All Party Parliamentary Group for Small Modular Reactors AGM Agenda

Minutes of the 2024 AGM

13:00, Wednesday 13th March 2024, Room T, Portcullis House

1   Introductions

Members present included:

- Liz Saville-Roberts MP;
- Trudy Harrison MP;
- Viscount Hanworth;
- Heather Wheeler MP; and,
- Rt. Hon. Damien Green MP.

Apologies:

- Chi Onwurah MP;
- Baroness Hayman;
- Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett MP;
- Lord Wigley;
- Lord Whitty;
- Chris Green MP;
- Baroness Blomfield; and,
- Virginia Crosbie MP.

2   Re-Appointment of Secretariat
Barndoor Strategy was readopted as the Secretariat

3   Election of the Chair
Virginia Crosbie MP was unanimously elected.

4   Election of the Officers:
The following additional officers were unanimously elected:
- Trudy Harrison Vice Chair
- Viscount Hanworth (Officer)
- Chris Green elected (Officer)

5   Focus of the APPG's work in 2024.

There was a detailed discussion of the APPG's future work programme:

- **Advanced Modular Reactors**

Viscount Hanworth raising the issue of technology loss and circulating his paper on third and fourth generation designs. There was a grave danger of a loss of intellectual property to the US if the government did not intervene. This had already been the case with *U Battery*. Inherently safe generation three and four designs also lent themselves to a far wider range of locations.

- **UK SMR competition**

Jasbir Sidhu (President of the Nuclear Institute) joined the meeting outlining how the UK was alone in having a "competition" amongst nuclear vendors. There was a discussion of the timelines of the competition and the effect it was having on UK investment in SMRs compared to international comparators such as the US and Poland. There was concern that the competition would significantly delay progress towards new nuclear in the UK and potentially see the UK losing jobs, supply chain and a likely lucrative export market.

- **Sites**

Damien Green MP raised the issues around Dungeness with regard to controversial pylons which were replacing the nuclear plant and being implemented to bring wind energy from Scotland. The nuclear site was not being considered immediately for new nuclear. Pylon chains were causing widespread concern across the country and being constructed to bring power from distant renewables to urban centres. New nuclear facilities could be sited more closely to the end user reducing the need for such infrastructure. Members raised Trawsfynydd as another site which was not being considered for immediate renewal.

- **Industrial Decarbonisation**

The UK was facing a massive wave of de-industrialisation as heavy energy users dependent on fossil fuels would start to fail to compete. This could rapidly bring a swathe of de-industrialisation as had already been seen with the closure of the blast furnace and coking facilities at Port Talbot. There were also other sites relying on off-grid backup power where AMRs could provide a viable low carbon generation source.

- **Green Taxonomy**

There was a discussion about the glacial progress towards the delivery of the UK's Green Taxonomy compared to the EU.

Action: Secretariat to draw up plans for future sessions including:

AMRs and industrial decarbonisation

This session would take the form of a short inquiry with the aim of producing a report to be launched at the Summer Reception. Witnesses could include large industrial energy users and AMR developers.

Action: The Secretariat would report back with a detailed plan including suggested witnesses.

Summer Reception

The possibility of a summer reception was discussed. This would aim to bring together industry and parliamentary stakeholders. The Secretariat would seek suitable sponsors for this activity.

Review of the UK SMR Competition
- The UK's SMR competition and how the UK approach compared internationally. This would include a discussion of the current status of firms which originally sought to build in the UK.
- – was technology being lost abroad?
- what implications does all this have for the UK nuclear supply chain if any?

6   Closing remarks and any other business - None