CoRWM's Experience of Public and Stakeholder Engagement (2003-2006)

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Symposium on Radioactive Waste Management: Stakeholder Engagement

IRPA 2012 Glasgow This presentation gives the personal view of the speaker and should not be seen as the authorised position of any third party unless that is specifically stated.

CoRWM Original Terms of Reference

- to oversee a review of options for managing solid radioactive waste in the UK
- to recommend option or options that can provide a long-term solution, providing protection for people and the environment

Objective is to arrive at recommendations which can inspire public confidence

CoRWM's Approach to PSE

- Participative, inclusive and deliberative
- Consider as wide a range of different views as possible. (Intensive and Extensive).
- Those with limited knowledge of waste issues should be involved.
- Not simply to consult but to encourage full and frank debate at all key stages of the CoRWM process.

CoRWM's Approach to PSE (con)

- Not to persuade nor necessarily to accept what people said
- Extensive review of methods available to engage with stake holders and the public
- Balance between national and local interests
- Balance between "open access" events and "by invitation".

The PSE Programme – PSE1 – PSE4

- PSE 1. (Nov 2004-Jan 2005) Views on inventory, long list of options and criteria to eliminate.
- PSE 2. (April 2005-June 2005) Views on options short listed, assessment criteria, participation processes for assessment and implementation issues.
- PSE 3. (Oct 2005-Feb2006) Views on assessment of short listed options (criteria significance, option performance and option preferences).
- PSE 4. (May 2006) Views on draft recommendations (including proposals for implementation and gaining public confidence).

PSE Engagement Methods

- Discussion Groups (PSE1)
- Consultation Document (PSE1 & 2)
- Open Meetings (PSE 1 & 2)
- Citizens Panels (PSE 2-4)
- Discussion Guide (PSE3)
- Schools Project (PSE3)
- Bilateral meetings (PSE1-4)
- Web based (PSE1-4)
- Nuclear Site Stakeholder Round Tables (PSE1-4)
- National Stakeholder forum (PSE1-4)

Citizens' Panel

 Four panels (16 citizens of mixed age, gender and social class) – Scotland, Wales and North & South England. Met 3 times

 Not 'representative' statistically but able to provide a good understanding of range of views of the general public.

Citizens' Panels (cont)

- PSE2. Briefing and initial discussions and 'what they felt was important'.
- -PSE3. Questioning of specialists on technical and ethical issues. Input to the assessment process.

 -PSE4. Review of draft recommendations and technical and ethical issues.

How The PSE Process Influenced CoRWM's Decisions and Recommendations

- The Inventory
- Long List of Options
- Screening Criteria
- Short listed options
- Assessment Criteria
- Participatory Process for Options Assessments

How The PSE Process Influenced CoRWM's Decisions and Recommendations (cont)

- Ethical Issues
- Implementation issues
- Criteria Weighting
- Specialist Judgements of Option Performance
- Preferences for Long Term Management
 Options
- Draft Recommendations

"CoRWM's PSE programme is the most elaborate and extensive to have been carried out for this kind of policy issue. Overall CoRWM has attempted to adopt an highly reflective approach to its task, scrutinising its own assumptions and methods to an extent that contrasts with the technocratic approach taken in the past."

"CARL Country Report UK Summary 2006"

Information on CoRWM

 All publications are available on the CoRWM website (corwm.org.uk)