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GDF siting process consultation  
Department of Energy and Climate Change  
Room M07  
55 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2EY

Dear Sir/ Madam,

### **Re. Review of the Siting Process for a Geological Disposal Facility**

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above outlined document.

The IACC in partnership with key stakeholders have established the Anglesey Energy Island Programme (EIP). The EIP aspires to establish the Island as a world renowned centre of excellence for producing, demonstrating and servicing low carbon energy, which in turn will provide a sound base to encourage economic diversification and transition, which will deliver positive benefits over the longer term.

Anglesey over the next 10 years will be host to a number of major and large scale energy projects. Three of these energy developments are classed as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), including the development of a new nuclear power station, (comprising a minimum 2.6GW [2 reactors]), adjacent to the existing nuclear power station at Wylfa. The scale of the potential impact of the development is unprecedented with a peak construction workforce of 6,000 workers (maximum) in addition to local supply chain benefits. As a result the development of a geological disposal facility (GDF) to dispose of higher activity radioactive waste safely underground is clearly essential in the development of new nuclear generation in the UK.

The IACC also welcomes the proposed approach to raising national awareness before seeking volunteers which will ensure that the initial 'Learning Phase' of the revised siting process would not commence until the national public awareness and engagement programme has been initiated and progressed. It is essential that this programme works towards alleviating any public concerns, including what would happen to radioactive waste within the GDF during and after significant external events.

As outlined within the consultation document the development of a GDF will provide skilled employment for many thousands over its lifetime and bring long-term economic benefit to the host area. It is clear that the Government will provide a generous community benefit package for the hosting community ensuring that the strategic national importance of the project is reflected at local level which is clearly welcomed.

The impact of such a development on communities cannot be underestimated therefore it is welcomed that the review outlines that under the new approach communities would be provided with more information at an earlier stage in the process. It is also positive that the document notes that in light of the lessons learned in Cumbria and elsewhere that the strategy for environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal should be changed, which would involve bringing forward certain elements of the strategy, and starting to address local environmental and socio-economic issues earlier in the process.

It is also welcomed that following previous concerns about the right to withdraw that the amended approach for decision making will consist of a two phase process which will allow communities to find out more about the process for siting a GDF, while having a continuous right of withdrawal.

The development of a specific GDF National Policy Statement, subject to the outcome of this consultation, which would set out the assessment principles against which applications would be considered clearly represents the UK Governments clear and transparent approach.

As outlined within the document radioactive waste disposal is a devolved matter and therefore any planning decisions for a GDF in Wales would be taken through the Welsh planning system. If circumstances were to arise requiring planning consideration of a GDF in Wales it is essential that the Welsh Government have the necessary planning arrangements in place to enable consultation and decision making to take place in an open and transparent manner.

The IACC are not in a position to respond to the specific questions however we welcome the timely and transparent progress that is being made. Against this backdrop the IACC supports the further review and associated re-launch of the national site selection process in 2014 and specific GDF National Policy Statement. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or wish to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely,

**Dylan J. Williams**  
**Head of Service - Economic and Community Regeneration**