

NOTE OF A MEETING OF THE ENGAGEMENT LIAISON GROUP 14 June 2005, London.

Attending

Fred Barker, Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)
Pete Wilkinson, CoRWM
Mary Allan, CoRWM (by video link)
Richard Griffin, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Chris Hargraves, 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 Richard Mrowicki (NDA).

Declarations of Interest

FB reported that he was a member of the ISOLUS Consultation 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.ciria.org/sdspur>

<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.

NDA Update

The NDA has recently held 10 regional stakeholder workshops in the vicinity of its 20 sites. The purpose was to identify the issues that stakeholders want to see covered in the first NDA strategy. There has been a focus on socio-economic issues, the management of competition (including the role of stakeholders), and continued engagement.

There will be a formal consultation on the draft strategy between August and November.

The evolution of Local Liaison Committees into Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) continues. All now have independent Chairs, but some have further to go to complete the transition than others.

The new National Stakeholder Group will have its first meeting on 17/18 October. Other sponsors of stakeholder engagement events on radwaste issues are asked to avoid organising events on these dates. The announcement of the successful tenderer for the convening of the NSG will be made shortly.

Each SSG will be offered two places in the NSG, with the exception of the West Cumbria SG, which will be offered 6 places to reflect the number of licensed sites that it covers.

The NDA now intends to switch its focus from regional workshops to site specific events held under the auspices of the SSGs.

ISOLUS Update

The Government response to the output from the Consultation on ISOLUS Outline Proposals (CIOP) has been published. In line with the recommendations from CIOP, it has been decided not to organise a further round of consultation until after CoRWM has reported in July 06.

MoD is also taking the lead in commissioning a range of technical studies as part of the ISOLUS programme. These will be conducted under the auspices of a new MoD ISOLUS Steering Group (MISG), which will oversee the ISOLUS project. Membership of the MISG is to be announced within the next few weeks.

It is anticipated that the existing Consultation Steering Group will be disbanded. The new MISG is likely to have an Advisory Group, which will advise on issues, including consultation.

MoD is currently reviewing the next stages in the ISOLUS programme, and will circulate provisional proposals when available. It is also developing a web-based approach to reporting how CIOP recommendations are being progressed.

Safeguards and SD:SPUR

The Safeguards project does not have a high profile consultation underway. The project is involved with updating existing guidance through stakeholder engagement. There is the possibility of major events towards the end of the financial year. There is good buy-in from industry, regulators, defence and NGOs to the guidance, but at this stage not a lot of detailed experience has been captured so CIRIA is currently collecting good practice case studies.

A risk paper is also being updated, and further work underway on site end points. The former paper may be of interest to CoRWM in its work on assessing option performance against the safety criterion. The latter should be of interest to NDA SSGs when considering site end points.

The end of the first phase of the SD:SPUR project is approaching, with a draft guidance document close to completion. The guidance is currently pitched at a strategic level, and further work may be undertaken at a more detailed, practical level.

The SD:SPUR project is also examining tools to help improve the use of engagement outputs. It has developed the use of electronic consultation processes, with 6-8 week consultation periods, based on the understanding that the consultations are part of a more extended phased programme of work.

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 first period of PSE (see Document 1109);
- reporting and assessing the outputs from the current period of PSE (see Doc 1131, 'Preliminary Overview of Early PSE2 Feedback'); and
- planning for a third period of PSE, which will run from September (see Doc 1134).

The outputs from PSE2 on CoRWM's proposed short-list of long-term management options and its future programme will inform decision-making at its July plenary. Other outputs will be fed to appropriate working groups for consideration.

The site stakeholder round tables and open meetings in PSE2 have been much better attended than in PSE1. The proximity in time of some of the round tables to the NDA regional workshops appears not to have reduced numbers attending, although there has been some concerns about 'stakeholder fatigue'.

Overall, there is a widespread support for CoRWM's PSE programmes from participants, and an enthusiasm for continued participation.

Activities in PSE3 are likely to focus on the site stakeholder round tables, the National Stakeholder Forum, the Citizens Panels, and the promotion and use of a new Discussion Guide. The latter is intended to allow existing groups (eg the Women's Institute, Neighbourhood Fora) to hold their own discussions, and feed back to CoRWM.

CoRWM is also organising a series of specialist workshops to develop judgements of option performance against its assessment criteria.

Additional Issues

Three additional issues were discussed:

1 Timeline of engagement activities

PW volunteered to develop a timeline of forthcoming PSE activities for publication on sponsoring organisations' websites.

2 Remuneration Rates

Some engagement sponsors have established practices for incentivising citizen involvement in events (such as Citizen Panels) and for re-imbursing stakeholders for the costs of participation. It was agreed that these practices should be taken into account by other organisations embarking on future engagement programmes.

3 Observer

A stakeholder involved in the Safegrounds project had asked whether it would be possible to observe engagement liaison meetings. The meeting considered that in the spirit of openness and transparency this should be agreed, subject to checking within the MoD.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 1.00pm on Tuesday November 1st in DEFRA Offices, London.