



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

# Public attitudes to the revised Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Siting Process

Final report

February 2014

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# A report on the findings from the public dialogue workshops on the revised Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Siting Process

Prepared by Ipsos MORI

Ipsos MORI



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# Executive summary

## Introduction

The Government's policy for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste is geological disposal. This involves placing radioactive wastes deep within a suitable rock formation where the rock acts as a barrier against the escape of radioactivity, as well as isolating the waste from effects at the surface.

In 2008 the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) white paper was published which outlined a framework for implementing geological disposal. The white paper set out an approach to site selection for a geological disposal facility (GDF) based on the principles of voluntarism and partnership.

Interest in hosting a GDF was expressed by local authorities in west Cumbria but the process stalled when the two borough councils voted to continue with the process, but the County Council voted against (it had previously been agreed that there should be consent at both Borough and County level).

Following this decision, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) issued a Call for Evidence on how the MRWS process could be taken forward. DECC subsequently published a consultation document outlining potential revisions to the MRWS process<sup>1</sup>. In support of the consultation document, DECC commissioned research to provide a deeper understanding of views about the revised site selection process for a GDF.

The research included a public dialogue. Public dialogue is a process during which members of the public interact with scientists, stakeholders and policy makers to deliberate on issues likely to be important for future policies. This report presents the findings from the public dialogue which was delivered by Ipsos MORI.

The public dialogue was held alongside:

- Four national stakeholder workshops.<sup>2</sup>
- Three sector stakeholder workshops (for industry, local authorities and NGOs).<sup>3</sup>

The public dialogue was partly funded and supported by Sciencewise<sup>4</sup> and was conducted in accordance with its "Guiding Principles" for public dialogues on science and technology.<sup>5</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the consultation document can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>

<sup>2</sup> The findings of the national stakeholder workshops can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>

<sup>3</sup> The findings of the sector stakeholder workshops can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>

<sup>4</sup> Sciencewise is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Sciencewise aims to improve policy making involving science and technology across Government by increasing the effectiveness with which public dialogue is used, and encouraging its wider use where appropriate to ensure public views are considered as part of the evidence base. [www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk](http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk)

<sup>5</sup> The Government's Approach to Public Dialogue on Science and Technology available at <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/assets/Uploads/Publications/Guiding-PrinciplesSciencewise-ERC-Guiding-Principles.pdf>

dialogue covered a range of topics: awareness of the wider MRWS and GDF siting process; public perceptions of the revised GDF siting process; overall attitudes to voluntarism; how the public would define a community in relation to GDF; the decision making body and who should represent the community in the GDF siting process; how should the demonstration of community support and the right of withdrawal work in the process; attitudes to community benefits; providing information on potential socio-economic and environmental effects; and, information needs and preferred information channels.

The stated objectives of the public dialogue were to:

- Explore and understand the general public's awareness of geological disposal and the MRWS process;
- Obtain feedback on the proposals for improving the current MRWS site selection process for a GDF; and,
- Enable the public's views to be fed into the development of an improved GDF site selection process.

## Methodology for the public dialogue workshops

The public dialogue was comprised of a series of reconvened workshops at four locations. At each location the reconvened workshops took place over two consecutive Saturdays, with each workshop lasting a full day. The first location was in Nottingham where the dialogue was piloted. A number of revisions to the dialogue were made in advance of the workshops at the remaining locations: Bridgwater, London and Penrith.

The four locations were selected to include different types of communities, including two within closer proximity to nuclear power stations. A total of 63 local residents participated in both workshops across the four locations. Participants were recruited to ensure a broad mix of local residents was represented.

The first workshop provided participants with the background information they needed to give informed opinions about the geological disposal of radioactive waste. The second focused on discussion around some of the key proposals in the workshop and potential information needs.

