

**CoRWM e-bulletin no.17**  
**December 2007**

Welcome to CoRWM's 17th e-bulletin, the first since we were re-constituted in October. We held our first meeting on 28-29 November.

**Who we are**

We are:

- **Professor Robert Pickard** (Chair) - Chairman of the Consumers' Association Which?, former Director-General of the British Nutrition Foundation, and Emeritus Professor of Neurobiology at the University of Cardiff.
- **David Broughton** - a Chartered Engineer and a Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, with experience in engineering and management of complex nuclear projects. Recently retired from UKAEA where he worked at Dounreay, Caithness.
- **Margaret Burns** - a part-time teaching fellow in the Law Department of the University of Aberdeen. She was a member of the Health and Safety Commission, representing the public interest and the devolved administrations.
- **Professor Brian Clark** - Professor of Environmental Management and Planning at Aberdeen University. A Board Member of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and served on CoRWM from 2003 - 2007.
- **Dr Mark Dutton** - has a doctorate in high energy physics and a career based at the National Nuclear Corporation; now a consultant. He specialises in design and safety case issues associated with radiological protection, nuclear safety and radioactive waste management, serving on CoRWM 2003 - 2007.
- **Professor Fergus Gibb** - Professor of Petrology & Geochemistry in the Department of Engineering Materials, University of Sheffield with over 40 years lecturing & research experience in mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry.
- **Professor Simon Harley** - Professor of Lower Crustal Processes in the School of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh. An international expert on the evolution of continental crust, integrating geological mapping with experimental and microanalytical studies of the stabilities of minerals and their behaviour at high temperatures and pressures.

- **Marion Hill** - formerly with the National Radiological Protection Board (now part of the Health Protection Agency), then a consultant. She has experience in standards for and assessments of the radiological impact of the nuclear industry on the public and the environment.
- **Professor Bill Lee** - Head of Materials at Imperial College London. He has a Physical Metallurgy BSc, a DPhil in Radiation Damage Studies and has held academic positions in the USA and UK including Sheffield University where he was Director of BNFL's University Research Alliance on Waste Immobilisation.
- **Professor Francis Livens** - a radiochemist at the University of Manchester since 1991. He worked for over 25 years in environmental radioactivity and actinide chemistry, starting his career with the Natural Environment Research Council, where he was involved in the response to the Chernobyl accident.
- **Les Netherton** - environmental health consultant with experience in health and safety, food safety, environmental protection and emergency planning. Head of environmental health at Plymouth City Council 1998-2007, lead officer for the nuclear submarine refitting facility at Devonport Royal Dockyard, and Chair of Interim Storage Of Laid Up Submarines (ISOLUS) project Advisory Group.
- **John Rennison** - Director of Planning & Development at the Highland Council. Formerly County Planning Officer of North Yorkshire County Council.
- **Professor Lynda Warren** - Emeritus Professor of Environmental Law at Aberystwyth University and a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. She has degrees in marine biology and law. She served on CoRWM from 2003 - 2007.

Details of us and our task (our Terms of Reference set by Government) are on our website at <http://www.corwm.org.uk>. Further information will be published in the record of our meeting (see below) and the formal Register of Members' Interests, both of which will be put on the website.

### **Why we were re-constituted**

CoRWM advised Government in July 2006 how the UK's higher activity waste should be managed. It recommended geological disposal as the end-point, robust storage in the interim period and implementation via a staged, partnership based process with willing communities.

Government said in October 2006 that it would re-constitute the Committee to give independent scrutiny, mainly on the implementation of CoRWM's recommendations, but also more generally on the UK's radioactive waste management plans and programmes including those of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Government consulted in June 2007 on its implementation plans called *Managing radioactive waste safely*.

Government has asked us to agree a work programme by March 2008. This will be a rolling 3-year programme with annual reports in June.

### **Our first meeting**

We met for the first time on 28-29 November. This was a private meeting, mainly to get to know one another, discuss how we see the role of CoRWM, agree plans for drawing up a work programme, and agree some basic working methods. These include transparency: this was CoRWM's 43rd plenary meeting since 2003, so we shall publish a summary report of the meeting (document 2240), publish our future work plans, and hold future plenary meetings in public, as usual.

We agreed our working methods - basically, to continue working openly as CoRWM has done in the past, with decisions being taken in public at our plenary meetings. We shall review our guiding principles and transparency policy to ensure that they are still effective and relevant to our revised Terms of Reference. And we want to improve our website, making it more informative and easier to use.

### **What we plan to do next**

We are arranging a series of meetings and visits to organisations and radioactive waste facilities in the UK and abroad. For example, we plan to visit Sellafield and Dounreay, where most of the UK's higher activity waste is kept; and to meet the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, environmental NGOs, nuclear regulators, local government, science and engineering bodies, and other national and local stakeholders.

This will give us the chance to gather a range of views and further information. It will also help us draw up our work programme, identifying the issues on which we should be advising, and deciding when our advice will be most useful. Government has asked us to aim to agree a work programme by March 2008. This will run for 3 years including annual reports at the end of June.

We have asked small groups of Members to develop outline plans for the programme; for public and stakeholder engagement; and for the website. We shall discuss initial plans at our January plenary meeting, and more advanced plans at our February meeting.

We shall publish details on our website as they develop.

### **Our next plenary meetings**

These will be held on

- 15-16 January, in London
- 18-19 February, in London
- 23-24 April, in Edinburgh
- 9-10 June, in Cardiff
- 16-17 September, and
- 3-4 November.

We shall publish locations of these meetings when we have made bookings.

### **Further information**

For further information please contact our secretariat at:  
CoRWM, 4C Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL,  
telephone: 0207 238 1721, e-mail: [contact@corwm.org.uk](mailto:contact@corwm.org.uk)