

**CoRWM e-bulletin 39  
February 2010**

Welcome to this e-bulletin. We report on our 27 January plenary and plans for our next one in Nottingham on 25 February 2010. **We also invite your comments, by February 28th, on revised proposals for our proposed work programme for 2010-13.**

***Report of our plenary, London, 27 January 2010***

We discussed wastes from nuclear new-build; and proposals for our 2010-13 work programme. We considered progress reports on geological disposal and other issues.

*Wastes from nuclear new-build*

We held our second plenary discussion on the conditioning, packaging, interim storage and geological disposal of intermediate level wastes and spent fuel from new build power stations. Following the process agreed at our 16 December 2009 plenary (CoRWM document 2733) we discussed a first draft of the Committee's formal response to the UK Government's consultation on the draft nuclear National Policy Statement (doc. 2748), and a first draft of the statement on CoRWM's current position on nuclear new-build wastes (doc. 2749).

We noted information received from a number of sources including NGOs and meetings with nuclear new-build Requesting Parties. We also noted comments on our draft response from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and the UK Government. We discussed the two drafts and identified a number of changes. In relation to the draft response to the Government consultation, we discussed the extent to which we felt the Government could judge whether effective arrangements exist, or will exist to manage waste that will be produced by new nuclear power stations in the UK, and what factors would be important in the Government's ability to make that judgment at some future point. We discussed how that question should be addressed as well as some of the individual information needs, uncertainties and how they could be addressed.

Revised drafts will be presented to our next plenary meeting on 25 February for discussion and approval. In the meantime, as both documents make clear, the Committee has yet to agree its conclusions and the drafts cannot be taken as representing the view of any Members.

*Our 2010-13 work programme*

We discussed plans and agreed that we should focus on key strategic priorities to make best use of our resources. We were planning to make our next substantive Report to Government in October 2010 but we are now considering whether it would be more effective to delay it until spring 2011. See ***your comments invited***, below, for more details including what will happen next.

*Geological disposal*

We briefly discussed developments in West Cumbria and elsewhere.

*Further details of the meeting*

Papers for this and other plenary meetings can be found at <http://www.corwm.org.uk/Pages/Plenary%20Meetings/Forms/Meetings.aspx> Draft minutes of the meeting (document 2770) will be published in February 2010.

***Our 2010-13 work programme: your comments invited by February 28th.***

Our draft programme will be submitted to sponsor Governments in March.

We are grateful for comments on our initial proposals published in November 2009. From these, and discussion among Members, we have concluded that we must ensure that our resources are focussed on key strategic issues.

**We have revised our proposed work programme and seek your views on the priorities identified in the draft** (document 2763).

We shall also discuss the programme with sponsor Governments and the NDA in February. Revised proposals will go to our Cardiff plenary, for discussion on 22 or 23 March.

***Our next plenary, Nottingham, 25 February 2010***

Our next plenary meeting will be on 25 February at Nottingham Hilton Hotel, Milton Street, Nottingham NG1 3PZ, telephone 01159 349 700. Click [here](#) for venue details. We shall be in Nottingham for two days: on 24 February we shall visit the British Geological Survey at Keyworth, near Nottingham, to learn more about their work.

Plenary discussion is expected to include:

- Nuclear new-build wastes: discussion of final drafts of the Committee's response to the Government consultation on the draft nuclear National Policy Statement, and of the draft statement of CoRWM's current position on new-build wastes
- Scottish Government proposals for managing higher activity waste: initial discussion. A draft response to the Government consultation will be discussed at the following plenary in Cardiff, on 22 or 23 March.

There may also be progress reports, including on geological disposal and the development of our draft work programme.

A detailed agenda, including start and finish times, will be published around 11 February.

**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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