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MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY : CALL FOR EVIDENCE OF THE SITING PROCESS
FOR A GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY

To Whom It May Concern,

Radiation Free Lakeland was formed in 2008 following Cumbria County Council Cabinet's (not councillors) "expression of interest." We are volunteers receiving and expecting no funding.

The founder of Radiation Free Lakeland responded in 2008 to A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL. The letter (attached) dated 18th October 2008 says:

"You point out that two thirds of all 'legacy waste is already at Sellafield but do not make clear that the Government plan is for the repository to take not only legacy but waste from new build. The new reactors being proposed are going to use high burnup fuel which when spent is even more difficult to manage and shield including during transportation, The HLW/spent fuel situation is unworkable now with 'legacy' waste but with new build it will be much worse.

At the Nirex inquiry it was established that the science of disposal is unproven and that the West coast of Cumbria is particularly unsuitable geologically. Given the long time scales involved in looking after radioactive waste surely the prerequisite should be the geological suitability of an area rather than the "willingness" of a community to host a repository. Future generations of that community will be INVOLUNTARY hosts to radioactive nuclear waste.

Cumbria County Council (and government) have a remit to look after the wellbeing of the people of Cumbria. In 2008 the German Government commissioned a study into radiation risks which has halted the nuclear programme in Germany. The KiKK study reveals large increases in leukemia (220%) and solid cancers (160%) among children aged under 5 within 5km of all German nuclear power stations. It also found a clear distance relationship of up to 50km - the closer the children lived to nuclear installations/routes, the greater their cancer risks. It took about 20 years for the scientist Alice Stewart's findings to be accepted and for the practice of X-raying pregnant women and childrens' feet to be stopped.

Policy 11 "Habitats Regulations Assessment would be likely to be required for any site that may be "volunteered."

Research into radiation risks to the Cumbrian environment should be carried out by independent scientists BEFORE CCC (and government) considers asking whether or not we should "volunteer." This is becoming impossible in Cumbria where environmental bodies are being increasingly funded by the nuclear industry and impartiality is questionable. For example the nuclear funding of thte Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan whose partners include Cumbria Wildlife Trust/English Nature/National Park Authority/Friends of the Lake District.

Before embarking on any commitment to asking us to "volunteer" for a nuclear repository Cumbria County Council should insist on independent studies into radiation risks to biodiversity and to human health. We should be aware of what the risks are before being asked to consider them.

Yours sincerely

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Since that letter written in 2008 NOTHING HAS CHANGED apart from £millions spent on grooming Cumbrians to continue along carefully orchestrated steps towards geological disposal.

This "review of the siting process for a geological disposal facility" is a misnomer and a trap geared to receiving answers that will lead back to the predetermined site : Cumbria.

please take the attachment and the above as Radiation Free Lakeland's response

Mr Peter Stybelski
Chief Executive
Cumbria County Council

18th October 2008

**MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY – A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING
GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL**

Dear Mr Stybelski,

I have signed the petition from West Cumbria Friends of the Earth but would also like the following to be considered.

You point out that two thirds of all 'legacy' waste is already at Sellafield but do not make clear that the Government plan is for the repository to take not only legacy but waste from new build. The new reactors being proposed are going to use high burnup fuel which when spent is even more difficult to manage and shield including during transportation. The HLW/spent fuel situation is unworkable now with 'legacy' waste but with new build it will be much worse.

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