
From:
Sent: 20 May 2013 15:22
To: radioactivewaste (DECC)
Subject: MRWS consultation

Sir,

Having followed very closely the 'consultation' process that took place recently on this matter, I am convinced that the starting point viz volunteerism for this consultation was flawed. The primary concern in dealing with this waste material must be safety. There needs to be a national geological survey which identifies those areas which are geologically suitable i.e. they are safe. It is to give false hope to a community to initiate with them the prospect of gaining whatever financial or economic inducements acceptance of a repository might bring, if the area from which they are volunteering is not in the first instance proven to be geologically safe.

As a geologist, it is clear to me that the simpler the geology, the more predictive its behaviour. Complex geological structures, such as Cumbria, are of their nature unpredictable. In general and simplistically, areas to the South and East of a line drawn from the River Exe to the River Tees provides the simplest geology and therefore the geology whose behaviour is more easily predicted.

Those who headed up the consultation in Cumbria lost all credibility simply because it became increasingly apparent during the discussions that openness to consider and weigh seriously different points of view which would impede their purpose was not on their agenda. Even the fact that the independent geologist, who was in their employment when pressed in public, had to confirm his concerns about the proposed siting on the grounds of safety did not deflect them from their own agenda.

I recognise the urgency and importance of a solution to the problem but I would simply re-state that the starting point and the finishing point must be geological since this is the only safe way forward in this difficult area.

Yours sincerely,

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