

NIRAB Meeting

Thursday 7th March 2024, 10:30-15.30.

ETC Venues, Manchester and virtually on MS Teams

Attendees

NIRAB Members: Francis Livens (Chair), Gordon Bryan, Gregg Butler, John Stairmand, Allyson Armet, Malcolm Joyce, Martin Goodfellow, Mike Lewis, Edoardo Patelli, Kirsty Armer, Maggie Brown, Alun Ellis

DESENZ: Damitha Adikaari, Si Dilks, Ian Johnson,

NIRO: Dan Mathers, Liv Thompson, Simon Franklin, Sheila Rae, Matthew Bingham, Gary Bolton, Adeola Warner, Peter Tarren, Mike Waite

Observers: Jane Nicholson

Regulators: Ian Streatfield, Tim Parkes

Apologies: Kirsty Gogan, Fiona Rayment

Minutes

1. Chair Update: Professor Francis Livens
 - Focus of plenary to understand where the working groups are up to.
 - Damitha Adikaari to join the morning session.
2. Few words from Damith Adikaari
 - Damitha Adikaari thanked NIRAB for its work and noted that the R&DI recommendations would be important for his team to consider.
3. Working group updates
 - The working groups provided a detailed overview of their work, from their initial thoughts and ideas to their findings.
 - The working groups aim to deliver their reports by the end of March 2024.
4. Message from Minister Bowie
 - Minister Bowie thanks NIRAB and NIRO members for the hard work and time they have put in producing the upcoming report, as it will be pivotal for the future of AMRs.
5. Update from Department of Energy, Security and Net Zero
 - Government now focusing on the importance of fixing loopholes in laws and regulations which don't apply to non-electricity generation in nuclear.
 - London, 28th March: deep dive on chapter 4 of the Alternative Routes to Market Consultation.
 - Debates over siting are being carried out currently within government.



6. Discussion on report
 - NIRAB is to put together a document on R&DI and a separate report on NIRAB's other activities.
 - Overview of proposed structure for the final report.

7. Update from NIRO
 - Overview of the key takeaways from NIRAB/NIRO reports to understand what we should expect when we put an AMR programme together.
 - Overview of NIRO's key activities.
 - Late submissions to the RD&I landscape survey are being incorporated into the survey to provide a more complete picture.

8. UKRI
 - Nuclear Fission priorities workshop in May.
 - An update on the spending review in UKRI.
 - NIRAB members invited to NNUF symposium on 18th -19th March.

9. Update from Regulators
 - An overview of the regulators' key activities.
 - Update on AMR phase B and C.
 - Regulators supporting DESNZ on whether the UK should continue engagement with Japan.

10. Summary
 - NIRAB to produce a report on HTGR RD&I and an overall report which should feel like an annual report.
 - After completing the report, NIRAB to think about how to engage with regulatory groups, users, vendors, and academia.

