



National Geological Screening

Public consultation response

When complete, please email to NGSconsultation@nda.gov.uk or send by post to: National Geological Screening Consultation, Radioactive Waste Management, Building 587, Curie Avenue, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0RH.

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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 Council agrees with the need to align the approach to assessing national scale information about geology with matters relating to long term safety. Communities generally across the UK will have safety as the core of their concerns and this Council sees it as fundamental that any work on geology makes the link to the long term safe operation of a GDF. The Council notes that the guidance recognises the limitations of collecting information at the national level and notes that additional information may need to be provided later in the siting process to ensure suitability of rock type.

The Council also notes your intention to provide information on geology up to 20km off-shore.

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 Council believes that the information sources identified are appropriate and the best available for this exercise given the constraints, noting the limitations imposed by the lack of information available about the movement and chemical composition of groundwater at the depth range of a GDF. The Council notes that the guidance suggests that this will be dealt with at a later stage of the siting process and it may be appropriate for the guidance to indicate how such shortcomings in information will be addressed later in the process and the timescales in which that information will be gathered.

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?

This Council is disappointed to note that the outputs from the screening process will be based on regions aligned with British Geological Survey areas. The Council is unclear how the information at this level will enable communities to interpret whether or not specific areas within their locality may be suitable/unsuitable. Or is the intention to provide a more general sense of where is less suitable? Either way given the history of discussions around this subject matter and the complexity of geology in some locations there will be a need to present the information in a format which provides as much clarity as possible. The guidance should also provide an overview of the work that might be required in the future to provide more detailed geological information should a community participate in the process so that communities are aware of the potential impact before taking steps towards expressing an interest.

Question 4:

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

The Council takes the view that the guidance itself should provide a summary of what the next stages might be in the process of understanding the geology of a specific area should a community consider the potential for expressing an interest in pursuing further discussions with Government and RWM Ltd, including the potential for a rock laboratory or similar.