

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HIGHER ACTIVITY RADIOACTIVE WASTE POLICY

### MEETING WITH CORWM REPRESENTATIVES 10:00 ON FRIDAY 31 JULY 2009 THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, VICTORIA QUAY, LEITH, EDINBURGH

#### **Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Elizabeth Gray	Scottish Government
Ewan Young	Scottish Government
Neil Murchison	Scottish Government
Andy Sloan	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
Simon Harley	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

#### **Item 1            **Introductions****

1.01    The agenda was agreed and is reflected in the section headings below.

#### **Item 2            **Update of SG HAW progress****

2.01    Elizabeth Gray described the background to the decision to develop a Scottish Government (SG) Detailed Statement of Policy for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste (HAW) and the process for developing the planned Consultation Document. This covered the following topics:

- SG decision not to participate in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely 'Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal' consultation published in June 2007 by UK, Welsh and Northern Ireland governments.
- The resultant publication of the 25 June 2007 statement announcing the SG "near surface, near site policy storage", decision not to endorse the MRWS consultation and continued involvement with CoRWM on storage and research and development.
- Discussions with, and views expressed by, stakeholders over subsequent months in various fora, formal and informal, identified a need for a more Detailed Statement of Policy to enable planning assumptions to be made for the HAW arising in Scotland. For example, discussed at Scottish Sites meetings.
- Scottish Ministers agreed to the development of a more detailed statement and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

2.02    The work was taken forward in a more formalised structure with:

- The setting up of a Project Board to oversee the development of the Detailed Statement of Policy and the Consultation Document and Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- The creation of a Technical Advisory Group (some meetings of which Simon Harley has attended) to advise on the more technical matters including identifying the scope of the HAW and how it could be dealt with.

2.03    These Board and Group activities led to:

- A Workshop with stakeholders in June 2009 to seek views on content of a Consultation Document.
- agreement by Ministers to include discussion on near surface, near site disposal as well as storage at the workshop

- information was provided in advance to assist discussion and was sent to all invitees, including those who could not attend
- workshop participants broadly endorsing the approach but highlighting key issues to be addressed particularly on:
  - clarity of wastes covered by policy and
  - the differences between storage and disposal: a clear outcome of the Workshop was that any options must be upfront as to whether they are for storage or disposal
- setting up a website for the HAW Policy development which is being populated with documents from the Board, Group and workshop and this will continue as policy development proceeds

### ***Item 3 SG HAW programme and output***

3.01 An initial timeline had been proposed late in 2008 but a number of factors had altered it, partly the issue of identifying and obtaining resources but also the development of work by others including the reports by CoRWM and the NDA. However, the fundamental issue of the deadline for publishing the Detailed Statement of Policy – by end of June 2010 – remained and the Detailed Statement of Policy will be the output of the project.

3.02 The revised timeline also reflected that there was more engagement with stakeholders, including the workshop, prior to the consultation. The next stages would be:

- the normal 12 week consultation period
- a second workshop is planned for October to consider the Detailed Statement of Policy and the Environmental Report
- to take advantage of other meetings and events to discuss the consultation and Environmental Report including at the next Scottish Sites meeting and where possible at Site Stakeholder Group meetings in Scotland
- material would be put on the website.
- Consideration would also be given to the possibility of engagement with Scottish Civic Forum and the Scottish Youth Parliament

In this area CoRWM stated that its criteria would be to examine any plans for publicity which the Scottish Government had and whether they had been followed through.

3.03 There was also some discussion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and the following points were noted

- Screening report stage had been completed
- Scoping report was out to statutory consultees but was also on the website and workshop attendees and invitees were being given the opportunity to comment
- The information for the Environmental Report was being brought together and was at a very early draft stage.

3.04 It was agreed that CoRWM representatives would attend meetings which had been planned between SG and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA): SEPA is working closely with SG on the development of the Detailed Statement of Policy.

### ***Item 4 CoRWM work scope***

4.01 There was discussion of CoRWM's scrutiny of the policy development process and of the Policy as well as its involvement in the advisory group. The following points were noted:

- SG is not looking for large or overly detailed reports from CoRWM.
- SG would like advice from CoRWM during the process to ensure that the process is robust and reflects the Scottish Government desire to be inclusive with stakeholders.
- SG recognises CoRWM's scrutiny role as defined in its terms of reference and recognises that this can be constructive in terms of a "quality control" role.

4.02 It was agreed that there were three areas that CoRWM would scrutinise:

- The process to undertake the Policy development, including how the present status of policy development was reached, as well as the next phases
- the work carried out by the Technical Advisory Group
- the draft Detailed Statement of Policy and consultation document

4.03 In addition it was recognised that:

- CoRWM will give an formal response to the Consultation Document and the SEA Environmental Report following discussion in plenary session, and
- will also provide comments on the SEA Scoping Report.

CoRWM agreed that they would provide responses by end December 2009.

4.04 It was also agreed that CoRWM:

- would revise its Task Group 2 work plan as regards deliverables and timing in light of the discussion
- would build some check points into the time frame of the policy
- will meet with specific groups to find out if their views on the policy and the process to develop it.
- would consider its own need to undertake public and stakeholder engagement

4.05 There was some discussion of the issues of research and development (R&D) and skills and how they might feature in the Detailed Statement of Policy and Consultation Document. The following points were noted:

#### *R&D*

- SG would expect R&D to be carried out by waste owners and/or producers (including the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – NDA): it is not intended that SG would undertake R&D
- it is also the case that, especially in this area, a lot of work is done in collaboration: both UK and internationally
- this is to be encouraged and there is some evidence that NDA is getting more involved in this collaborative approach across the range of its activities. It was discussed that that the NDA should take note of the points raised in relation to collaboration in CoRWM's R&D report.

#### *Skills*

- CoRWM has concerns about the availability in Scotland (and elsewhere in the UK) of the skills to deliver the Policy in terms of skills base
- The issue is in skills across the board from university to vocational
- These are transferrable skills and are not limited to the radioactive waste management sector

- it was recognised that no one organisation would necessarily have all of the skills but the issue remains as to whether the skills are there at all.

SG agreed to look at how this might be covered in the Detailed Statement of Policy and the Consultation Document.

***Item 5          Arrange meeting schedule***

5.01    October was suggested as suitable month to hold another meeting and dates were to be proposed by the SG.

***Summary***

It was agreed that this had been a very useful meeting for all and SG welcomed the constructive approach from CoRWM to assist it in the process to develop the Detailed Statement of Policy.

**Radioactive Waste Team  
Scottish Government  
7 August 2009**