, February 2008, doc. 2241

²⁹ *Principles for the design of stage 3 and subsequent stages of the site selection process*, January 2008, doc. 2254

comment³⁰ was made on draft sections of the proposed information package to communities.

31. CoRWM fulfilled its original mission, to make recommendations to Government on the best option(s) for managing the UK's higher-activity wastes safely in the long term. Our mission now is to assist Government in ensuring that its MRWS programme is effectively implemented, by providing advice on plans for implementation and scrutinising the implementation process. Our work programme is, therefore, based on
- our Terms of Reference, which say broadly what we should do and how;
 - our view of CoRWM's role as "critical friend" and the working methods we have adopted for that purpose - largely continuing those which CoRWM established after 2003;
 - our understanding of the plans of Government and the NDA, which tells us what specific policies and plans we may need to scrutinise;
 - our reading, visits, meetings and contacts with a range of people and organisations which have helped us to identify priorities; and
 - our judgment of how we can put our limited resources to best use.
- For all of this, our starting point is CoRWM's integrated package of recommendations to Government in July 2006.

6 What we expect to deliver: the programme in summary

32. The programme covers the period from April 2008 to March 2011, as required by the Terms of Reference. Like CoRWM's initial programme³¹ the first year's activity is in relative detail, and the following years are indicative and show the likely priority areas. The programme will be developed as a 3-year rolling programme. This will give us more opportunity to involve the public and stakeholders in developing our plans. Public and stakeholder engagement has been limited in the development of the first work programme due to the short timescales, however in future years it will be more thorough.
33. Annex D sets out the work areas, topics and tasks, priorities for 2008/9 and indicative priorities for 2009/10 and 10/11. These may need to be changed as developments occur and as current projected timescales for implementation are clarified.
34. There are three key strands of the work of CoRWM, with public and stakeholder engagement as a cross cutting issue. The three strands are: geological disposal, safe and secure interim storage, and research and development.

³⁰ *Note of Planning Bill discussion*, doc. 2287

³¹ *CoRWM programme of work 2004-2006*, doc. 295, revised June 2004

Geological disposal

35. **A report on the implementation of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme and progress on geological disposal will be submitted to Government in June 2009.** During the year 2008/9 position papers will be produced on:

- coherence of the regulatory processes,
- geological disposal design concepts,
- desk based short listing of sites,
- the application of site exclusion criteria,
- funding arrangements,
- waste conditioning and packaging standards,
- decision making responsibilities, and
- lessons to be learnt from international experience.

36. Position papers are mainly to inform our own work. But they will be publicly available, and will help Government and other decision makers to identify any issues needing early attention.

Safe and secure interim storage

37. **A report will be submitted to Government in March 2009 reviewing the interim storage of radioactive waste and the storage of spent fuel, plutonium and uranium.** Position papers will be produced on:

- interim storage arrangements of radioactive waste
- storage of spent fuel, plutonium and uranium

Research and development

38. **A report will be submitted to Government in June 2009 on research and development.** This will include a review of skills capacity and development. Research and development will also be included in the above major reports where appropriate. Position papers on the following will be produced;

- the NDA research and development strategy, peer review and international collaboration,
- skills development,
- national research and development on interim storage and geological disposal, and
- research and development infrastructure.

Public and stakeholder engagement

39. Public and stakeholder engagement is a cross cutting issue and will inform and assist in the production of CoRWM reports and position statements. It is also important because it reinforces the transparency of CoRWM's work and helps inspire public confidence.

40. In 2003-6 Government had no long term radioactive waste management strategy, so CoRWM carried out a major programme of engagement as part of its review of options and development of a recommended strategy. Once Government broadly accepted our recommendations in 2006, the responsibility for action, including effective public and

stakeholder engagement, passed to it and its chosen implementer the NDA. For example, Government consulted in 2007, and it and the NDA will need to work closely with local communities in 2008 and onwards.

