

Received 05/12/13

Dear Sir,  
Enclosed are my answers to  
the questions 1-9 on GDF Siting Areas.

It was about a year ago I talked  
to one of your staff Mr. John Dalton at  
the Shepherd Arms Hotel, Ennerdale Bridge to  
discuss GDF. It is a surprise to me  
we are back in to letter writing mode so  
soon as the vote on 30th Jan 2013 was  
to me an end of the saga. How wrong you  
can be!

Yours faithfully,

Susan West (Mrs)

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SUSAN WEST (MRS)

The Administrator  
GDF  
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SW1A 2EY

Q1 This question is a joke. We have no confidence in "Right of Withdrawal", Cumbria CC. exercised this on 30/1/2013 and you are trying to override it by devious means.

I suggest you look at the highlighted answer on your document INVEST NOW ON SURFACE STORAGE AT SELLAFIELD AND DROP "VOLUNTARISM" WHEN EDUCATIONAL SAFETY IS NO 1 PRIORITY.

- 2.25 **What happens if West Cumbria (and potentially the rest of the UK) says no to hosting a GDF?** The Government says that it is committed to the voluntarist approach and that, were this approach to fail first time round, it would make every effort to find out why it failed and see what could be done to make the approach work better. It also says that, if it became clear that there is no possibility of the current MRWS approach succeeding in any part of the country, it would have to consider alternative ways forward to manage the waste long-term, with the immediate fallback position being continued surface storage.

**Document 287:** DECC responses to actions commissioned by the Partnership, May 2012



Q2. I do not agree. This is bad policy. It will allow a District Council to act as Representative Body — what about County councils, Parish councils, other groups, Town councils? You have spent so much time in Cumbria wasting money when the GEOLOGY is WRONG. COUNCILS SHOULD COME 1st — VOLUNTEERING IS NOT THE WAY.

Q3. What is a Host community??? Good Question? You must decide that 1st before you get into just one Borough or District Council like Copland Council to express an interest.

It is all wrong to have one minor council to by-pass county councils etc who are responsible for major services like highways and waste disposal on a major level.

Q4 You should stick to international guidelines and pick the best geology. See your guide below. Cumbria doesn't fit this at all.

- 8.26 We have received conflicting assessments from professional geologists about the potential suitability of West Cumbria's geology, but the one area of agreement appears to be that, overall, the area's geology can be viewed as 'complex'; a description that does not appear to be consistent with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Specific Safety Guide on Geological Disposal Facilities for Radioactive Waste.<sup>26</sup> With respect to geology, the guidelines state: 'Uniform rock formations in comparatively simple geological settings are preferred because they are likely to be more easily characterized and their properties are likely to be more predictable.' On hydrogeology the Safety Guide states: 'Natural features such as aquifers or fracture zones are potential release pathways for radionuclides. Such paths should be limited in the disposal facility host rock so that the protective functions of the geological and engineered barrier systems remain compatible.'

26. Available at: [www-pub.iaea.org/books/iaeabooks/8535/Geological-Disposal-Facilities-for-Radioactive-Waste-Specific-Safety-Guide](http://www-pub.iaea.org/books/iaeabooks/8535/Geological-Disposal-Facilities-for-Radioactive-Waste-Specific-Safety-Guide).

You must pick the best sites in England. Data is there and a national shortlist could and should be drawn up.

You should ask for volunteer "communities" once you have a shortlist and see how many "bags of gold" each person needs to take it up.

Everyone has their price, you could start a bidding war between communities in rich areas.

Q5. This proposed approach is wrong, the DECC Sec of State should not have the final say.

The representative body should not be delegated to a district council. I have no confidence in Cuyeland District Council for example.

Q6 DECC seems to be including waste from new build programmes - is this correct? It seems inventory details are too vague to count properly. It's all a big headache for you isn't it when you don't know what you're got?

Q7 Why not take the "Barnett Formula" approach used in Scotland and Northern Ireland - give everyone there lots more for education & health spending for ever when it comes to funding public sector spending?

You could offer "double" or "triple" Barnett formula for affected counties to make up for regional poverty and disadvantages if they "volunteer".

Q7 (cont)

Unfortunately community benefits aren't a big enough carrot to wave. You need to put safe geology first. This is the key issue, Safety, not "community benefits". To get anyone to volunteer when the geology is bad is poor practice, and that is what has been going on in West Cumbria, even though years of expensive geological testing has shown the geology is poor (see NIREX). All you have done is blight the image of the Lakes and Cumbria.

Q8. Everything has a cost and benefit. To try and make a poor development better by offering cash to a community and offset environmental damage is not the way forward. The key issue is geology 1st, and then only when you have the best site try to address the social/economic/environmental issues. Trying to put a GDF underneath the Lake District Park is a mad idea and any idea <sup>that</sup> you can "engineer out" problems at vast expense to minimize environmental impact <sup>due to</sup> a poor site choice is the wrong way to spend public money. I feel Margaret Hodge would feel you must demonstrate good use of public funds or do you have a blank cheque in this era of austerity?

Q9. Any other comments?

This document seems a cheeky attempt to by-pass the process ended on 30/1/2013 when Cumbria CC said no. Is this the way to run such a big issue? GDF is a national problem, it needs a national solution. It seems you want to get Copehead Council to "go it alone" as Jamie Reid advocated when the democratic process rolled out on 30/1/2013 when all the cabinets voted.

How can you pander to one MP and his tame Copehead council, he is ~~disparate~~ representing only a small part of Cumbria, Copehead council, but also Keswick is his constituency and there they do not like the potential damage to the "Lake District" Brand and all the tourist and environmental issues of the National Parks.

GDF is a National Issue, so treating it as a "local" issue is completely wrong.