
From:
Sent: 13 May 2013 15:42
To: radioactivewaste (DECC)
Subject: Response to MRWS Call for Evidence

Good afternoon.

I consider that the case for geological disposal should be revisited.

these are my personal views:

1. Geological disposal is inappropriate (despite "the Government remaining firmly committed") because of the high anticipated cost, and now the lack of volunteer communities
2. The current process of storage on the surface should be continued, using the security of active nuclear power station sites to provide the security against terrorist or other malicious action. Active sites are important because security will be consistently better where there is daily traffic associated with an active site, rather than a decommissioned site.
3. The level of surface security could be enhanced by making it more difficult and more time consuming to steal, damage or open the existing containers to cause radioactive dispersal and contamination. This could conceptually be as simple as covering existing canisters with, say, 10m of earth to slow any such attempt sufficiently to allow stronger security forces to arrive. Naturally the insulating properties of earth and the need for heat dissipation would have to be addressed
4. In time we may expect much more economic disposal methods to be available. If not then geological disposal could be implemented at that stage. If a period of 50 years is adopted before re-evaluation of surface storage, there will still be another 10 years before the anticipated 60 active year life of the new build stations will expire. Allowing for planning and construction time and life extensions extends the 10 years considerably.
5. Some transport of containers between existing nuclear power station sites will be needed to ensure containers are in active nuclear power station sites. The amount of transport will depend on how effective the Government is in ensuring new build happens.

The 'volunteer community' approach has reached an impasse. A positive policy, such as that outlined above, provides a suitable way forward to support new build.

regards

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