41. As the role for CoRWM is now one of advice and scrutiny, we shall involve citizens and stakeholders, but our main aim will be to ensure that others' engagement is carried out effectively and that we do not duplicate it. The use of the revised web site will be important. However this does not suit everybody and other methods will be developed.
42. We shall produce a summary report in June 2009 on the effectiveness of the implementers' and other organisations' public and stakeholder engagement and the outcomes of CoRWM's own engagement. Meanwhile we shall publish the results of individual activities from spring 2008 onwards.

Other work areas

43. In addition to the main four work streams above, there will be other areas of involvement for us.
 - We shall monitor the overall performance of the NDA with respect to radioactive waste management.
 - We shall take account of the impact of the differences in the policies of the Devolved Administrations and the UK Government with regard to radioactive waste.
 - We shall respond to consultation documents produced by the Government and others, where this directly contributes to the delivery of our work programme and is in accordance with our prioritisation criteria.
 - We are modernising and improving our website to act as an independent source of information, a resource for public and stakeholder engagement, and to increase efficiency in the working of the Committee.
 - Development of a risk register for the Committee.
 - An annual report to Sponsors will be submitted each June which will summarise our work and the issues identified.
44. The programme, for 3 years ahead, will be submitted to sponsor Ministers every March, with annual reports every June. We shall need to keep our plans sufficiently flexible to take account of new developments. The very nature of the Committee's scrutiny and advisory role means that, to a large extent, the nature and timing of work is dependent on third parties. Performance management will be integrated into plenary meetings by monitoring completion of the published programme and identification of any substantial changes needed. Any significant anticipated changes to agreed "deliverables" - such as the timing or scope of reports - will be identified and justified to sponsors.

7 Risks, opportunities and the way forward

45. The main opportunities and risks are for the UK and in particular its Governments, rather than for CoRWM. The opportunity is to make the UK's radioactive waste, accumulated since the 1920s, safe for all time, and the risk is failure to do so. CoRWM will establish its own risk register and examine the risk registers of the relevant parties.
46. Some of the key risks to CoRWM delivering its programme are:
- Failure to maintain effective dialogue and trust with key stakeholders (including NDA and Government). Mitigate by ensuring good communication, no surprises, ensure ground rules are clearly established
 - Failure to win public confidence in CoRWM's activities. Mitigate by operating in an open and transparent fashion, communicate effectively, and respond to public and NGO comment and enquiries appropriately and promptly
 - Inadequate resources to deliver high priority components of the work programme. Mitigate by maintaining a clearly prioritised workplan and monitor resources to ensure adequacy. If necessary, secure more resources.
 - Reactive work overwhelming available resource: Mitigate by a system of prioritisation with regular reviews of the work programme.
47. The opportunities include building on the success of CoRWM's work so far; the strong desire across the UK for action, even though views on the best end-point differ; the strong support the Committee has from sponsors even though their policies differ; and the level of enthusiasm & support CoRWM has experienced so far. This is a good foundation for success.

8 Conclusion

48. CoRWM has an important role to play in the successful delivery of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme. Its involvement at the early stages of policy or proposal developments will offer the most likely effective impact. This work programme sets out the priorities for CoRWM for this year and it will be kept under permanent review to ensure that it is up to date and offering the best value for money. There are likely to be difficult decisions during the year on the areas to be considered. CoRWM will also have to ensure public confidence in its work and in particular, the transparency of its processes to carry out scrutiny and provide advice.

Terms of reference for the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Introduction

1. Following the announcements by UK Government and the devolved administrations (Government), on 25 October 2006, a new Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) will be appointed under these revised terms of reference designed to meet the future needs of the Government's Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme. The Committee will be jointly appointed by UK Government and relevant devolved administration Ministers. Details of its roles, responsibilities and membership are outlined below.

CoRWM's Role and Responsibilities

2. The role of the reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) will be to provide independent scrutiny and advice to UK Government and devolved administration Ministers on the long-term management, including storage and disposal, of radioactive waste. 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.

