

Briefing Note to the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership  
On the EC MoDeRn Project

The EC Seventh Framework Programme Monitoring Developments for Safe Repository Operation and Staged Closure (MoDeRn) Project aims to develop the understanding of the role of monitoring in staged implementation of geological disposal. The project aims to address the means and technology for implementation of monitoring to a level exceeding that previously achieved through other collaborative international projects. The project includes a programme of engagement with different stakeholder groups.

As part of the engagement programme within MoDeRn, a workshop involving expert stakeholders was held at the Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel on 4-5 May 2011. Thirty-one participants attended the meeting, including members of regulatory and advisory bodies from Europe, members of waste management organisations, who had not been directly involved in MoDeRn and MoDeRn partners. Representation from the UK included the Environment Agency, CoRWM and the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR, formerly NII).

The objective of the meeting was to inform the expert stakeholders of the work being undertaken in the MoDeRn Project and to obtain feedback on the scope of the work. The workshop consisted of a plenary session on the first day in which information was provided on the project, and two themed sessions on the second day. The themed sessions focused on two themes, monitoring processes and monitoring technologies respectively. For each theme, break-out groups lead by expert stakeholders, discussed a series of questions and reported the conclusions of their discussions in a plenary session.

Valuable feedback was gained from the discussions, both on the project direction and on setting the context for monitoring. This feedback will be used to help guide the future direction of the MoDeRn Project. The expert stakeholders were supportive of the work being undertaken in the project, and made constructive suggestions for the scope of work to be considered in the forward work programme. A draft report has recently been prepared and is currently being reviewed by the attendees and this will be publicly available in a month or so.

The MoDeRn Project also plans a programme of engagement with local stakeholders (UK, Belgium and possibly Sweden) for later this year. Preliminary proposals have been put to local stakeholders (the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership) as part of that process.

Information on the EC MoDeRn Project can be found on the website <http://www.modern-fp7.eu/>. NDA contact for MoDeRn is Brendan Breen (01925802834).