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NDA's public and stakeholder engagement: meeting on 23 July 2009, London

Summary

- Members of CoRWM's task group on public and stakeholder engagement met the NDA, as part of the Committee's task of scrutinising other organisations' engagement activities. The NDA provided presentations and answered questions e.g. about their engagement strategy, how this was integrated with other NDA strategies, the main structures and mechanisms, how they judged success, and how they co-ordinated their engagement with other organisations' so as to make effective use of stakeholders' capabilities.
- There was initial discussion about how to get more information about radioactive waste management into the public domain.

The meeting

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| 3. Present: NDA: | John Dalton
Bill Hamilton | CoRWM: | David Broughton
Brian Clark
John Rennilson
Lynda Warren |
| | | secretariat: | Sam Bains
Adam Scott |

Apologies: NDA: Elizabeth Atherton
Richard Griffin
Peter Lock

- The aims of the meeting were
 - to ask the NDA about its public and stakeholder engagement strategy and practices, as part of CoRWM's scrutiny role (task 16 in its 2009/10 programme),
 - to discuss ways of getting more or better information to the public (task 15), and
 - to identify the most effective nature and timing of contacts between the NDA and CoRWM during 2009/10. This was one of a series of meetings with the NDA covering geological disposal (11 May: doc. 2599), interim storage (11 June: doc. 2624), and R&D (to be arranged).
- Main papers for the meeting included
 - the agenda (attached), setting out CoRWM's questions to the NDA;
 - 4 papers/presentations from the NDA, the third of which provided most of the answers to CoRWM's questions:
 - Strategy management system - short description** (.pdf, 8pp)
 - Briefing paper on strategy management system for National Stakeholder Group June 2009** (.pdf, 1p)

3. **Public and stakeholder engagement: presentation to CoRWM - July 2009**
(Powerpoint, 29pp)
4. **NDA Communications & Stakeholder Relations Strategy – 2009-2011: Summary** (.pdf, 1p)

(Copies are available from the secretariat.)

Other documents and supporting information were referenced in the agenda.

6. The discussion is summarised on the attached copy of the agenda annotated (in blue) to summarise the NDA's answers to the questions and where further details can be found e.g. in their presentations.
7. The meeting agreed two follow-up actions:
 - The secretariat would draft a note and invite NDA factual comments before publication.
 - The NDA would send CoRWM details (including timing) of forthcoming proposals on which it would welcome comments.

**NDA's Public and Stakeholder Engagement
Agenda for NDA-CoRWM meeting in room LG01 (lower ground floor)
3 Whitehall Place, London SW1, 11am on 23 July 2009**

(includes, in blue, a summary of answers given by the NDA in the meeting)

1. Introduction and aim of meeting

2. NDA's strategic approach to PSE *

- What is the strategic approach? How does PSE link into decision making processes?

Through the NDA's Strategy Management System (see SMS presentations). This identifies topic strategies such as higher-activity waste management, oxide fuel &c, each of which have their own stakeholder-engagement strand. PSE is one of a number of "critical enablers" so it is upstream of implementing several other topic strategies.

- What are the key structures for delivering PSE, for example the role of Site Stakeholder Groups?

The papers and presentations (e.g. on SMS) set out the decision making and implementation structures. The 3rd (PSE) presentation, slides 14-17, summarises the main PSE structures e.g. National & Site SGs, SSG Chairs, website, meetings &c. Other mechanisms are under consideration including YouTube-type social networking.

- How is the effectiveness of PSE judged?

Through feedback from stakeholders using a variety of routes, and via a review of stakeholder engagement. There are more specific reviews e.g. the National Stakeholder Group recently debated options for continuing, modifying or ending the NSG process; and there has been a change in facilitator as well as more direct NDA involvement with participants, as some people felt that the NDA was "sheltering" behind the facilitator. See the 3rd (PSE) presentation, slides 16-17. The NDA feel that it could make clearer to people on which occasions they can really influence a result, and where - by contrast - they are mainly being informed rather than involved in significantly developing or changing something.

- What is PSE delivering for NDA?

More effective strategy development and implementation and improved public confidence. Again, see slide 17 - as part of the review, the NDA is seeking to determine success indicators and also invited CoRWM suggestions. Our own recently adopted success criteria (CoRWM doc. 2555) may be relevant.

(These and other detailed questions are taken from Lynda Warren's December 2008 letter to NDA)

3. How are PSE activities integrated within NDA? *

- Is there an overall PSE strategy?

Yes, or at least, a Communications and Stakeholder Relations Strategy - see the 3rd (PSE) presentation, slide 12.

Members asked: how would PSE fare if the NDA faced major budget cuts? The NDA said it would have to re-assess its priorities, but the SMS system is the best protection because it shows PSE generally as a "critical enabler", and specifically which topic strategies depend on stakeholder engagement and public confidence.

- How are different PSE events (on different topics and/or at different localities) co-ordinated?

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have established a group to co-ordinate 'nuclear' consultation/engagement activities. NDA are an active part of this group to ensure we don't overlap with others.

