

**CoRWM e-bulletin 35**  
**August 2009**

Welcome to our latest e-bulletin. This reports on our 26 August plenary meeting in Manchester and summarises our future plans.

***Report of our plenary, Manchester, 26 August 2009***

We discussed the Government response to our March report on interim waste storage; tasks in our 2009/10 work programme; and R&D including the House of Lords enquiry on setting research funding priorities.

*Interim storage*

The Government responded in July (document 2632) to our Report on interim storage of higher activity wastes and management of spent fuels, uranium and plutonium (doc. 2500). We discussed this and noted that Government has accepted recommendation 1 on UK-wide strategic coordination. We also noted that, although Government has responded fairly positively to the other three recommendations, it has not committed itself to any actions other than those already in hand. Over the next few months we shall discuss the recommendations in a number of bilateral meetings and monitor Government progress.

*2009-10 work programme*

We sent our draft programme to Government in March and received sponsors' agreement in late July. In the meantime we have been getting on with the various tasks, including publishing our draft R&D Report (doc. 2543) for comment on 27 July and sending our completed Report on geological disposal (doc. 2550) to Government on 31 July. We have begun our tasks on nuclear new-build wastes, Scottish Government policy on long-term management of higher activity wastes, and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority plans for implementing geological disposal, as well as monitoring developments in Cumbria.

At our plenary we discussed detailed work plans for our seven Task Groups (doc. 2665). We agreed that the Committee was planning to undertake too many tasks in the remaining 7 months of the financial year. We decided to revise the task group work plans so that only tasks with the highest priority would be finished in 2009-10.

One type of output from our work in 2009-10 will be formal responses to Government consultations. In the latter half of 2009 we expect to produce responses to:

- UK Government consultations on
  - long-term management of plutonium
  - draft National Policy Statement on nuclear new build
  - funding arrangements for new build waste management and decommissioning.
- Scottish Government consultation on its policy for the long-term management of higher activity wastes.

Subject to agreement with our sponsors, we propose to produce a Status Report on the Long-Term Management of UK Higher Activity Wastes in the first quarter of 2010-11. The various position papers mentioned in doc. 2665 will be written in a form to enable them to be incorporated in this report. We will consider an outline of the Status Report at our October plenary meeting.

## R&D

We noted that the consultation on the draft R&D report (doc. 2543) was underway, that some comments on the draft had been received and that the draft had been discussed with sponsors. Preparations for the invitation-only stakeholder workshop on 9 September 2009 are well-advanced. We are on schedule to submit the report to Government at the end of October 2009.

We also discussed the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee's enquiry into setting research funding priorities. We plan to respond to this enquiry, drawing on material in our draft R&D report.

You can find the papers for this and previous plenary meetings on our website at <http://www.corwm.org.uk/Pages/Plenary%20Meetings/Forms/Meetings.aspx>

We shall publish draft minutes of the meeting (doc. 2666) by October.

### ***Our next plenary, 19-20 October 2009***

Our meeting on 7-8 October will be a private drafting meeting for the R&D Report.

Our next plenary meeting will be on 19-20 October, at the MWB Business Exchange, 10 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB, telephone 020 7960 6000. [Click here for venue details](#)

Discussion will include:

- post-consultation draft of the R&D Report (agreement of changes before it is sent to Government)
- initial discussion of topics for inclusion in our 2010-13 work programme
- CoRWM's success criteria (doc 2638)
- first outline of CoRWM's Status Report for 2010.

**Further information** about our work can be found at <http://www.corwm.org.uk> or from our secretariat at CoRWM, Area D, 3rd floor, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW , telephone: 0300 068 6117, e-mail: [corwm@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:corwm@decc.gsi.gov.uk). Our phone numbers are:

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