

Response form

Please use this form to respond to this call for evidence on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: Review of the Siting Process for a Geological Disposal Facility.

The closing date for the submission of responses is **10 June 2013**.

Responses can be returned by email (preferable) or post.

Email address: radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Or by post to: The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely team
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Room M07
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EY

Name	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTED
Organisation / Company	Bradwell for Renewable Energy
Organisation Size (no. of employees)	
Organisation Type	REDACTEDREDACTED
Job Title	REDACTEDREDACTED
Department	
Address	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDRED ACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACT EDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDR EDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDRED
Email	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDRED
Telephone	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDRED
Fax	

Would you like to be kept informed of developments with the MRWS programme?	Yes
Would you like your response to be kept confidential? If yes please give a reason	No

The Government is interested in your views on the geological disposal facility site selection process outlined in the 2008 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) White Paper. To assist us you may wish to consider the following issues in your response:

- What aspects of the site selection process in the MRWS White Paper do you think could be improved and how?
- What do you think could be done to attract communities into the MRWS site selection process?
- What information do you think would help communities engage with the MRWS site selection process?

Viewing this from afar, yet as involved as any, because most of the nuclear waste from the now defunct Bradwell nuclear power station has ended up at Sellafield, we have been concerned by the progress of the volunteering process in Cumbria.

BRARE was a participant in CoRWM's deliberations prior to the MRWS programme being put into practice. The idea of what constituted a community was widely discussed. How far do you reach into that community? What are the boundaries? Do local government representatives have the ear of all levels and of all ages? Do these representatives vote in a disinterested fashion, or do they toe the party line? Should representatives of local interests and national NGOs have a vote? These questions are as relevant now as then, as they have not been satisfactorily answered.

We were disconcerted to learn that a poll in 2012 showed that 80% of the general public around Sellafield were either only slightly aware or not aware at all of the issues surrounding a geological repository. This shows the consultation process has failed at an early stage. The issues should be taken to the people into schools, work places, into community groups. All sides of the arguments should be aired. Those respected constituencies not paid by the state should be funded to participate, especially in giving counter views.

This NGO signed up to the CoRWM 1 conclusions because of a clause that recommended a continuum of R&D in a search for alternatives to deep disposal that might emerge in the fullness of time and knowledge. It is difficult for local authorities to volunteer with the closed approach of one "solution", that of geological disposal. It is a leap in the dark for them. The public express ethical and environmental concerns that do not often chime with the desk-bound rationalisations of decision makers. These concerns should be raised to the same level of importance as the study of technical

competencies.

The issue of trust is huge. It has to be earned. A big stumbling block is the proposal of new nuclear build. It is generally recognised that historic wastes have to be dealt with in some shape or form, but to conflate historic waste issues with the prospect of new build wastes will put many parties off even considering volunteering. No wonder only Cumbria volunteered.

It is to be hoped that there will be more to this consultation than this on-line method. There must be a more direct approach to people of all backgrounds and persuasions.