The workshops included a mix of plenary presentations, as well as group discussions and exercises. Ipsos MORI chaired the day and facilitated the discussions, while technical presentations were delivered by experts from DECC and the Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). A facilitation plan was set out to determine the structure of the day and help guide the group discussions. Copies of the plan and an outline of the materials, together with copies of the stimulus materials, can be found in the appendices. The facilitation plan and stimulus materials were designed by Ipsos MORI in collaboration with DECC.

## Interpreting the findings

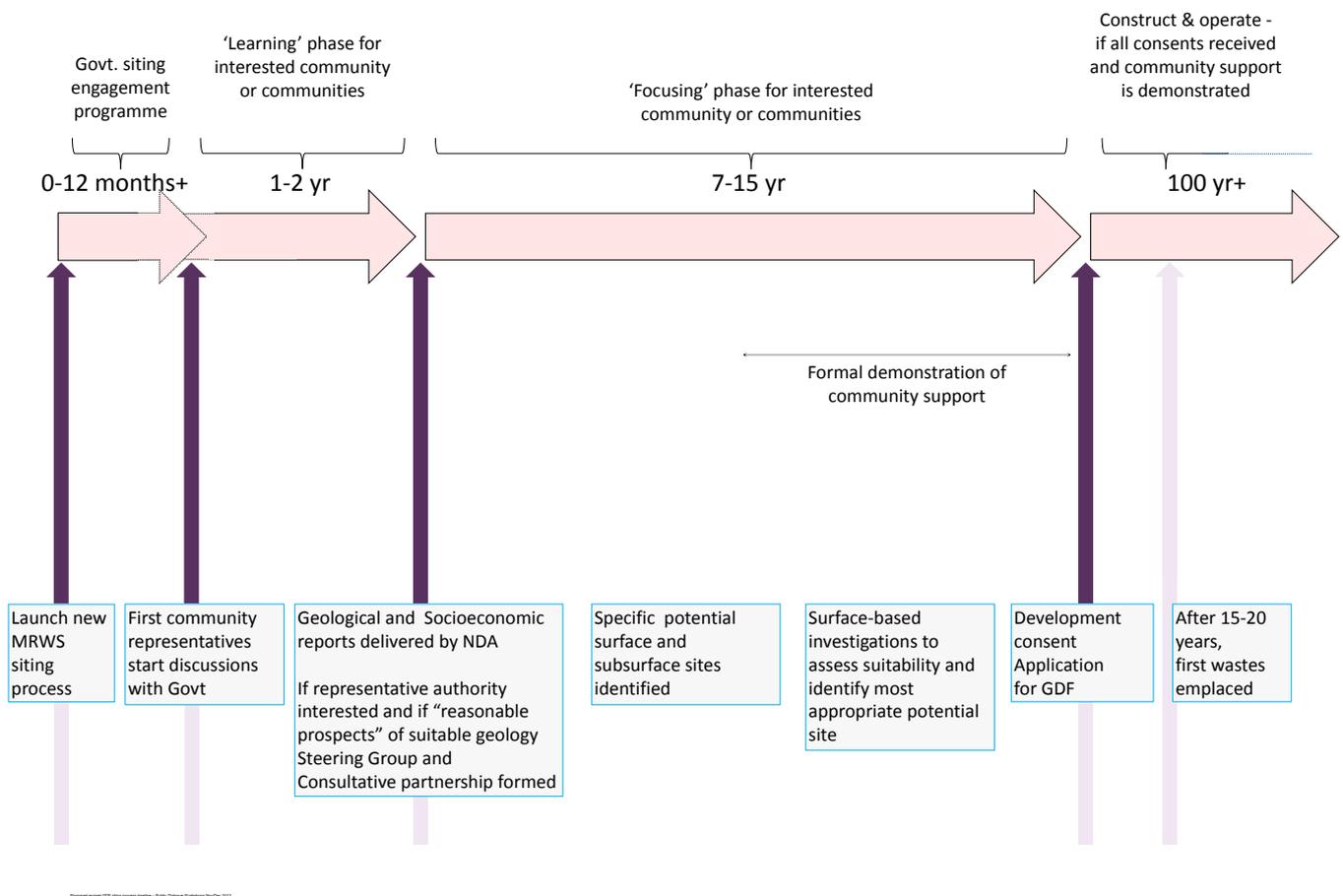
The findings provide an understanding of the range of views held by the public about the GDF siting process and the principles that underpin their views. However, because this project is qualitative and not quantitative, these views cannot be considered to be fully representative of the wider general public.

