

Response from Zoe Smith

I am writing in response to the consultation ending 8th March regarding disposal of nuclear waste. Firstly as I have only just heard of this process I would like to make the point that it has been a very low key consultation and has failed to involve the public to any degree. I would like to suggest that from now on the process is open to parliamentary scrutiny at all stages, so that at least our elected representatives might have some input in the matter.

I am particularly concerned at the suggestion of a cap on disposal costs for the nuclear industry. Surely this must be a mature and economically viable method of energy generation by now, so it should be able to pay all related costs, without leaning on the UK government, and the tax payer in what is effectively a subsidy. If it is not economically viable over its lifetime, then why is the government supporting new building of power stations? The costs of disposal and storage of legacy and newly generated wastes are still an unknown, at best an estimate, as a long term solution is yet to be implemented. In this case it is most important not to limit the responsibility of the industry, in the form of a cap, at least until it is known concretely what costs will be involved.

Yours faithfully,
Zoe Smith,