

TASK GROUP 1 INTERIM STORAGE WORKPLAN 2009-10

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Scope of Group's Work

1. Task Group 1 (TG1) covers the conditioning, packaging, storage and transport of higher activity wastes (HAW); the management of nuclear materials that may be declared to be wastes, namely spent fuels, plutonium and uranium; and R&D related to these activities.

Members of Group

2. The members of TG1 are: Marion Hill (lead), David Broughton, Simon Harley, Bill Lee, Les Netherton. Other members with an interest are: Mark Dutton, Francis Livens.

Tasks

3. TG1 has two specific tasks in CoRWM's 2009-10 Work Programme (CoRWM doc. 2515.2), one of which is divided into four parts. These tasks are as follows.

Task 1: Scrutinise and advise on interim storage issues for HAW and materials that may be declared to be wastes, including:

- a) monitoring actions taken in response to the recommendations in CoRWM's March 2009 Interim Storage Report (CoRWM doc. 2500)
- b) scrutinising the NDA's development of its Topic Strategy for HAW, including its work on management options for short-lived ILW
- c) following NDA progress in the development of its Topic Strategies for spent fuels, plutonium and uranium
- d) keeping a watching brief on waste transport issues (with a view to undertaking a major piece of work in 2010-11).

Task 12: Monitor actions taken in response to the recommendations in CoRWM's October 2009 R&D Report (CoRWM doc. 2543).

Deliverables

4. TG1 is due to produce a position paper on interim storage issues in summer 2010. This will be an input to the planned CoRWM Status Report to Government in October 2010 (CoRWM doc. 2635).

Planned Work on Task 1a, CoRWM's March 2009 Recommendations

5. In order to plan work on Task 1a it is necessary to consider each recommendation in CoRWM's Interim Storage report in turn, together with the Government response to it (CoRWM docs. 2500, 2632).

Recommendation 1: UK-wide strategic co-ordination

6. The Government accepted CoRWM's recommendation that there should be greater UK-wide strategic co-ordination of the conditioning, packaging and storage of HAW, the management of all spent fuels, plutonium and uranium, and future transport arrangements for HAW and nuclear materials. It stated that it is exploring the best means of implementing the recommendation and will invite CoRWM to provide input to and scrutinise proposals as they develop. As well as responding when invited to do so, TG1 will gather information and views on mechanisms for strategic co-ordination during its bilateral meetings on Tasks 1b, 1c and 1d.

Recommendation 2: Making information publicly available

7. The Government acknowledged the importance of making appropriate information available to the public on the management of HAW, spent fuels, plutonium and uranium. It then listed the work that it and the NDA already have in hand on this issue. TG1, with TG6, will monitor this work and provide input when requested to do so. We will review the situation at the end of 2009-10. In the meantime we will continue to encourage NDA, its SLCs and other waste owners to make more information publicly available about their management of HAW and nuclear materials.

Recommendation 3: Making security information publicly available

8. The Government recognised the importance of being open and transparent and the need to provide public reassurance and confidence about security arrangements. It mentioned planned improvements to the OCNS website and plans for OCNS to discuss information provision with its counterparts in Europe and the USA. The planned actions fall short of what TG1 thinks is required. Accordingly, we will hold further discussions with OCNS about what more could be done, taking account of developments in other countries and at international organisations such as the IAEA.

Recommendation 4: Co-ordination of PSE

9. The Government accepted that there needs to be co-ordination of PSE between the NDA and other nuclear industry organisations at national, regional and local levels. It stated that DECC has established a Nuclear Engagement Group, including representatives from the UK Government, regulators and the NDA to consider PSE in the nuclear sector more strategically. It also stated that it will give further consideration to co-ordination of PSE as part of the work mentioned in its response to Recommendation 1. TG1, with TG6, will gather information and views on mechanisms for co-ordination during its meetings on Tasks 1b, 1c and 1d.

Reporting on Task 1a

10. The outcome of TG1's work on Task 1a will be reported via the position paper to be produced in summer 2010 (para 11).