3. Sponsoring Ministers (from Defra, DTI and the devolved administrations) will agree a three-year rolling programme and budget for CoRWM's work on an annual basis. Any in-year changes will be the subject of agreement by sponsoring Ministers.

4. CoRWM will provide appropriate and timely evidence-based advice on Government and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) plans for the delivery of a geological disposal facility for higher activity wastes under the Managing Radioactive Waste Safety programme. The work programme may include review of activities including waste packaging options, geological disposal facility delivery programmes and plans, site selection processes and criteria, and the approach to public and stakeholder engagement. Testing the evidence base of the plans for the delivery of a geological disposal facility will be a key component of the work. As well as ongoing dialogue with Government, the implementing body, local authorities and stakeholders, CoRWM will provide an annual report of its work to Government.

5. CoRWM shall undertake its work in an open and consultative manner. It will engage with stakeholders and it will publish advice (and the underpinning evidence) in a way that is meaningful to the non-expert. It will comply, as will sponsoring departments, with Guidelines on Scientific Analysis in Policy Making (<http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file9767.pdf>) as well as other relevant Government advice and guidelines. Government will respond to all substantive advice. Published advice and reports will be

made available in respective Parliaments/Assemblies, as will any Government response. CoRWM's Chair will attend Parliamentary / Assembly evidence sessions as and when required.

6. With the agreement of CoRWM's sponsoring Ministers, other parts of Government, the NDA and the regulatory bodies may request independent advice from CoRWM. Relevant Parliamentary / Assembly Committees may also propose work to sponsoring Ministers, for consideration in the work programme. CoRWM's priority role is set out in paragraph 2 although sponsoring Ministers may also ask the Committee to provide advice on other radioactive waste management issues as necessary.

7. In delivering its annual work programme, and where there is a common interest, the Committee will liaise with appropriate advisory bodies including Health and Safety Commission advisory bodies, and any advisory bodies established by the environment agencies.

8. CoRWM shall consist of a Chair and up to fourteen members, one of whom will be appointed by Ministers as Deputy Chair on the recommendation of the Chair. Seats will not be representative of organisation or sectoral interests and the skills and expertise which will need to be available to the Committee will vary depending on the programme of work. For example, the relevant skills may include: radioactive waste management, nuclear science, radiation protection, environmental law, environment issues, social science (including public and stakeholder engagement), geology / geochemistry / hydrogeology, finance / economics, civil engineering / underground construction technology, geological disposal facility performance / safety issues, materials science, environmental impact assessment, local Government, planning, regulatory processes and ethics. Sponsoring Ministers may review the membership of the Committee, and the skills and expertise required.

9. Appointments will be made following the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) code of practice. Initial appointments will be for three years and sponsoring Ministers retain the right to terminate appointments at any time in light of individual members' performance, changes in CoRWM's work requirements, or completion of the work required of CoRWM.

10. The Committee, as agreed in the annual plans, may co-opt additional expertise to form or support temporary sub-groups set up to examine specific and defined problems.

Programme of work

11. To support its work, CoRWM will need to familiarise itself with Government policy in this area, including ongoing meetings with relevant Government departments and the NDA. The outline framework within which CoRWM is then expected to work is:

(i) *recognising the policy framework within which it will operate including the roles and responsibilities of Government and the NDA in relation to CoRWM's own advisory role;*

(ii) *scrutinising Government and NDA proposals, plans and programmes to implement geological disposal and other radioactive waste management issues on which Government might seek advice as agreed in CoRWM's work plan;*

(iii) *formulation of advice and reporting to Government based on the best available evidence and informed by the views of stakeholders and the public.*

12. CoRWM will prepare its draft work programme, within this outline framework, in conjunction with Government, the NDA and regulators, taking account of work by other advisory bodies (see paragraph 7 above). The programme will include details of specific areas of work, reports which it intends to produce, the proposed use of sub-groups and any other activities or events, including proposals for public and stakeholder engagement. CoRWM will submit its first draft three-year work programme proposal to its sponsoring Ministers for discussion and agreement at an appropriate early stage following appointment of the full Committee. Subsequent three-year work programmes will be agreed annually on a rolling basis.

