HOLME ST CUTHBERT PARISH COUNCIL

Response to Government Consultation on Geological disposal facility-siting process review

MRWS Consultation

We agree the public of Cumbria should be consulted at all stages of the consultation process, without losing their right to withdraw at any stage of the process

Any mention of nuclear has a detrimental impact in the area. Cumbria is trying to encourage new investment, business, tourism and county image within the rural and farm produce communities

A suitable geologically sound site should have been found and then put to public consultation, not asking if anyone is interested and then spending money asking the public before the area has been found geologically sound; this new proposal does not take into consideration Cumbrian communities

To withdraw consultation from Parish/Town Councils and Cumbria County Council is undemocratic, and only consulting with District Councils because they were in agreement to continue the consultation process is naive. The County Council has authority and knowledge over many of the areas required to agree to the many infrastructure matters, with vast experience within these areas

We agree that the general public be kept informed of any discussion and decisions, although the vast majority of the Country seem ignorant of this consultation. The reasons why the original consultation did not to go forward with the repository in Cumbria (County Council having the casting vote, saying NO) is being ignored and a new consultation not taking into consideration either the County Council or Parish Council only allowing District Councils the right to vote for the whole County is not democratic

The proposal of 'Aerial geophysical Investigations' will not give confidence to this process, when geology should show where disposal problems underground are with hazardous waste that may be there and active for thousands of years

We do not agree that the final decision should be made by the DECC Secretary of State, this will not give support for the process within the general public, millions of pounds spent on public consultations the final say going to Government (even if local communities are totally against this proposal)

The proposal does not state if waste is from existing stores and reactors or if it will be continuous from any new generators or reactors and the importing of waste from abroad. This would cause concern to any community involved who might have already surrendered their right of withdrawal if, in the future, it was decided to alter the documents to include any of the above, they could already have lost their rights

We question the Community benefits, how will they be administered, who will be in charge of monies for communities, would there be restrictions on the type of grants given, would it all be going to local government, would The District be administrators, how soon would monies be available (e.g. not until the facility is finished or if when agreed)? Will this be continuous while the repository is in use?

Socioeconomic, health and transport research issues should be carried out by an independent body

Consultation should be done with the local community (town, village or hamlet), not with any local authority who will have vested interest if they are also the consulting authority

Safe and secure storage of waste from Sellafield has nationally been reported as poor, can we trust this facility to be any different!

The Government at this stage not considering the Geology of the area, only seeking volunteers, makes many think the proposal to progress in Cumbria is already agreed by Central Government, furthest away from the capital, the French underground site nearer to London, but in a geologically safe area.