

Meeting summary CoRWM 2463

1. Date, place and title of meeting attended:

Meeting to discuss UK nuclear capability reviews and associated studies, 28 August 2008, at Dept. of Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, London SW1

2. Who attended for CoRWM: Adam Scott, secretariat

3. Others present: Mike Sugden (BERR), Derek Allen (Technology Strategy Board), Dr Stephen Court (National Metals Technology Centre) and Joe Flanagan (NW Regional Development Agency)

4. Purpose of attending meeting: to report back to WG C (which is scrutinising waste management related R&D including UK skills and capability) on Government commissioned studies on the capability and capacity of the UK nuclear supply chain.

5. Main points discussed / information acquired:

1. BERR has asked Namtec to study and report on the capability and capacity of the UK nuclear supply chain with particular reference to new-build. Stephen gave a presentation summarising their work and emerging findings. I noted, for example, that UK suppliers' capacity & capability - both to undertake UK and overseas work - were generally good but with some limitations, pinch points or risk areas e.g. related to a few areas of equipment; project management capability; and skills especially if a lot of countries want a lot of new-build around the same time. (Other e.g. Olympics projects are unlikely to put pressure on the same types of skills.) Stephen will circulate his presentation to us. Namtec will report shortly to BERR and they are considering whether to stop at findings or go on and make recommendations. In any event BERR will wish to take their findings forward in some way, depending on resources &c.
2. The Technology Strategy Board published an energy generation strategy in May, which could not say much about nuclear given the fluid state of policy when their work was being done; but they said that they would evaluate UK capacity including issues and gaps.
3. NWDA are assessing UK R&D capability including nuclear, though they are looking mainly at the front and middle bits of the fuel cycle, not waste management. Namtec & NWDA exercises both involve a lot of 1:1 interviews with suppliers &c, and NWDA are thinking of holding some sort of stakeholder event as well. Joe has some notes on this which he will send us. TSB and NWDA are working in association e.g. NWDA are looking to identify strengths, weaknesses and any areas where TSB can add value.
4. The meeting noted CoRWM's interest in this area, e.g. we have no position for or against new-build as such, and it may be some time before we can do any significant work even on the waste management implications of a NB

programme; but such a programme has R&D, skills &c implications for the implementability of CoRWM's waste-storage & -disposal recommendations and we may be able to draw on any capability studies that TSB, Namtec, NWDA are doing in this area.

5. Once WG C sees the detailed notes you can consider any synergies including fewer (or even more) people you now need to meet. There is also a possibility of some kind of wider stakeholder event drawing together several of these issues & conclusions and there is an invitation to WG C to consider whether it wants to attend, co-organise, or whatever.

6. Actions for CoRWM (what, when, whom):

1. Follow developments via BERR, Namtec &c (Bill Lee), in particular,
2. Consider attending the proposed stakeholder event (Bill Lee).
3. Obtain Namtec presentation and NWDA notes (Adam Scott).

7. This note written by:

Adam Scott