

I should be grateful if the following points could be properly discussed when the issue of underground disposal of waste in Cumbria is raised:-

1. Nuclear power has an enormous influence on the thinking of millions of people. Most appreciate that there are great benefits in utilising its potential but there have been some momentous disasters and there are still many unknown factors about it. So a proposal to bury toxic waste in the Lake District is bound to raise much alarm amongst the locals and all who visit, or are thinking of coming here. So this question must involve all those directly concerned with the Lake District and cannot be dealt with as merely an issue for one small part that already has a vested interest in nuclear power.

2. With my geological knowledge I know that the rocks required for underground storage must be thick layers of sedimentary rocks with a good capping of clay. Such rocks are in abundance on the east coast of England. On the other hand Cumbrian rocks are the result of millions of years of violent volcanic action and earth movements. They are greatly distorted and disturbed - absolutely the last kind of rocks for underground storage. There must also be a risk that volcanic activity is continuing.

3. If this proposal went forward it must lead to great uncertainty over many years about where and if a site could be developed. This would be catastrophic for the tourist business of the Lake District on which the bulk of the population rely.

4. There could be great disruption of roads and the visual impact would be bad for all who come to admire this unique landscape. say good-bye to any bids for World heritage Status.

5. Disposal of nuclear waste is an international problem and needs an international consensus. For Great Britain that means exploring all the possible ways of treating nuclear waste. Merely putting it underground is just postponing such a decision. Any future policy must be for the country to decide not a few councilors in a small part of it.

Yours truly

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