Further, the views expressed and the findings drawn from them do not represent a formal response by the communities to the consultation. Each participant was encouraged to complete and submit a formal response to the consultation as views expressed during the workshops were not being logged as formal responses.

## The proposed revised GDF siting process from the Consultation Document

In order to assist readers correctly understand the findings in the Executive Summary a diagram of the proposed GDF process, as well as a description of it, are presented below. The diagram and description were both taken from the Consultation Document and used in the public dialogue.

**Figure 1 Diagram<sup>6</sup> of proposed revised GDF siting process from the Consultation Document**



<sup>6</sup> This diagram is taken from the consultation document, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>

## **Finding a site for a GDF: summary of the proposed revised process from the Consultation Document**

- 1. Raising public awareness:** year-long programme covering what a geological disposal facility is; the fact that we've got radioactive waste to deal with in the UK and general information about geology and amount/type of waste.

There should also be greater clarity at an early stage about the scale and timing of community benefits<sup>7</sup> and the likely investment in an area.

- 2. First community representatives start discussions about GDF:**

Communities would be represented by the most local competent authority (the 'representative authority'), which would retain the ongoing right to withdraw from the process. In England, this would be the **district council** in two-tier areas or **unitary authority** in unitary areas.

- 3. Learning phase:** opportunity for communities to find out more about the process **without making any commitment**. This involves producing independent reports on local geology and the potential impact of a GDF on the local area, paid for by the UK Government and delivered to the representative authority.

If both the representative authority and the UK Government wished to proceed beyond this phase, then the 'Focusing' phase would begin.

- 4. Focusing phase:** seeking to identify potentially suitable sites and investigate them in more detail. Limited community benefits could start being paid during this phase. It would be overseen by a decision making 'Steering Group', consisting of the representative authority with UK Government and RWMD<sup>8</sup> as the developer. A 'Consultative Partnership' of wider local interests would also be formed.

There would also be a requirement for a **demonstration of community support** as the final step of the siting process. Without a positive demonstration of community support, development of a GDF could not proceed.

Beyond this point, any proposed development would, of course, remain subject to statutory planning and regulatory processes, and their accompanying public and stakeholder engagement and consultation requirements.

**Note about planning:** It is proposed to bring the GDF within the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project planning regime, as set out in the Planning Act 2008. This would mean it would have to go to a body called the Planning Inspectorate and get final sign off from the Secretary of State. Other big planning projects which fall into this category are offshore wind farms and new airports.

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<sup>7</sup> Community Benefits are discussed in section 2.7

<sup>8</sup> Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

## Key findings

The key findings from this public dialogue are summarised below.

### Awareness of the MRWS process and GDF siting process

Claimed awareness of the GDF siting process was low across all of the workshops.

The planned awareness raising campaign needs to consider carefully how the statement that “a GDF could be sited anywhere” is used, to avoid being seen as a disingenuous statement by DECC.

### Public perception of the revised siting process

The consultation document sets out a proposed revised GDF siting process; the structure of the proposed process was a major theme throughout the discussions in the second workshop day.

Most participants felt that the purpose and sequence of the various stages of the revised siting process (see figure 1 on page 9) made sense. In particular there was widespread support for the awareness raising phase as they felt the management of radioactive waste was an important issue but one the public had little knowledge of.

