

Received  
04/14/13

Dr Christopher Ayling

December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013

Dear Sir,

DECC Consultation Response

In reply to the DECC Consultation Document I would like to submit the following replies:

Q1 Yes. There should be a referendum to test public support. It should involve as broad a group as democratically practical, and there should be a Right of Withdrawal by potential host communities through those bodies elected to represent them (from Parish and District to County Councils).

Q2 No. It is outrageous that one District Council should act as the Representative Authority, and particularly that the leader of that Representative Authority should be chairing the Steering Group.

Q3 No. Too many powers would be held by one body (the Representative Authority). The County Council, democratically elected, should be re-instated to its rightful position by law, and not relegated only to a consultative role.

Q4 No. Suitable geology should be at the very heart of the long-term safety of a GDF, and the DECC has chosen to cherry pick and distort the facts to favour the results that it wants. Data is already available (from the Nirex Enquiry and the previous MRWS process), that should be re-examined and duly considered. It seems unlikely, for example, that the faulty geology that enables the Environment Agency to bore into West Cumbria for water, should at the same time be suitable to lock in a high risk underground storage facility. A national screening process would reveal more secure geology in other parts of the country.

Q5 No. Part of the answer lies with Q3, but there are major conflicts of interest at the highest levels where the Secretary of State for Energy appears to be overseeing any number of irregularities in favour of the DECC in the Government's desperation to find the solution to a difficult problem that nobody in the United Kingdom wants (other than a small, motivated group at a very local level in Copeland).

Q6. No. Before making decisions a potential volunteer host community should be made fully aware of what type of waste would be stored in the proposed GDF. In particular there should be an assurance that it would not include any new-build nuclear waste (reference CoRWM recommendations)

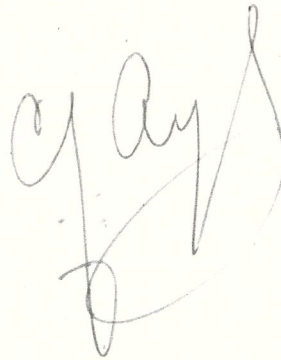
Q7. No. Bribing a community into believing that its economic future and prosperity depended on hosting a GDF is immoral. If, as seems likely, the geology

of a location in Cumbria, for example, is deemed to be unsuitable, how might the retrieval of benefits be negotiated, particularly as the process of investigation would likely have a damaging effect on the local environment without any of the anticipated advantages.

Q8. No. There should be a clear separation of the socio-economic and environmental issues. Protected areas such as National Parks, Special Areas of Conservation, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, should be excluded from the invasive processes of siting a GDF. Local communities should not feel under pressure to embrace a GDF for socio-economic reasons alone.

As a resident of Ennerdale Bridge, situated close to Sellafield and within one of the proposed siting areas for a GDF, my feelings are particularly focused against the DECC's proposals, but I am not "anti-nuclear" and would wish to see energy going into revitalizing the management of the waste that currently exists on the Sellafield site. However, wherever a GDF is to be sited the primary consideration should be one of suitable geology and long term safety.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C. Ay' or similar, with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.