

## Roundtables

### **Case Study: UK CoRWM Public and Stakeholder Engagement Process**

**Country: United Kingdom**

**Date of Latest Update: June 2013**

### **Background Information:**

As part of the third stage of stakeholder engagement conducted by the Committee on Radioactive Waste management (CoRWM) between 2003 and 2006, eight Roundtables involving as many as 167 people in total, were held around the country between January and February 2006. The locations were deliberately selected to be close to existing nuclear sites.

### **Phase of decision making process**

CoRWM was established as Stage 1 of the MRWS (Managing Radioactive Waste Safely) process. This followed previous failures to obtain local acceptance for a proposed site for a deep geological repository for higher activity wastes.

CoRWM was mandated to examine and assess all possible waste management options and to make recommendations to government on a way forward. The findings were to feed into government deliberations, which resulted in a White Paper in 2008, outlining a revised, voluntary siting process.

### **Formal framework of decision making process**

Government required CoRWM to make recommendations upon which it could base a new siting policy. The 2008 White Paper introduced a voluntary process, with staged decision points. Communities were invited to participate, and the relevant decision-making bodies (local councils) were then to decide whether to continue in the process, up to a certain point beyond which they cannot withdraw. If detailed exploration is necessary, the implanter requires planning permission to continue.

### **Objectives of the process**

The intention was to provide assistance to CoRWM in the development of its recommendations to government on waste management options, using a range of methods to elicit public views.

### **Status**

Complete

### **Objectives and outcomes of the stakeholder engagement**

The roundtables were part of the process of scoring a shortlist of management options. The main objectives were:

- To understand judgments on scores by a group of experts using the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MADA) process;
- To consider the importance of the various assessment criteria
- To explore participants' own views on option preference
- To agree nominees from each sector for the next round of engagement.

The outcome of the meetings was an appreciation of the public view on the way that CoRWM had undergone option assessment. This was to feed into the 'holistic assessment' to be carried out later. Public views were collated and justifications for those recorded. In general, participants valued the opportunity to be involved and were supportive of the process.

## **Involved Stakeholders**

Invitations were sent to local stakeholders from all sections of the community around existing nuclear sites in the UK. Decision Makers were invited and those who could attend did so.

## **Implementer of the participation process details**

CoRWM, with the activities managed by independent consultants from the Environment Council.

## **Financing**

The overall cost of the PSE process was around £3.0 million plus an additional £438,000 for the overall Programme Management.

## **Points to consider**

There was a perceived lack of non-technical people, with NGOs and the regulator also regarded as not sufficiently represented. Asking lay people to apply MCDA was an innovative and bold initiative. Circulation of adequate briefing prior to the events was seen as an area that should be improved. They were conducted shortly after similar meetings involving experts, but the results from those were not actually available in time to be circulated.

## **Further tools used in this case study**

Roundtables; Expert Workshops