Planned Work on Task 1b, HAW Management Strategies

11. NDA outlined the current status of its work on the HAW Topic Strategy and its plans for 2009-10 at a meeting with members of TG1 on 11 June 2009 (CoRWM doc. 2624). There was also an opportunity to talk informally to regulators about their own work and NDA's work at an EA workshop on 14 July 2009 (CoRWM doc. 2637). NDA issued a HAW Topic Strategy Summary and a "Gate 0" paper in the autumn of 2009 (NDA, 2009a, b). TG1 will:

- meet with NDA to discuss its HAW Topic Strategy documents, and the progress of its Integrated Project Teams (IPTs) on interim storage, reactor decommissioning wastes and thermal treatment (January or February 2010)
- meet with HSE, EA and SEPA to discuss all nuclear industry work on HAW conditioning, packaging and storage (January or February 2010)
- comment on NDA and others' draft documents if requested to do so (eg documents on package performance evaluation criteria and package monitoring and inspection)
- draft a position paper on HAW conditioning, packaging and storage, including R&D and PSE (May – June 2010)
- send the draft position paper to NDA, regulators and others for factual comment and discuss it at bilateral meetings (June – July 2010)
- present the position paper at the August 2010 CoRWM plenary meeting, for discussion and decision as to its suitability for use as input to the CoRWM 2010 Status Report to Government.

Planned Work on Task 1c, Spent Fuels, Uranium, Plutonium

12. Developments on the management of Magnox fuel, oxide fuels, exotic fuels, plutonium and uranium may occur on differing timescales so they are discussed separately below.

Magnox Fuel

13. NDA is working on a contingent strategy for Magnox fuel, for use in the event of failure of reprocessing capability or of continuing wet storage (CoRWM doc. 2624; NDA, 2009c). Its credible options paper is expected to be available in the first half of 2010. TG1 will hold meetings with NDA and HSE, EA and SEPA for discussions on management of Magnox fuel in January or February 2010.

Oxide Fuels

14. An Oxide Fuels Strategy (OFS2) is being developed, comparable in scope to the Magnox Operating Plan (MOP). NDA is also developing contingent strategies for AGR fuel (CoRWM doc. 2624; NDA, 2009d). A credible options paper for oxide fuels is expected to be finalised in the first half of 2010. TG1 plans to discuss management of oxide fuels at meetings with NDA and the regulators in January or February 2010.

Exotic Fuels

15. NDA's credible options study for exotic fuels has begun and it is expected that credible options will be published in 2010 (CoRWM doc. 2624; NDA, 2009e). TG1 plans to hold discussions with NDA and regulators about management of exotic fuels in April or May 2010.

Uranium

16. NDA's credible options study for uranium is underway. It is planned to publish a credible options paper by June 2010 (NDA, 2009f, g). TG1 proposes to hold discussions with NDA and regulators about management of uranium in April or May 2010.

Plutonium

17. DECC is expected to begin a public consultation on the long-term management of plutonium in early 2010. Two pre-consultation papers (on key factors for comparing options and process and timing for decision-making) have been published. NDA is in a holding position meanwhile but is continuing with R&D (mainly on plutonium immobilisation). TG1 has responded informally to both the DECC pre-consultation papers (CoRWM docs. 2690, 2718) and will respond formally to the DECC public consultation, in each instance considering only waste management aspects. It will also discuss plutonium management with NDA and regulators in spring 2010.

Reporting on Task 1c

18. The outcome of the work on Task 1c will be included in the position paper to be drafted in May – June 2010, sent out for factual comment in June – July 2010 and presented to plenary in August 2010, for discussion and decision as to its suitability for use as input to the CoRWM 2010 Status Report to Government (para 10).

Planned Work on Task 1d, Transport

18. TG1 plans to hold two meetings to prepare for work on transport in 2010-11. One meeting will be with NDA and will be to find out about its work on logistics and safety cases for transport of HAW to a GDF, and its work on transport of HAW between sites for treatment and interim storage. The other meeting will be with DfT to discuss current and future issues in transport regulation. Both meetings will be in early 2010, so that the outcomes can be used in finalising CoRWM's 2010-11 Work Programme.