13. In familiarising themselves with the relevant background and issues, Members will make themselves aware, and take account, of previous engagement and reports in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme, the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory and the nature of current and expected future UK holdings of plutonium, uranium and spent nuclear fuel. CoRWM will take account of existing technical assessments and research into radioactive waste management in the UK and elsewhere. In particular, it is recognised that CoRWM will need to engage with the NDA given that the Committee's advice will directly impinge on the long-term responsibilities of the NDA. CoRWM will also take account of other relevant policy developments.

14. The Chair will submit a report to Ministers by 30 June each year on the delivery of the agreed work programme. This will be made available in the UK and Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Access to other sources of expertise

15. Members of CoRWM itself will not have all the skills and expertise necessary to advise Government. The Committee will need to decide how best to secure access to other appropriate sources of expert input during the course of its work. Within this, it will have the option of setting up expert sub-groups containing both Members of CoRWM itself and other appropriate co-opted persons. A member of CoRWM will chair any sub-group of this nature and ensure its effective operation, as well as provide a clear line of responsibility and accountability to the main Committee,

and hence to Ministers. This approach will enable the Committee to draw on a broad range of expertise in the UK and elsewhere.

16. The number of such sub-groups will be kept to the minimum necessary. Their role will be that of providing advice for the main Committee to consider and assess as it sees fit, and managing any activity which CoRWM delegates to them. It will be for the main Committee to assess and decide upon the advice it receives from such sub-groups. CoRWM may also utilise other appropriate means of securing expert input, such as sponsored meetings and seminars. The Chair will ensure that sub-group work and all other activities are closely integrated.

Public and stakeholder engagement

17. CoRWM must continue to inspire public confidence in the way in which it works. In order to secure such confidence in its advice it will work in an open and transparent manner. Hence, its work should be characterised by:

- a published reporting and transparency policy;
- relevant public and stakeholder engagement as required;
- clear communications including the use of plain English, publishing its advice (and the underpinning evidence) in a way that is meaningful to the non-expert;
- making information accessible;
- encouraging people to ask questions or make their views known and listening to their concerns;
- providing opportunities for people to challenge information, for example by making clear the sources of information and points of view on which the Committee's advice is based;
- holding a number of its meetings in public.

Responsibilities of the committee and its members

18. CoRWM will have a corporate responsibility to deliver its advice to sponsoring Ministers in accordance with agreed work plans. It will be for Ministers, with appropriate reference to their respective Parliaments and Assembly, to take decisions on the advice it receives and to give directions to the NDA as necessary on any subsequent changes required in the delivery of geological disposal of the UK's solid radioactive waste.

19. All members will need to be effective team workers, with good analytical skills and good judgement besides a strong interest in the process of decision-making on difficult issues. A number of them will need experience of project management, advising on scientific and technical issues directly relating to radioactive waste management, public and stakeholder engagement, excellent drafting and communication skills, or business experience and knowledge of economics.

20. The Chair, in addition, will be capable of successfully and objectively leading committee-based projects, grasping complex technical issues, and managing a diverse group effectively and delivering substantial results,

presenting progress and outcomes in public. He or she will be a person with appropriate stature and credibility.

Role of the Chair

21. The Chair will be responsible for supervising the CoRWM work programme and ensuring that the Committee's objectives are achieved. The Chair will be responsible for advising Ministers promptly if he or she anticipates that the Committee will not complete its agreed work programme indicating what remedial action might be taken. He or she will be the main point of contact with the public and the media, in presenting progress and answering questions. The Chair will meet Ministers on appointment, and then at least annually along with other members as appropriate. Notes of these meetings will be published. The Chair will ensure CoRWM submits its annual written report to Ministers, by 30 June of each year. The Chair may be required to present the position of CoRWM to Parliament or Assembly committees and representatives as appropriate. The report will set out, among other things, CoRWM's progress with the agreed work programme, advice deriving from it and costs incurred. Ministers will also appoint a Deputy Chair who can assist the Chair as the latter sees fit.

