
From:
Sent: 22 May 2013 12:29
To:
Cc: radioactivewaste (DECC)
Subject: West Cumbria MRWS Process - Consultation

Dear

I hope all is very well. I am writing - copied into the DECC Consultation email address - regarding the current review of the West Cumbria MRWS process, since I gather you are collecting evidence as part of the inquiry.

I would like to endorse the points made by Friends of the Lake District (FLD) in their recent submission. In particular, I would like to highlight their points that there seemed generally to be an imbalance in the degree to which certain issues were highlighted to the community (for example, the potential job creation and community spending was highlighted over and above any scientific research, which ought to have been carried out before any community engagement programme was established); and also the need for full involvement of all parish and town councils. It is also imperative that any County authority gives any location full approval.

I personally would like to see any future process involve a panel of 'critical friends', as has been modelled in Scandinavia. Such a panel would provide impartial advice on geological aspects, and this advice would be measured against a strict set of criteria defining exactly what we mean by 'safe geology': we need numerical targets on speed, volume and predictability of water-flow; data on direction, return-time and chemical properties of the soil; and such information must be published and widely available, peer-reviewed if necessary.

The most prominent academic critics of repositories should be involved and, to encourage public trust in the process, a representative from the judiciary, also. The key things we must ensure are scientific rigour, and the restoration of public trust in the matter - both of which, I fear, were lacking in the Cumbrian case.

With very best wishes,

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