

Sirs,

Due to business commitments unfortunately I will be unable to attend the event at Warrington. Below is my input in brief.

Your letter states the purpose of the event is:

- 1 To help DECC explore and understand stakeholders' issues/questions/concerns about the current GDF site selection process;
- 2 To allow stakeholders to explore and understand the implications of the Government's proposals for them and other stakeholders;
- 3 To obtain stakeholders' feedback on the proposals for improving the current GDF site selection process;
- 4 To support stakeholders to compile their responses to the public consultation.

Taking each in turn:

- 1 My concerns are both technical and political:
 - a. that the location of the GDF is already decided, years ago, between Whitehall and the NDA.
 - b. that the site will be as close to Sellafield as Whitehall can get it - no matter what.
 - c. that the population of Cumbria (UK) is now subject to a process where Whitehall fudges the figures and coerces us into believing that the best site is the 'already chosen one'.
 - d. that the process will not be a fair and reasoned scientific one, but one of political expediency (i.e. another badly thought through Whitehall balls-up)
 - e. that previous geological work will be ignored because it doesn't give the 'preferred answer'
 - f. that Copeland & Allerdale have been 'bought off' over decades of local involvement by the Nuclear industry and can't afford to say anything but 'yes: we'll have it' whatever they actually think
 - g. that Whitehall will ignore or seek to change the democratic process to get their result - and no surprises, appear to have started already!
 - h. that an 'engineered solution' will be vaunted as the correct approach when our nuclear data covers barely 50-years and serious radioactivity is for 50,000+ years
 - i. that there will only be one GDF and when we run into future unforeseen problems, leaks, floods, earthquakes, etc. there's nowhere else to transfer to
 - j. that we won't learn from those countries already ahead on nuclear waste storage
 - k. that Sellafield's currently dilapidated above-ground storage facilities are not being properly upgraded for the interim.
 - l. that Sellafield's current store already puts the UK at serious risk of contamination (Wasn't Chernobyl's 1000-sq. mile exclusion zone 30kg of caesium 137? We have 100+ tonnes)
 - m. that we might have to rely on that lot at Risley to make and run the GDF. God help us.
 - n. the United States content - they always worry me. It's difficult to remember a U.S. involvement in anything around here that didn't result in mischief
 - o. I'm a lot less worried by the engineering than the politics and finally ...
 - p. Even if the geology turns out to be perfect, is it ethical to plonk a dump in the middle of the most beautiful and loved part of England?

- 2 The proposed removal of Cumbria County Council from the decision chain when due process was previously followed is crime against our democracy. Very Bolshevik; Stalin would be

proud of the DECC's approach - then he'd send you all to the Gulag or worse. One can only presume from this approach that C.C.C. arrived at the 'non-preferred answer'.

3 As this is such an important environmental issue it should transcend politics. Please let's go through the process sensibly, fairly, properly and start at the beginning; be open and above board about the issues, define the requirements, look for the best geological sites, choose the most suitable one and plan the build the GDF, or preferably GDFs.

4 My stance is not anti-nuclear; it's a good way of generating big-power if we can master waste storage and decommissioning issues.

I work for a local company not involved in the nuclear industry.

I've thought for decades that the best place to store nuclear waste is in and below the old Battersea Power Station in London Clay. Nice and handy for those who govern to keep an eye on it; close enough to Whitehall to ensure it will be excellently built and run; sited among the largest concentration of users of both its generated power and weapons made, and waste heat could be pumped around the estates in a civic heating programme. Vote for me ...

Kind Regards
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