4. PSE and the MRWS process *

- We have seen and commented on the draft PSE and communications framework relating to the development of a geological disposal facility. We would like to understand how this framework strategy will fit with NDA's wider PSE proposals?

The NDA has set up the Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) to become a "prospective" Site Licence Company to deliver geological disposal through the voluntarism / partnership approach. See the 3rd (PSE) presentation, slides 19-25, on the geological-disposal PSE strategy and mechanisms.

Work on implementing geological disposal is different from other NDA activities in that there is no site at present. Separate work has taken place, including its own recent strategy-framework consultation exercise, informing journalists, including meeting local communities in Sweden, and drafting documents such as *Planning for implementation* designed for public information and comment. But it is integrated with other NDA PSE activities and strategies (see 3rd (PSE) presentation, slide 24) and brought together via the SMS (see above).

The meeting discussed the challenge of getting from an Expression of Interest - generally at district council level or above - down to a number of potential local sites including the effective involvement of local communities. This is an important part of a process still to be developed.

5. Challenges or barriers to engagement *

- What measures are taken to avoid duplication and stakeholder fatigue in NDA PSE? What range of PSE tools do you employ and, in particular, how do you engage with the wider public?

These include planning ahead to give stakeholders earlier notice, trying to develop plans more from the perspective of stakeholders, and better co-ordination with DECC and others. As part of this, the NDA hopes to give CoRWM an indication (including timing) of proposals on which it would welcome Committee input.

A revised mechanism has been set up by DECC to improve co-ordination of nuclear related PSE. (See the 3rd (PSE) presentation, slide 27.) Members propose to remain outside this mechanism and observe the results.

There will be a large number of nuclear consultations over the next few months - for details see DECC website

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/consultations/consultations.aspx

After its R&D workshop in September CoRWM has no significant events of its own, but there will be occasional clashes or overlaps: better information and planning reduces the risk but does not eliminate it - plans change.
See above on tools employed. Engaging the wider public remains a challenge.

6. Links with PSE of others * ***

- Government: is it clear who is taking the lead in PSE in the various stages of MRWS? Is there a risk of confusion, duplication, consultation / stakeholder fatigue? (see for example the DECC "consultations map" with plans for the next few months)
- Local authorities: is there clarity about who is taking the lead in engaging with communities? Risks as above?
- Regulators: again, clarity? risks?

Yes: at this stage Government is in the lead and local authorities and communities (in Cumbria and elsewhere) will generally want to talk to them. The NDA supports Government by providing information e.g. around the **MRWS** website, and maintains close contacts with local authorities.

7. Getting more information into the public domain **

- What are NDA's plans for placing more, more relevant, or more accessible information into the public domain? (See, for example, recommendations in CoRWM's Interim storage report (March 2009) and NDA proposals referred to in Government response (June 2009. CoRWM's R&D Report also has a draft Recommendation on this.)
- How can CoRWM help e.g. via its website or by commenting on specific proposals?

This was an introductory meeting with NDA public-engagement rather than technical experts and we noted that these recommendations (or proposed recommendations) will mainly be followed up by CoRWM's interim storage and R&D groups. (See tasks 1 & 12 in CoRWM's 2009/10 work programme. The task leaders, Marion Hill and Bill Lee, already plan to meet the NDA to take this forward.)

8. AOB / next steps

* as part of task 16 (CoRWM scrutiny of others' PSE: see Annex)

** as part of task 15 (liaison over providing information to the public)

*** as part of task 14 (though this was substantially complete on 22 May - we plan no further geological disposal-specific events in 2009/10)

Attending:	NDA:	Elizabeth Atherton John Dalton Richard Griffin Bill Hamilton Peter Lock	CoRWM:	Lynda Warren (chair) David Broughton Brian Clark John Rennilson
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Papers for meeting:

- agenda
- PSE elements of CoRWM's work programme (see Annex)
- two NDA presentations anticipated on 21 July

Other background information (we'll bring a reference copy of each):

- CoRWM Interim storage report (doc. 2500) and Government response
- CoRWM draft R&D report (doc. 2543)
- DECC "consultations map"
- an example of NDA evaluation: ***Evaluation of the NDA National stakeholder group meeting, Manchester, 5-6 November 2008***, Diane Warburton (evaluation reports are available on NDA website)
- 2 NDA tender documents (ITT, specification) related to evaluations

Annex PSE elements of CoRWM's 2009/10 work programme

<u>PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</u>	Resource	Output
<p>Task 14 Engage the public on issues relating to progress with the implementation of geological disposal, for example by convening a Citizens' Panel.</p>	Medium	
<p>Task 15 Liaise with other organisations on ways to provide information to the public about the MRWS programme and radioactive waste management in general.</p>	Medium	Report or position paper according to the extent of PSE activities in 2009/10.
<p>Task 16 Scrutinise the PSE activities of Government, the NDA and the regulators related to the MRWS programme.</p>	Medium	March/ April 2010.