



Radioactive Waste Management

Implementing Geological Disposal in the UK

- Published July 2014
- Sets out the UK Government's framework for implementing geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste
- Based on willingness of local communities to participate
- An 'enabling' document which addresses many issues that stakeholders have raised
- Sets out a clear plan to address remaining questions and help communities to participate



Implementing Geological Disposal

A Framework for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste

July 2014

Roles and Responsibilities

Geological disposal: roles and responsibilities



Key

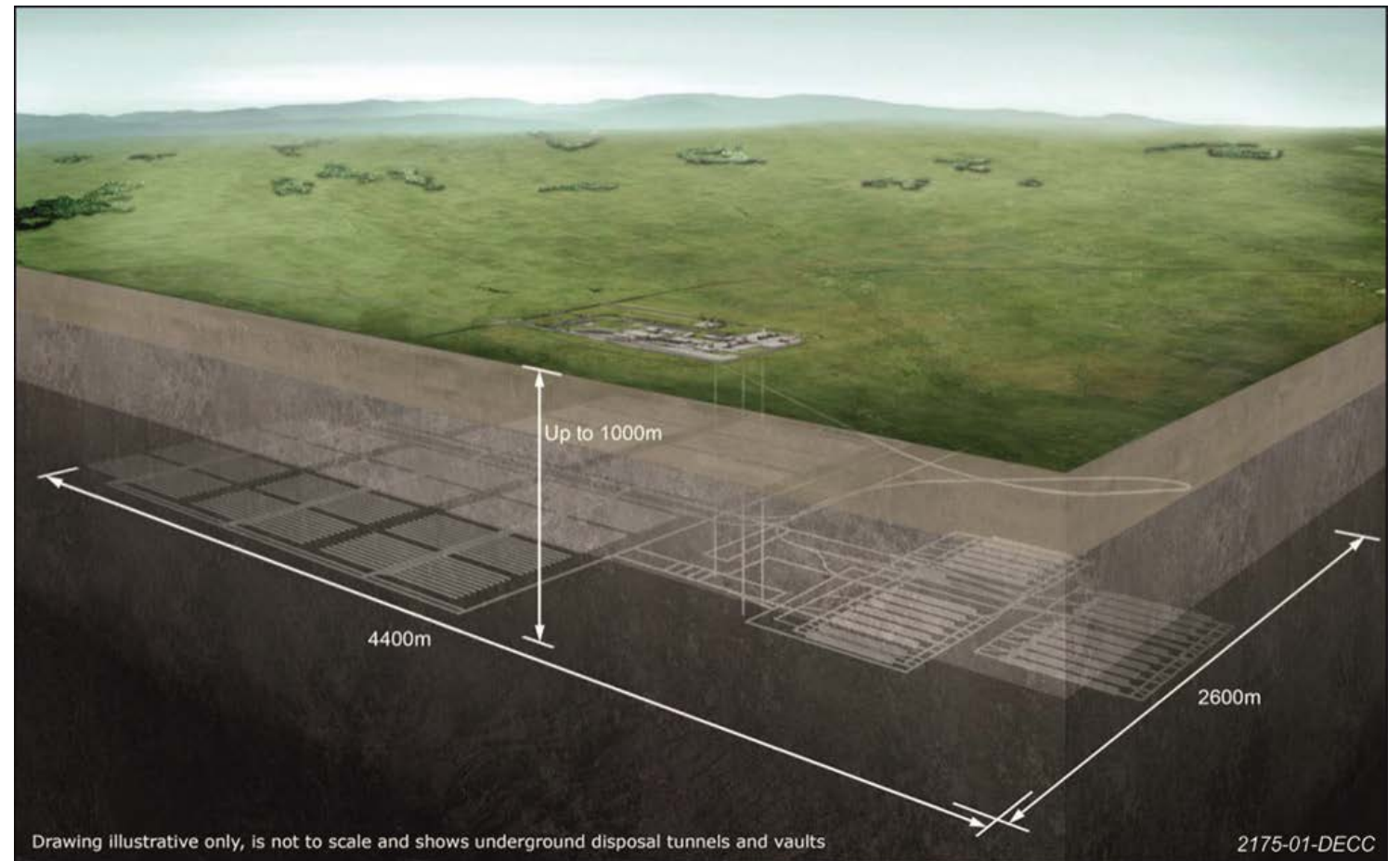
- **Communities**
Sit at the heart of this process – they can talk to Government and the developer throughout. A geological disposal facility (GDF) cannot proceed without community support.
- **Government**
Owns the policy, sponsors the project and provides funding.
- **Regulators**
Independent bodies will only authorise construction and operation of a facility if the developer can demonstrate that it will be safe, secure and the environment will be protected.
- **Developer**
Responsible for designing, building, operating and closing a facility safely.
- **Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)**
Provides independent advice to Government and scrutiny on radioactive waste management.

Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM)

- Established as a subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority April 2014
- Our vision
 - A safer future by managing radioactive waste effectively, to protect people and the environment
- Our mission
 - Deliver a geological disposal facility and provide radioactive waste management solutions

What is Required for a Geological Disposal Facility?

- Site
 - Suitable geology
 - Willing community
- Design and safety case
- Waste packaged in a form compatible with safety case



RWM's Role

- Geological disposal facility delivery
 - Key role in siting process
 - Responsibility for national geological screening exercise
 - Explain the science and engineering of geological disposal and associated issues to the general public
- Generic work programme
 - Underpinning of the safety case for a geological disposal system
 - Ensure we learn from others around the world
- Higher Activity Waste management
 - Essential that packaged waste is suitable for eventual disposal
 - Disposability assessment supports hazard reduction and reduces the risk of future re-work
 - Work with waste owners to encourage innovative solutions

Process Going Forward



Initial Actions

- Amendments to the nationally significant infrastructure planning regime to cover a geological disposal facility and the associated characterisation boreholes
- Providing greater clarity on how Government/RWM intend to work with communities: who can represent them; community investment; and test of public support
- A national geological screening exercise to provide authoritative information that can be used in discussions with communities