

Question 1: To what extent do you think our proposed approach to providing national-scale existing information about geology relevant to long-term safety is appropriate? Please give your reasons.

The approach is fundamentally sound, but it needs some minor (but important) adjustments. It does not make it clear that this is a first step in a multi-step process, with increasing focus on detailed investigation as the process goes on. So the national-scale information is only a preliminary (and filtered) overview.

Question 2: To what extent do you think that the proposed national information sources are appropriate and sufficient for this exercise? Please give your reasons.

The proposed sources of information go well beyond the national scale, down to a relatively local scale. This depth of information will be very useful to prospective volunteer communities to help them make a decision as to whether it will be useful to spend resources on an application. It would be useful to make it specifically clear that the list of resources allows communities to make a more detailed first assessment.

Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed form of the outputs from geological screening? What additional outputs would you find useful?

The list of outputs is very promising. If those can all be provided they will be a very useful resource for potential volunteer communities. If

Question 4: Do you have any other views on the matters presented in the draft Guidance?

The offshore option should be expressed much more firmly and openly. At present it is only a few words in para 3.11. That could prove a very popular option for many potential volunteer communities. There is a real issue of trust. After the several previous unsuccessful attempts at a solution to the problem there is genuine and justified scepticism about this new attempt. Is applying this time going to be another waste of time and resources? Can the document be given stronger bones?

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Q6: Do you agree to your responses to this consultation being published? Yes

