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Alan Elaine

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Thank you for the Partnership Benefits Principles which you have proposed and which my officials have taken me through.

I very much welcome your proposals as a clear indication of your expectations should you decide to move forward into the later stages of implementing geological disposal and I can assure you of my continued support.

I believe there is much common ground between us. I agree that, subject to some more detailed points which are set out in the attached and which I am happy to discuss, the principles you have proposed can be the basis for working towards a more detailed understanding and in due course agreement of the benefits which would be commensurate with hosting a geological disposal facility, following any decision to participate.

Community benefits are clearly an important part of the framework for implementing geological disposal set out in the 2008 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper, which set out UK Government's policy on implementing geological disposal and on which – as you know – my Department leads. The White Paper recognised that in addition to the significant benefit to host communities resulting from hosting a geological disposal facility there may be other benefits which may be commensurate with developing the social and economic wellbeing of a community that has decided to fulfill such an essential service to the nation.

I trust that this initial response will assist your current considerations, there are clearly a number of areas which will need to be explored in more detail as the process moves forward. Nevertheless, I hope you will find this response helpful and my officials stand ready to discuss any points of clarification or address any issues that you may have.

I should be as always very happy to talk about this at any time. In the meantime hope you are well

LORD MARLAND OF ODSOCK
With all best wishes

