

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.

We believe that the proposed approach gives an appropriate response to the need for a high level consideration of the UK's geology and its suitability for hosting a disposal facility for higher activity radioactive wastes. The document is however superficial on how geological data will be utilised to determine long-term safety. Whilst we understand that the details of these considerations is difficult to summarise in such consultation documents, we believe that when the final technical assessments are made to include / exclude geographical areas for further consideration, then the specific technical criteria on which decisions are made must be published.

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 data sources for this study arise from the best available data from the British Geological Survey(BGS). We understand that the BGS is the UK's lead organisation for the management of geological information. We also understand that the BGS have no vested interest in the outcome of the study and therefore can provide the information without prejudice. As such, we support the position that the data sources are appropriate. Based on the presentation at the recent Carlisle event, it is difficult to evaluate whether the information is "sufficient" as the data sets supporting the exercise are of varied quality. We recommend that for the outcomes of this exercise it is made extremely clear to potential communities the data limitations. One potential issue is the high quality presentation of geological information in the 3-D model could lead to a misrepresentation of the confidence that can be placed on the model - i.e. that the model represents geological reality.

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?

As discussed above, the outputs will be presented in a 3-D model that is both helpful and easy for communities with limited geological specialist capability. One limitation is that the model is only as good as the information RWM input into the model. We recommend that the limitations of the model (i.e. the degree of confidence in the model for specific locations) is made clear to appropriate stakeholders.

Question 4: Do you have any other views on the matters presented in the draft Guidance?

The document is not clear on how the information presented to communities will be independently verified. At the meeting in Carlisle it was stated that a panel of independent experts nominated by the Geological Society will perform some form of peer review. This peer review process should be made public.

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