

Good evening,

Waste Disposal of Radioactive Material – Consultation Process Proposal

First of all I am disgusted with the proposal that the process is to start all over again – and smacks of “If you haven’t got the answer you want first time, then change the rules and try again.”

Cumbria County Council rejected the proposal to continue investigating the for siting of a Nuclear Waste Depository in West Cumbria, which should have effectively ended the story there for West Cumbria being considered any further. So now to go back again but on a different tack is disgusting and flying in the face of democracy. How anyone on CCC feels, I don’t know – but I would guess that they consider that you show them no respect at all.

But apart from the political dodgy-dealings that seem to be behind this, I must add that WE DON’T HAVE TIME for all these prevarications.

If, just if, West Cumbria did go to the next stage, I believe that ultimately it would be found that the geology would rule the whole area out – just as it did back in the days of NIREX. After all, what makes this area so special? – the landscape does. And why? – well that’s the result of the underlying geology and its complexities.

In my view, the Government should take it upon themselves to look at the whole of the UK to find the most suitable site for disposal – and then to proceed with that site. Ok, the local community might not be all in favour (in fact, possibly far from it), but believe you me, there is considerable opposition in Cumbria generally and also in Allerdale and Keswick in particular (most parish/town councils were against it, despite what the Borough Council maintained).

This would seem to be, in the long run, the most sensible and fastest route to follow – although using the word “fast” seems a bit out of place.

I think we all agree the a long-term solution has to be found, but this must be the safest solution (i.e. minimising risk over the short, medium and long term) – and not just one where it can go “to keep the peace” because no-one else wants it.

The longer this goes on, then the longer before work can start on the next generation of nuclear reactors – yes, I accept that we do need these for our future power needs – and yes, one sited in West Cumbria is fine – but a waste facility, NO.

Please, please, take it upon yourselves as the Government to find, nationally, the best site with the most suitable geology, and drop this idea of asking communities to volunteer to enter the process. This would, I believe, result in the speediest, and most economic, solution to this controversial matter.

Regards

Ray Newton