Most participants also expressed surprise at the amount of time needed before a GDF would start operating, and felt that the projected 9 to 25 years was too long and that the process could be faster. While most participants generally appreciated the reasons for the timescales when it was explained to them, they remained keen for the siting process to be completed as quickly soon as possible.

Many participants struggled to understand the purpose of the siting process as they were convinced it must be possible to identify viable sites for a GDF up-front. A popular viewpoint was that the process should include a screening stage, where potential GDF sites were identified. This was driven by a desire to make the process as efficient as possible.

### Overall attitudes to voluntarism

The principle of voluntarism was set out in the consultation document; it was explained and discussed at the workshops.

Most participants were supportive of the principle of voluntarism for the GDF siting process, although a few did favour imposition. However, many participants were sceptical over whether any communities would come forward

Most of those who were sceptical felt that communities would be put off by concerns about the potential health and safety risk, and impacts on property and investment in the area. The history of the process in west Cumbria also made others sceptical about voluntarism, while some felt the Government was using voluntarism as a smokescreen for imposition.

In spite of the scepticism expressed, the participants believed that certain types of communities might be more interested in volunteering to host a GDF. This included deprived communities, existing nuclear communities and more rural communities. They did not have specific communities in mind, but felt these factors would characterise the types of communities most likely to volunteer.

### Defining a community in relation to GDF

The GDF siting process, as set out in the consultation document, revolves around the principle of a volunteer host community. Participants discussed what a community meant to them in the context of a GDF siting process.

Most participants found defining a “community” very difficult and believed it could not be done until potential sites could be identified. However, some participants felt that existing local government boundaries (including parishes, wards, boroughs and counties) could be used as a basis for defining communities.

Often participants focused on those most affected by a facility as basis for defining the community. Some estimated this might be an area of 10-20 miles (which could cut across existing administrative boundaries). However, the issue of transportation of waste led others to broaden out these boundaries to a second tier of communities. Other participants went further still, and felt the entire nation should be involved in the siting process as we shared a collective responsibility for the waste, and could all be affected if something went wrong.

### The decision making body

The consultation document states the decision making body would act as the democratic representative of the community. It would hold the right of withdrawal and take the final decision on proceeding, subject to a demonstration of community support.

Participants had mixed views on who should form the single decision making body. Most participants were uncomfortable with the idea that the body would be their local council, primarily due to a lack of trust in politicians. Most saw a role for a new set of directly elected community representatives, whose sole remit would be to manage the GDF siting process. However, some participants wanted decisions to be made by their existing local councillors.

Participants held a range of views on the precise nature of the decision making body. However, there were a number of common principles which underpinned their perceptions of how the decision making body should work. These included: fairness (ensuring the body was democratic); forward-looking (that it took account of the views of future generations); balance (that it allowed an opportunity for both sides of the argument to be heard); efficacy (that it had the access to resources and expertise to manage the process effectively); and localism (that community representatives were drawn from the local community).

Many participants struggled to understand precisely the role of the steering group and consultative partnership in the siting process<sup>9</sup> and what they would do which was different from the decision making body. Further, there was confusion about their role in relation to the decision making body in the GDF siting process.

All participants believed regulators have a key ‘reassurance’ role in the GDF siting process. They wanted comfort that the process would be managed safely. Great value was put on the independence of regulators in providing this reassurance due to a wider lack of trust in politicians.

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<sup>9</sup> The consultation document explains that a ‘**steering group**’ would review the viability and acceptability of the process; guide UK Government and RWMD (as the developer) on the execution of the ‘Focusing’ phase; and engage and communicate with the wider local community. It would comprise the local representative authority, the UK Government and RWMD (as the developer).

A ‘**consultative partnership**’, would provide another level of assurance. It would involve any stakeholder with an interest in the siting process (for example, members of neighbouring authorities, business representatives, Parish Councils, local public services, residents groups, or non-governmental organisations). In a two-tier local authority area, the **County Council** would be expected to play a prominent role.