Role of Members

22. Members will work, under the Chair's supervision, to the programme agreed with sponsoring Ministers, so as to ensure its satisfactory delivery. Members will have a collective responsibility to ensure achievement of CoRWM's objectives and delivery of its work programme. Individual Members may be appointed by the Chair to undertake specific, active roles, for example chairing sub-groups or in representing CoRWM in meetings with the public, organisations who are contributing to the work, or the media. All members will abide by CoRWM's Code of Practice and will be subject to individual performance appraisal as laid down by the Cabinet Office guide (see next paragraph).

Standards

23. CoRWM is set up by, and answerable to Ministers and is funded by the taxpayer. It must therefore comply with the Cabinet Office guide "Public Bodies: a Guide for Departments" (http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/publications/pdf/public_bodies_2006/1_case_assessment.pdf).

24. These and other relevant procedural requirements will be set out in CoRWM's Code of Practice which Members will agree to, prior to appointment.

Resources

25. Sponsoring Ministers will provide CoRWM with resources – both staff and financial – to enable it to carry out its agreed programme of work. These will include a secretariat which will help CoRWM carry out its work

programme including, at the outset, providing reading material and arranging for any further briefings and visits. The Chair and Members will have a collective responsibility for delivering the work programme within the agreed budget, although the Chair may request sponsoring Ministers for adjustment to this budget should this be considered necessary.

Payments

26. The Chair and Members will be paid for their work for CoRWM at agreed daily rates. They will also be fully reimbursed for all reasonable travel and subsistence costs incurred during the course of their work.

Annex B

Who we are

Robert Pickard (Chair)

David Broughton

Margaret Burns

Brian D Clark

Mark Dutton

Fergus Gibb

Simon Harley

Marion Hill

Bill Lee

Francis Livens

Leslie Netherton

John Rennilson

Lynda Warren

For further details of Members see our website at
<http://www.corwm.org.uk>

Annex C:

Working Groups, their Remits, Workstreams and Membership

Working Group A: Implementing Geological Disposal

Remit: to scrutinise work to implement Government proposals relating to geological disposal

Workstreams:

- A1. Site selection process and assessment criteria
- A2. Implementation of the geological disposal programme.

Simon Harley, David Broughton, Margaret Burns, Brian Clark (siting criteria), Mark Dutton, Fergus Gibb, Bill Lee, Lynda Warren.

Working Group B: Interim Storage

Remit: to scrutinise UK arrangements and plans for interim storage of radioactive wastes and nuclear materials

Workstreams:

- B1. Present and future stores for radioactive wastes
- B2. Spent fuel storage
- B3. Nuclear materials storage

Marion Hill, David Broughton, Margaret Burns, Mark Dutton, Les Netherton

Working Group C: Research and Development

Remit: to scrutinise plans for and performance of UK R&D related to geological disposal and interim storage, including availability of the necessary skills and infrastructure

Workstreams:

- C1. Research and development activities
- C2. Skills development and preservation
- C3. Infrastructure

Bill Lee, Mark Dutton, Fergus Gibb, Simon Harley, Francis Livens, Lynda Warren

Working Group D: Government's Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Programme

Remit: to scrutinise progress of MRWS programme, including Government proposals and the regulatory framework

Workstreams:

- D1. Government policies, proposals and White Papers
- D2. Strategic, business and work planning (Government, regulators and implementers)
- D3. Regulatory framework (nuclear and non-nuclear)
- D4 Support to local communities

Mark Dutton, Margaret Burns, Brian Clark, Marion Hill (regulatory framework), Les Netherton, Lynda Warren (information package)

Working Group E: Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Remit: to plan CoRWM's PSE activities and scrutinise those of other organisations

Workstreams

- E1. CoRWM's own public and stakeholder engagement activities
- E2. Implementer and government PSE activities

Lynda Warren, David Broughton, Margaret Burns, Brian Clark, Francis Livens, John Rennilson.

