

# Exotic Fuels, Nuclear Materials and Waste Management – RSRL Harwell

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## NDA Response to Stakeholder Comments on Credible & Preferred Options

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**November 2011**

**Stakeholder Comments in response to RSRL Harwell Credible & Preferred Options Paper**

In August 2011, NDA published a joint Credible and Preferred Options paper on the management of the nuclear materials and spent fuels at Harwell. Four responses were received, and these comments have been reviewed and collated in the table below, along with our response as NDA.

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Organisation / Individual</b>	<b>NDA Response</b>
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>		
Clarification is requested on the quantities of materials to be transferred or quantities of different types of ILW that would remain in storage at Harwell.	Oxfordshire County Council	Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to be precise on the material quantities to be transferred for security-related reasons. However, the paper does indicate the numerical range and type of material to be transferred. The different types of ILW that would remain at Harwell are outside the scope of the paper, but further information will be given through discussions between the Harwell Site team and the County Council.
It is not clear from the consultation paper what the rate of transfer of materials from Harwell would be and the timescales involved.	Oxfordshire County Council	The transportation of material is proposed to commence in 2013 and be completed within approximately seven years. However, the rate of transfer of material is specific to the material type and, unfortunately, we are not able to give more detailed information due to security restrictions.
I was surprised that the reason for packaging waste in the concrete-lined drums is not mentioned.	Individual #1	This was an oversight on behalf of the author. The waste is packaged in concrete lined drums to reduce the hazard potential from the material to the workforce.

<b>General Comments</b>		
The proposal to transfer some spent fuels, nuclear materials and radioactive waste from Harwell to Sellafield (and potentially Springfields) is supported	Oxfordshire County Council; Individual #1; Harwell LSG	Noted.
The current security arrangements at Harwell should be maintained for as long as the hazardous/radioactive material remains on the site.	Oxfordshire County Council; Harwell LSG	Noted & agreed
All transportation should be	Oxfordshire	Noted & agreed. All rail transportation will be

undertaken in the usual way to ensure safety of the convoy.	County Council	carried out in line with regulatory requirements.
Local responder agencies should be consulted in good time if activity at the site or transportation of the material has any implications on emergency planning or response.	Oxfordshire County Council	Noted & agreed
Some of the materials proposed to be transferred from Harwell originated from Winfrith. Confirmation is requested that this proposal would not involve any further radioactive material being transferred from Winfrith to Harwell for onward transfer to another site.	Oxfordshire County Council	This proposal only relates to the special nuclear material currently stored at Harwell and any material at other sites is the beyond the scope of this paper.
The use of rail transport in preference to road is supported in principle.	Oxfordshire County Council	Noted.
The decision by NDA to reject options to transfer fuels and ILW to Dounreay is welcome.	Shetland Islands Council	Noted.
This is a good example of how the NDA can add value by facilitating a "two SLC" solution.	Individual #1	Noted.

**Comments received from:**

- Oxfordshire County Council
- Individual #1
- Shetland Islands Council