

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our home is in Kendal and we have a static caravan in Silloth. Over the past year, we have read informative articles on the geological make-up of Cumbria and firmly believe in the first instance, independent geological surveys must be carried out throughout the United Kingdom. In Cumbria, the NIREX report published 20 years ago concluded that the west coast of Cumbria was unsuitable for a nuclear waste facility, as did the International Atomic Energy Authority, and a British Geological Survey ruled out the area for a nuclear repository.

Our understanding is that requirements for any nuclear repository are stable underground rock formations with impermeability to water. Furthermore this needs to remain so for thousands of years. West and North-West Cumbria's geology is totally unsuitable for a repository as it is riddled with fault lines, mine workings and very low lying land, some of which is below sea-level.

Earlier this year, Cumbria County Council, representing the whole of the county came to the correct decision in our opinion, and rejected an underground radioactive waste repository in Cumbria. That should have been the end of the matter. However, as the consultation has now been resurrected, our County Council must be included in any ongoing discussions as this decision affects the whole of our county. To exclude the County Council would be most undemocratic.

IF there is a requirement for a nuclear waste repository in the United Kingdom, then the most suitable geological area needs to be identified before local communities are approached. That requires a UK-wide geological survey. From the many geological experts who have spoken on the subject, we understand there may be more suitable sites in the east and south-east of England.

Bryn and Linda Jones