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Nuclear Waste Disposal in Cumbria

I understand that the government's favoured solution to the problem of nuclear waste disposal is an underground repository. I further understand that the search for a suitable site for such a repository will be nationwide and that site selection will be based on the principles of voluntarism and sound geological structure.

By means of a democratic process agreed and approved by the government it has been decided that Cumbria should take no further part in this search. I would expect a democratically elected government to abide by that decision. However, I understand that the government is considering a change to the process so that the decision is made at district level thus discounting the views of parish and county councils. For what reason? Is the government not prepared to accept a democratic decision when it does not suit its purpose? Locating a repository at any site would have an impact on a much wider area and it seems illogical to eliminate the overriding authority from the process.

If this search is really nationwide then, surely, a decision making model should be adopted that can be applied nationally; it would not be acceptable to change the rules from area to area. Given that to be the case, how would a decision be made in unitary authorities where there are no district councils?

Not only am I opposed to the suggested changes but I am very disturbed by the manner in which the government is attempting to override a democratic decision. Please leave such behaviour to totalitarian or fascist regimes.

Yours sincerely

Graham Stukins