

Sirs,

The consultation process seeks views on potential amendments to the site selection process for a geological disposal facility (GDF).

The stated purpose of this is given as:

- 1 To help explore and understand 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;

My position is as interested observer and Director of a local engineering business not involved in the nuclear industry. I'm not anti-nuclear; it's a good to generate big-power if we master waste storage and decommissioning.

But like many here, having lived a long time on the other side of Sellafield's 'protective chain-link fence', I'm deeply cynical and mistrusting of the Government and Nuclear Industry. Your 'bullshit' needs a lot of work - or alternatively you could be truthful, above board and open and in that way win back the public confidence lost through decades of political posturing, lies and misinformation.

With the proposed GDF I'm a lot less worried about the engineering than the politics. My concerns, both technical and political are listed below:

- 1 The one-liners:

that the location of the GDF is already decided, years ago, between Whitehall and the NDA.

that the site will be as close to Sellafield as Whitehall can get it - no matter what.

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'.

that the consultation results will be ignored if they don't give the 'right answer'

that the quango charged with making the decision will be comprised entirely of a people with a vested interest in siting the GDF in the 'already chosen location'

that DECC states that the GDF siting is a 'local issue' when we all know it's a national one, or at the very least a regional one - covering the area likely to be contaminated in the event of a major leak (NDA has the studies).

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)

that previous geological work will be ignored because it doesn't give the 'preferred answer'

that Copeland & Allerdale have been 'bought off' over decades of local sponsorship and involvement by the Nuclear Industry and can't afford to say anything but 'yes: we'll have it' whatever they actually think
that Whitehall will ignore or seek to change the democratic process to get their result - **and no surprises, appear to have started already!**
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
that there will only be one GDF and when we experience future unforeseen problems, leaks, floods, earthquakes, etc. there's nowhere else to transfer to

that we won't learn from those countries already ahead on nuclear waste storage
that Sellafield's currently dilapidated above-ground storage facilities are not being properly upgraded for the interim - in the ridiculous hope they will last the decades needed to build a GDF.
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? Sellafield has 100+ tonnes)
that we might have to rely on that lot at Risley to make and run the GDF. God help us. They seem to take an age to do anything.

that the GDF will be not just the UK's (just England's after the Scot-vote?) waste but several nations - tell me why we would want to do that?
the United States content of this process - they always worry me. It's difficult to remember a U.S. involvement in anything around here that didn't result in mischief
Even if Lake District 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 (& Parish Councils) from the decision chain when due process was previously followed is crime against our democracy.
Very Bolshevik; Stalin would be proud of DECC's approach - then he'd send you all to the Gulag. One can only presume from this approach that C.C.C. arrived at the 'non-preferred answer'.
[Or perhaps if the best geology is found under London, Greater London Authority will be excluded in favour of say, Wandsworth, because 'it's a local issue'. Yes, I see how it works now ...]

3 As this is such an important environmental issue it should transcend politics. The correct site is never a political location – it is only the scientific one. 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 geology, choose the most suitable, and plan the build the GDF, or preferably GDFs.

4 Nuclear power is a national issue: power generated is used nationally. Nuclear bombs are a London-controlled national issue. Hence, nuclear waste storage is a national issue. Wake up DECC.

5 For decades I've thought the best place to store nuclear waste is in and below the old Battersea Power Station in London Clay. Handy for those who govern to monitor 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 housing estates in a civic heating programme. We have vast knowledge of tunnelling London clay and 200-year records - which is as much data as we have for anywhere else. The more London-centric political wriggling there is on this issue the more I believe I'm correct: **London clay is the best geology**. Now wouldn't that be a thing: London looking after its own mess? Vote for me ...

Regards
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