

NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE ENGAGEMENT LIAISON GROUP 1 November 2005, London.

Attending

Fred Barker, Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)
Mary Allan, CoRWM (by video link)
Richard Mrowicki, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Roger Jackson, Consultant, ISOLUS Project, Ministry of Defence (MoD)
Tony Lokier, ISOLUS Project, Ministry of Defence (MoD)
Jeff Kersey, CIRIA
Mark Bentley, CIRIA

Apologies

Apologies were received from Pete Wilkinson (CoRWM) and Richard Griffin (NDA). Paul Dorfman also sent his apologies. Paul was to have attended as an observer from the Safegrounds project.

Declarations of Interest

FB reported that he was a member of the MoD ISOLUS Steering Group. He was attending this meeting as a member of CoRWM.

Publication of Note of the Meetings

The note of the previous meeting had been published on the CoRWM website, with links to the following websites:

<http://www.safegrounds.com>

<http://www.sdspur.com>

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/csec/isolus2/isolus-homepage.htm>

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/>

The note of this meeting would be published in a similar way.

ISOLUS Update

The first meeting of the MoD ISOLUS Steering Group (MISG) took place on 12 October. The principal role of the MISG is, at a high level, to inform the conduct, planning and implementation of the ISOLUS programme. The Steering Group is chaired by the MOD's ISOLUS budget holder and membership is drawn from Government departments, the NII, industry, NGOs, local government and process specialists.

An independent ISOLUS Advisory Committee is also being set up, with initial membership drawn from the Consultation Steering Group, which held its final meeting in July this year. No further formal public consultation will be organised until after CoRWM has reported in July 06 and national decisions on radioactive

waste management have emerged. The Chair of the IAC will also be a member of the MISG.

Current activities focus on a series of generic technical studies, covering 'how' and 'when' rather than 'where' submarine radioactive wastes should be managed. It is anticipated that these studies will be subject to scrutiny by the IAC. The website is also being developed to reflect current activities. Work is to be initiated to keep stakeholders informed about how the appropriate CIOP recommendations are being addressed and implemented.

NDA Update

The period of consultation on the NDA's draft strategy ends in 10 days. Consultation has included presentations at all Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs) and at a substantial number of other meetings (eg to local authorities, community groups and supply chain representatives). The NDA also ran a web 'chat room' for an evening, which generated regional media interest, but only a modest number of participants.

Engagement on site end points has been initiated with SSGs and, through them, local communities. Most SSGs have established sub-groups to oversee this wider engagement. The engagement is being informed by NDA technical appraisals.

The first meeting on the National Stakeholder Group (NSG) was held on 17/18 October. The NSG consists of national stakeholders and representatives from each of the NDA sites, which is a first for this type of engagement. Participants expressed enthusiasm for getting on with things. Two sub-groups are being established, on radioactive waste management and nuclear materials respectively. The groups will probably meet every 6 weeks or so. CoRWM's participation in the radwaste group would be particularly welcome. It is anticipated that the next meeting of the NSG will be in April 06.

The NDA's draft annual plan for 2006/7 has been issued for a 3 month consultation which runs until January 11 2006.

Safeguards and SD:SPUR

Although the Safeguards project does not have a high profile consultation underway, key stakeholders remain actively engaged, for example, through the updating of existing guidance to ensure that it is user-friendly. The risk paper referred to at the last meeting is now on the website.

A proposal has been made to the Rowntree Trust to assist with funding the active engagement of NGOs. Capacity building is seen as an important way of encouraging NGOs to remain actively involved.

JK and MB were pleased to have been able to attend the first meeting of the NDA NSG and welcomed the process that had been initiated. The project was liaising with the NDA on contaminated land issues, and hoped to attend some SSG discussions.

A series of initiatives were underway on good practice development, including a development of case studies. A 'think piece' on end points had been completed. The vendor sector of the website was also being developed (ie those who can provide a service in dealing with contaminated land).

SD:SPUR guidance on the application of sustainable practices to the management of decommissioning wastes had been published. The project is now seeking to develop into a learning network, looking at use of the guidance in practice, and will be seeking to develop relationships with NDA site contractors and SSGs. Consideration will also be given to developing more practical guidance.

CoRWM Update

CoRWM's work is currently addressing three periods of public and stakeholder engagement (PSE):

- explaining how it has/is responding to outputs from its second period of PSE (see the PSE2 Overview Report Doc 1186.3 and Process for Addressing PSE2 Outputs Doc 1202.2);
- organising activities in its current period of PSE, focussing on assessment of short-listed long-term management options (see doc 1335); and
- looking ahead to its fourth period of PSE in the Spring of 2006.

The main current PSE activities are a series of four Citizens Panels (CPs) and use of a Discussion Guide (DG). The CPs involve lay citizens in a weekend of intense deliberation based around interactions with specialists, criteria weighting, ethical and holistic assessment of short-listed options. The DGs are designed for shorter discussion involving a larger number of people. Nearly 30,000 contacts have received information about the DG, including numerous social networks and schools. Around 1800 copies of the Guide have been sent out in response to requests. Groups have until the end of December to submit the results of discussions.

A series of stakeholder events (nuclear site roundtables and the National Stakeholder Forum) are planned for January and February. The opportunity for bilateral meetings has also been offered to national stakeholder organisations.

Preparations are also in hand to issue more regular updates to stakeholders and to provide web-based opportunity for comment on key aspects of CoRWM's programme.

Events in the Spring of 2006 are likely to focus on CoRWM's emerging recommendations and implementation issues.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on March 7th in DEFRA Offices, London.