

Site Characterisation for Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste in the UK

Agenda for a Geological Society Meeting at Burlington House on 17 February 2011

The objective of the meeting is to discuss NDA's progress and proposed future plans on site characterisation with the geoscientific community, including members of the site characterisation supply chain in particular, in order to further raise awareness and stimulate debate.

MORNING SESSION 09:30 – 12:00

TEA & COFFEE 09:30 - 10:00

- 1 Policy for Higher Activity Waste Disposal in UK (Andrew Craze, DECC)
15 min
 - Definition of the problem; and
 - MRWS process and Government commitment to it.

- 2 MRWS Process and Site Characterisation (Alun Ellis, NDA):
15 min
 - Place Site Characterisation activities in the MRWS context;
 - Safety case, engineering design and the needs-driven nature of site characterisation; and
 - The current state of the MRWS process nationally and in West Cumbria in particular.

- 3 Initial Geological Unsuitability Screening of West Cumbria (Dr John Powell, BGS);
30 min
 - The criteria;
 - The process;
 - The data; and
 - The conclusions.

CLARIFICATION/QUESTIONS

30 min

- 4 Strategy for Site Characterisation (Andy Parkes, NDA);
20 min + 10 min clarification/discussion
 - Health & Safety;
 - Nuclear Safety;
 - Appropriate technical and managerial resources;
 - Intelligent Client; and
 - Stakeholder engagement.

LUNCH 12:00 – 12:45

45 min

AFTERNOON SESSION 12:45 – 15:30

- 5 Site Characterisation: An Overview (Paul Armstrong, NDA);
20 min + 10 min clarification/discussion
 - Internal and external drivers;
 - Information requirements;
 - Data Acquisition Techniques; and
 - Implementation Issues;

- 6 The Forsmark experience (Kaj Ahlbom, SKB);
20 min + 10 min clarification/discussion
 - What does a site characterisation programme look like?
 - Site specific questions;
 - Site Characterisation Activities; and
 - Programme.

- 7 The Commercial Strategy for Surface-based Investigations (Andy Parkes, NDA);
20 min + 10 min clarification/discussion
 - Process;
 - Critical Success Factors;
 - Proposed approach; and
 - Next steps.

- 8 General Discussion
40 min

- 9 Chairman's concluding remarks
5 min

TEA & COFFEE 15:00 – 15:30