

Hello,

Please accept my response to the consultation in this form rather than as the online survey.

The survey, as it seems to me requires, as a precondition, that the basic format of the proposals are accepted.

From my point of view here in lies the problem.

It seems to me that the first priority is to establish areas in the country that are suitable for a GDF rather than asking for volunteer areas first. Too much time has been wasted by trying to work the other way round.

From the nature of your proposals it is clear that you wish to bring Cumbria (West Cumbria in particular) back into the frame by the way you propose changing " the rules" If this were not so then your proposals would have made a bit more sense if you had specifically excluded Cumbria in your revised proposals upholding the democratically reached conclusion to the MRWS consultation.

It is also notable that no attempt has been made to refute the work done by the Smythe & Hazledine indicating that the area is geologically unsuitable by the normal international standards required for a repository. One must then assume that the government does not care, or believes it is possible to adopt an engineering solution - which it is not prepared to open to public scrutiny & cannot be proven to be viable.

If there is a sincere belief that the geology of Cumbria is suitable & the government has just been remiss in failing to refute the work of Smythe & Hazledine, then surely a detailed geological survey in Cumbria should have been the next step.

It seems to me that your proposals risk wasting time that cannot be afforded by continuing to insist on a back to front approach - Also further increasing the level of mistrust in government as a whole, by trying to give the illusion of a democratic process for one that would appear to have a predetermined convenient solution that it is intent on imposing. This being emphasized by minimising County Council influence which has been shown capable of making rational decisions .

I hope it is realised that these comments are from one who recognises that the nation has a problem of nuclear waste which has to be solved & also sees the inevitability of needing nuclear power as part of our energy mix, but is totally frustrated at the incompetent way the whole issue has been dealt with by government over the years.

Robert Baird.

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