Working Group F: CoRWM Work Plan

Remit: to co-ordinate the development of CoRWM's 3 year work programme, future reviews of the programme and annual reports

Workstreams:

- F1 first three year work programme
- F2 reviews in 2009 and 2010
- F3 Annual reports
- F4 CoRWM risk register.

Les Netherton, Marion Hill, Bill Lee, Francis Livens

Working Group G: CoRWM's Website

Remit: to oversee improvements to the website and its subsequent management, including quality control of content

Workstreams:

- G1 Website improvements
- G2 Website management.

Les Netherton, Simon Harley, Marion Hill

Annex D Work areas, topics and tasks

<i>Work Area</i>	<i>Specific Topic</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Work-Stream</i>	<i>Priority for 2008/09</i>	<i>Priority 09/10 & 10/11</i>
1. The waste inventory	Inventory	1.1 Use 2007 UK inventory to establish inventory for geological disposal*	A2	medium	medium
	Conditioning and packaging standards	1.2 Scrutinise proposals for review of standards, operation of 'letters of compliance' process*	D3	high	high
	Waste properties	1.3 Evaluate development of disposal facility concepts for heat-generating and non-heat generating wastes*	A2	medium	medium
2. Storage, handling and transport	Storage, handling and transport of wastes (existing and planned)	2.1 <i>Scrutinise existing and planned storage programme; plans for retrieval of untreated wastes, safety, security, capacity, longevity; assess impact of NDA's competition methodology on storage; scrutinise plans for handling and transport*</i>	B1	high	high
	Storage, handling and transport of materials that may be declared wastes	2.2 Scrutinise management plans for materials that may be declared waste: spent fuel*	B2		
		2.3 Scrutinise management plans for materials that may be declared waste: plutonium and uranium*	B3		
3. Implementation of geological disposal	Invitation to communities to begin discussions with government and NDA	3.1 <i>Scrutinise provision of information and communication of MRWS process to a wide range of communities</i>	D4	high	high
		3.2 <i>Assess whether substantive issues have been dealt with in the White Paper</i>	D1		N/A
		3.3 <i>Assess whether stakeholder concerns have been identified and addressed</i>	E1		high
		3.4 Scrutinise local government awareness of and reactions to the invitation*	D4		high
	Support to and rights of communities	3.5 Evaluate and advise on principles of engagement and benefits packages, partnership agreements, rights of withdrawal*	D4	high	high

<i>Work Area</i>	<i>Specific Topic</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Work-Stream</i>	<i>Priority for 2008/09</i>	<i>Priority 09/10 & 10/11</i>
3. Implementation of geological disposal		3.6 <i>Scrutinise the support given to local communities to respond to the invitation*</i>	D4	high	high
		3.7 <i>Scrutinise the ways in which concerns of affected areas are addressed*</i>	D4		
	Site assessment	3.8 <i>Scrutinise process for screening out unsuitable areas*</i>	A1	high	high
		3.9 <i>Scrutinise process and criteria for short-listing sites from desk-based studies</i>	A1		
	Disposal facility concepts	3.10 <i>Scrutinise NDA's Lifetime Plan for geological disposal*</i>	A2	medium	medium
		3.11 <i>Evaluate whether disposal facility concepts are optimised for range of potential host geology*</i>	A2		
	Decision making and responsibilities	3.12 <i>Evaluate and advise on appropriateness of decision-making processes and responsibilities*</i>	D2	high	high
		3.13 <i>Evaluate whether decision-makers are learning from international experience</i>	D2		
4. Waste management R&D	Development of R&D programme	4.1 <i>Advise on mechanism for developing UK R&D programme on geological disposal and interim storage (includes holistic overview of UK R&D relevant to storage and disposal including variants such as deep borehole disposal, and ensuring awareness of and collaboration in international R&D programmes)*</i>	C1	high	high
		4.2 <i>Scrutinise impact of NDA and others' plans for R&D infrastructure (National Nuclear Laboratory, opening direct research portfolio to competition etc.)*</i>	C3	high	high
	Oversight, review and peer review	4.3 <i>Examine proposed NDA arrangements for oversight and peer review*</i>	C1	high	high
	Technical topics	4.4 <i>Establish rolling programme of review for relevant research topics- e.g. disposal facility design, waste form performance, geology and hydrogeology, near-field behaviour.*</i>	C1	medium	medium

