

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

03 DEC 2013

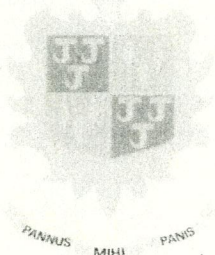
Town Clerk
Elizabeth Richardson BSc (Hons)

Town Treasurer
John M. Hutchinson ACMA

Email:

Town Hall
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DL

Phone: 01539 793490
Fax: 01539 735984



26 November 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY

I am writing on behalf of Kendal Town Council Management Committee regarding the recently published DECC consultation on the site selection process for a radioactive waste disposal facility.

The Committee considered the consultation and wish to make the following points:

Q3 – We do not agree with the approach to remove decision making from County level. District Councils should be involved but not solely as they represent too small a geographical area and any impact is likely to be over a much wider area. It is not clear what happens in the case of a Unitary Authority which could cover an area similar to a County – it would not be democratic if they were included whilst in other 3 tier areas County were excluded. The County Council with their different set of skills and expertise play a vital role as too do Local Council Associations.

We believe that any decision to site a radioactive waste disposal facility should involve effective communication with all residents in a county and if applicable neighbouring counties. It must also include a county-wide referendum before any irrevocable decision is made; nothing else will command the public's confidence. It is not for local communities to make decisions that have far ranging effects.

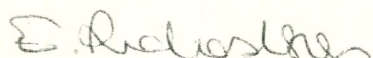
Q4 – We would comment that geological suitability for a site should be the first priority in the search for a suitable location. Thereafter there needs to be effective communication with residents.

Q9 – Any siting process should include the option for the later retrieval of the waste should technological advancement mean a better solution were available to future generations.

We seek assurance that this consultation applies to the whole of the UK and not just to the local Cumbria area. We note that around 75% of the UK's nuclear

waste is already stored in Cumbria at the Sellafield site and we accept that a safe storage solution is needed for the long term. However, a democratic process was followed in the recent siting exercise which resulted in its eventual withdrawal. It would appear that in this document the Government, rather than putting forward new siting processes, is looking to repeat the exercise in Cumbria by only involving District Councils that were previously in favour. It is thus proposing an alternative siting process that offers a more likely route to success. This is fundamentally undemocratic and would not result in public confidence.

Yours sincerely



Liz Richardson
Town Clerk

Cc Cllr Sylvia Emmott, The Mayor of Kendal
Cllr Austen Robinson, Chair of Management Committee

GDF Siting Process Consultation
Dept of Energy & Climate Change
Room M07
55 Whitehall
London. SW1A2EY