## **A demonstration of community support and the right of withdrawal**

The consultation document sets out two principles within the GDF siting process: firstly, that a demonstration of community support should be required before a GDF could be built; and, secondly, that communities should have a right of withdrawal from the process. These principles were discussed at the workshop.

Nearly all participants were in favour of the process requiring a demonstration of community support, believing this to be both fair and democratic. Most favoured a referendum as a demonstration of community support.

Many participants felt there should be two clear demonstrations of support. They wanted one at the start of the focusing stage to see whether there was community support for a GDF (and if not prevent resources being wasted in the focusing stage); as well as a further demonstration towards the end of the focusing phase, this would be the final demonstration once the community had a better understanding of the proposed site and its impacts.

Nearly all participants agreed that communities should have the right to withdraw, but tended to suggest that this should end before major capital expenditure took place.

## **The approach to community benefits**

The consultation document acknowledges that building a GDF will bring jobs and infrastructure benefits to the host community but also re-iterates the Government's commitment to providing a community benefits package. The community benefits package not only recognises the community's service to the nation but also ensures the community makes the most of the opportunities presented by a major infrastructure project. Participants discussed the proposed approach to defining and agreeing what the community benefits package should be and when it should be paid.

Most participants felt that, in principle, there should be benefits for the host community. However, some participants perceived a community benefits package as a bribe.

There was a wide range of views amongst participants about what these community benefits should include, although most believed that jobs and education would be key among them. There was also no consensus on when community benefits should be discussed or paid although many felt that benefits should not be paid until after the community committed to host the GDF.

## **Approach to providing information about potential socio-economic and environmental effects**

A proposed revised approach to providing information about potential socio-economic and environment effects was set out in the consultation document; this was discussed by participants together with their views on what information they felt would be needed.

Nearly all participants wanted a staged approach to information about potential impacts – from generic information at the beginning to increasingly detailed and specific information as the search focussed on potential sites.

Participants felt that the information should be updated throughout the process as more is known about the site, the details of the proposed facility and its impacts.

Participants' most prominent concerns were around the impact on property values and health.

## **Information needs and preferred information channels**

In addition to discussing elements of the proposed revised GDF siting process, participants also discussed what information they felt would be needed as part of the process, how the

information should be provided, when in the process it should be available and what they expected from this information.

Participants believed a phased approach to information provision was sensible, with generic information provided initially and the information becoming more specific as the site selection process progressed.

Participants felt that mass or national media were their preferred initial information source, with local media playing a larger role in the learning and focusing phases as well as more community focused channels, for example, public meetings, in the later stages.

They also believed information should be presented in plain English, using simple concepts but with a presumption of an intelligent reader. Further, more detailed, information should be available to all on the website which participants envisaged would accompany the siting process.

### Key principles for the general public in revising the GDF siting process

Five key principles appeared to underpin participants' opinions of the revised GDF siting process and emerged throughout the discussions:

- **Awareness and education** – This was a key requirement for nearly all participants, workshop participants felt they initially knew very little (if anything) about radioactive waste and the agreed policy of managing it. They felt that if voluntarism was to succeed then the wider public needed to understand the challenges of managing our radioactive waste, and what the impact of a GDF might be for a community.
- **Transparency and openness** – Participants felt that it was important that Government was open and transparent about the need for a GDF, including what the potential risks could be from implementing it (or not). They wanted the siting process to be run in a similar vein with community representatives sharing the information on the potential impacts of a GDF and taking any decisions in the open.
- **Local** – In all the discussions participants referred back to the importance of ensuring the views of the “local community” and “local people” were heard, even though they generally struggled to define community in relation to a GDF.
- **Fairness** – The participants frequently spoke of fairness and for most this meant ensuring that the process represented and involved everybody in the community. It was generally felt that the process should hear the views of those who opposed a GDF as well as those who supported the facility. Fairness also meant that the information which was presented to the community and its representatives needed to be balanced and impartial.
- **Efficiency** – There was a clear call from participants for the process to be run as efficiently as possible. They were keen to find efficiencies which could lead to cost savings. In particular this principle underpinned responses around the calls for screening and targeting resources on specific communities (if possible) as well as queries around the timeline.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction and background to the project

The Government's policy for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste is geological disposal. This involves placing radioactive wastes deep within a suitable rock formation where the rock acts as a barrier against the escape of radioactivity, as well as isolating the waste from effects at the surface.

