
From:
Sent: 09 June 2013 00:39
To: radioactivewaste (DECC)
Subject: Comments on Siting Proposal for a Geological Disposal Facility

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the consultation on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely. I am an interested individual and have observed from a distance what has been happening regarding encouraging communities to express an interest in hosting a repository

1. The current process for communities to express interest in hosting a geological disposal facility is not conducive to encouraging a community to express interest. The process for identifying a locality for disposal of radioactive waste needs to address emotional matters associated with a community expressing interest.
2. In many areas of England and Wales, mere mention of the possibility of a community considering volunteering to engage with the process is sufficient to arouse very strong negative emotion amongst a minority of people. Consideration of this irrational backlash is likely to be an important consideration for any community leaders considering expressing an interest with a view towards getting benefit for the community in the medium to long term. The current process does not give any short term benefit to a community which expresses interest in hosting a geological repository whilst at the same time it will create difficulties for the local leaders putting forward such a proposal.
3. In my view, the process for expressing an interest must be linked with short term benefit for the community involved. This could perhaps be achieved by giving preference to the areas in government spending plans and prioritising infrastructure enhancements, health care improvements, schools improvements etc for that locality. In this way, local leaders can show some immediate benefit from the expression of interest. Such an approach could encourage more communities to express interest in hosting a geological disposal facility.
4. The process involved in determining the acceptability of a locality could also be streamlined and aligned with comments above - for example: soon after a community has expressed interest (and an initial package of support agreed with government) test drilling could be carried out to check out the geological suitability of the area. This information could be available at an earlier stage and allow a community to make the decision to proceed with the process based on actual information gathered.

In view of my work, and the likelihood of those with a vested interest in creating a negative backlash against the search for a repository, I would appreciate if you were not to publish any of my contact details

Yours sincerely