<i>Work Area</i>	<i>Specific Topic</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Work-Stream</i>	<i>Priority for 2008/09</i>	<i>Priority 09/10 & 10/11</i>
5. Resources	Funding	5.1 Scrutinise funding arrangements for geological disposal (NDA, regulators, potential host communities, government departments, CoRWM itself) and evaluate suitability (magnitude, security)*	D2	high	high
	Skills	5.2 Scrutinise proposals for acquiring and maintaining skills needed for geological disposal, over decades*	C2	high	high
	Capabilities	5.3 Evaluate capabilities for site investigations (drilling boreholes etc), and eventually for constructing disposal facility*	C2	low	low
6. Regulatory framework	Individual regulators	6.1 Scrutinise effectiveness of HSE (nuclear and radiological safety, security, safeguards), environment agencies, transport regulators with respect to MRWS programme*	D3	medium	medium
	Planning	6.2 Assess whether effects of forthcoming planning reforms are being taken into account for geological disposal facility and new stores*	D1	medium	medium
		6.3 Scrutinise applications of strategic environmental assessment (SEA), environmental impact assessment (EIA) and sustainability assessment (SA)*	D2		
		6.4 Scrutinise NDA's process for making a planning application for a geological disposal facility*	A2	low	low
Overall framework	6.5 Assess the coherence of regulatory processes and coordination between regulators*	D3	high	high	
7. Policy developments	Impact of policy changes	7.1 Keep track of all relevant policy developments and assess their implications for UK programme and our work*	D1	high	high
	New build	7.2 Consider implications of the new build decision for the MRWS programme*	D1	high	medium
	Contingency planning	7.3 Scrutinise development of policy options, contingency plans and scenarios, for example if geological disposal is significantly delayed or cannot be delivered*	D1	low	medium

<i>Work Area</i>	<i>Specific Topic</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Work-Stream</i>	<i>Priority for 2008/09</i>	<i>Priority 09/10 & 10/11</i>
8 Public and stakeholder engagement (PSE)	CoRWM's PSE activities	<i>8.1 Establish and oversee CoRWM's programme of engagement with public and stakeholders*</i>	E1	high	high
	Scrutiny of others' PSE activities	<i>8.2 Scrutinise and advise on plans for PSE and their implementation (Government, NDA, regulators etc)*</i>	E2	high	high
9. Other activities	Relevant developments	9.1 Keep track of other relevant developments and assess their implications for UK programme and our work (eg progress in decommissioning)*	D1	medium	medium
	Risks to whole MRWS programme	9.2 Scrutinise how key organisations are managing strategic risks, including examination of risk registers*	D2	medium	medium
	Use of best practice	9.3 Assess whether implementers are monitoring and learning from international programmes*	A2	medium / low	medium
	LLW management	9.4 Monitor impact of UK low level waste plans and activities on storage and geological disposal programmes, ensure relevant LLW experience is taken into account in MRWS*	D1	medium / low	low
	CoRWM's risk register	9.5 Establish and maintain CoRWM's risk register*	F4	high	high
	CoRWM's website	<i>9.6 Major improvements to website (2008)</i>	G1	high	N/A
		9.7 On-going management of website*	G2	high	high
	CoRWM work programme	9.8 Ensure three year programme implemented*	F1	high	high
		9.9 Review three year programme in 2009 and 2010*	F2		
		9.10 Compile Annual Report each year*	F3		

Notes

- i) Tasks in italics are those suggested for early attention.
- ii) * implies activity will extend beyond 2008/9.