Planned Work on Task 12, CoRWM's October 2009 Recommendations on R&D

19. R&D will be discussed in TG1 meetings with NDA and others on HAW, spent fuels, uranium and plutonium (see above). In addition, TG1 expects to maintain and expand contacts with key people in the NDA's Nuclear Waste Research Forum (NWRF), in order to keep in touch with developments in establishing and co-ordinating R&D programmes. (CoRWM interactions with the NWRF will be discussed with NDA at a meeting in January 2010.) TG1 will also monitor actions taken in response to the recommendations in CoRWM's October 2009 R&D Report. Reporting on all R&D matters will be via the position paper and Status Report (paras 10, 17).

PSE

20. TG1 does not plan to hold any PSE events in 2009-10. It will work with TG6 to scrutinise the PSE of NDA, DECC and others on HAW conditioning, packaging and interim storage, and management of spent fuels, plutonium and uranium. This may include holding discussions with NGOs and other groups of stakeholders to obtain their views on the PSE of others.

Technical Support

21. TG1 does not expect to require technical support in 2009-10.

Summary of TG1 Workplan

22. The following table summarises the planned work of TG1 for December 2009 to March 2010 inclusive, with a forward look to the first half of 2010-11. **Milestones and deliverables are in bold. Items involving discussion at CoRWM plenary meetings are in bold italics.**

	<i>Work Item</i>	<i>Timing</i>
1	Send informal comments to DECC on pre-consultation papers on long-term management of plutonium	September - November 2009
2	<i>Initial plenary discussion on long-term management of plutonium</i>	<i>November 2009</i>
3	Meeting with OCNS to discuss making more security information publicly available (Rec. 3)	December 2009
4	Meeting with NDA to discuss R&D (with TG4)	January 2010
5	Meeting with DfT to discuss current and future transport regulation issues	January 2010
6	Meeting with NDA to discuss HAW Topic Strategy, LoC progress, UK-wide strategic co-ordination (Rec. 1), making information publicly available (Rec. 2), co-ordination of PSE (Rec. 4)	January 2010
7	Meeting with NII, EA and SEPA to discuss HAW conditioning, packaging and storage, LoC progress, UK-wide strategic co-ordination (Rec. 1), making information publicly available (Rec. 2), co-ordination of PSE (Rec. 4)	January or February 2010
8	<i>Prepare formal CoRWM response to DECC public consultation on long-term management of plutonium</i>	<i>February – March 2010</i>
9	Meeting with NDA to discuss HAW transport work	January or February 2010
10	Meeting with NDA to discuss credible options work for Magnox, oxide and exotic spent fuels and for uranics, plutonium management, parts of Recs 1, 2, 4 relevant to spent fuels and nuclear materials	January or February 2010
11	Meeting with NII, EA, SEPA to discuss management of Magnox, oxide and exotic spent fuels, uranics, plutonium, parts of Recs 1, 2, 4 relevant to spent fuels and nuclear materials	January or February 2010
12	<i>Draft position paper on all TG1 work</i>	<i>May – June 2010</i>
13	Send draft position paper out for factual comments (to all those met, plus sponsors), hold bilateral meetings with NDA and regulators	June – July 2010
14	<i>Finalise TG1 position paper and submit to plenary</i>	<i>August 2010</i>

References to NDA Documents

NDA, 2009a. *Higher Activity Waste Topic Strategy Summary*. Version 1.0. September 2009.

NDA, 2009b. *Higher Activity Wastes Strategy. Topic Strategy Paper (Gate 0)*. SMS/TS/D1/001/v1/1. October 2009.

NDA, 2009c. *Magnox Fuel Topic Strategy Summary*. Version 2.0. October 2009.

NDA, 2009d. *Oxide Fuel Topic Strategy Summary*. Version 1.0. August 2009.

NDA, 2009e. *Exotic Fuel Topic Strategy Summary*. Version 1.0. August 2009.

NDA, 2009f. *Uranics Topic Strategy Summary*. Version 1.0. August 2009.

NDA, 2009g. *Uranics Topic Strategy Summary*. Version 2.0. October 2009.