
From:
Sent: 16 May 2013 13:03
To: radioactive waste (DECC)
Cc: Info,
Subject: MRWS West Cumbria.

Thank you for the chance to respond. My observations are:

Geological Storage.

If this is the route to be taken then stable, safe geology comes first.

Any Cumbrian old enough to remember Nirex will tell you of the shocking waste of public money that was incurred.

Even we could work out that the pressure of nearby mountains would make underground water rise. Storage in stable geology, perhaps in East Anglia or the chalk beds under the English Channel (proven tunnel technology) are good contenders.

At the conclusion of the Nirex debacle we believed that enough had been said to forever discount underground storage here.

Lessons should have been learned.

Volunteering.

A deeply flawed and worrying concept. It is wrong to volunteer others!!

We were forced to conclude that the only folk who will volunteer are those who stand to gain the most personally.

The Community Bribe.

Another worrying concept. We appeared to be offered a Science Park. Wow! If a bribe has to be offered it desperately weakens the logic of the proposal. Had some thought been given to what might be needed, a list could have offered:

New hospitals (with cancer specialisms) and local cottage hospitals so that the Cumbrian people could have medical treatment within half an hour

travelling time. Do you have a choice of local hospitals with public transport? End of argument.

Upgraded train services, reinstate the Penrith/Workington rail line. and free County bus services. That would even save the cost of chauffeurs taking important visitors to Sellafield from Penrith.

A County wide low rate of income tax coupled with monthly cash support to help reduce the impact of loss of tourism and consequent blight.

The last thing that is needed is an advertising campaign putting money into the West End of London.

Employment Benefits.

Much was made of the contribution Sellafield makes to the West Coast economy. There is a strong local impression that however many millions have been involved, their economy is not in a buoyant state and even child poverty is quite shocking, for example, in Whitehaven. After the construction (non local workforce) we were told that

the added workforce would be about the same as a supermarket.

Sellafield as a World Leader.

It is difficult to believe that the current management has any hope of managing a safe underground facility when your Audit Commission tell us that they cannot even store waste in a suitable state above ground. Despite all the money. It was very worrying to learn that the heating waste and gases could be put underground and might be made irretrievable. We never found out how pumps could be guaranteed to work for thousands of years.

Lastly, Mr. Martin of Cumbria County Council earned the gratitude and deep respect of so many Cumbrians with his words opposing the process. I am still very worried that we may still be steamrollered into a tragic mistake to the detriment of future generations. I would urge Baroness Verma to renew the search for a safe location but to put stable geology first.

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