In 2008 the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) white paper was published which outlined a framework for implementing geological disposal. The white paper set out an approach to site selection for a geological disposal facility (GDF) based on the principles of voluntarism and partnership.

Interest in hosting a GDF was expressed by local authorities in west Cumbria but the process stalled when the two borough councils voted to continue with the process, but the County Council voted against (it had previously been agreed that there should be consent at both Borough and County level).

Following this decision, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) issued a Call for Evidence on how the MRWS process could be taken forward. DECC subsequently published a consultation document on the 12 September 2013 outlining potential revisions to the MRWS process<sup>10</sup>. Interested parties were invited to submit their response to consultation by 5 December 2013. In support of the consultation document, DECC commissioned research to provide a deeper understanding of views about the revised site selection process for a GDF.

The research included a public dialogue. Public dialogue is a process during which members of the public interact with scientists, stakeholders and policy makers to deliberate on issues likely to be important for future policies. The dialogue was partly funded and supported by Sciencewise, which is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and was conducted in accordance with its "Guiding Principles" for public dialogues on science and technology.<sup>11</sup> Sciencewise aims to improve policy making involving science and technology across Government by increasing the effectiveness with which public dialogue is used, and encouraging its wider use where appropriate to ensure public views are considered as part of the evidence base. It provides a wide range of information, advice, guidance and support services aimed at policy makers and all the different stakeholders involved in science and technology policy making, including the public. Sciencewise also provides co-funding to Government departments and agencies to develop and commission public dialogue activities.

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<sup>10</sup> A copy of the consultation document can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>

<sup>11</sup> The Government's Approach to Public Dialogue on Science and Technology, available at <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/assets/Uploads/Publications/Guiding-PrinciplesSciencewise-ERC-Guiding-Principles.pdf>

Representatives from three external organisations acted as a 'stakeholder reference group' before, during and after the workshops in order to ensure a balanced and objective provision of information; identify uncertainties and disagreements at, or in relation to, the workshops and provide a credible, independent voice in the GDF siting process. The organisations involved represented three stakeholders: Non-governmental organisations, nuclear industry (Nuclear Industry Association) and local authorities (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum).

This report presents the findings from the public dialogue which was delivered by Ipsos MORI.

The stated objectives of the public dialogue were to:

- Explore and understand the general public's awareness of geological disposal and the MRWS process;
- Obtain feedback on the proposals for improving the current MRWS site selection process for a GDF; and,
- Enable the public's views to be fed into the development of an improved GDF site selection process.

The public dialogue was held alongside:

- Four national stakeholder workshops which were delivered by 3KQ.
- Three sector stakeholder workshops (for industry, local authorities and NGOs) which were delivered by DECC.

The reports from both studies are available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>.

Jacobs was the lead contractor for both the public dialogue and stakeholder workshops and oversaw the work of both sub-contractors, that is, Ipsos MORI and 3KQ.

## 1.2 Methodology and dialogue design

### 1.2.1 Methodology

The public dialogue was comprised of a series of reconvened workshops at four locations. At each location the reconvened workshops took place over two consecutive Saturdays in November and December 2013.

In total, 21 participants were recruited at each location and asked to attend both days; each day ran from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The locations for the workshops were selected to ensure a number of different types of communities across England<sup>12</sup> were included, for example in terms of their proximity to nuclear power stations.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of community</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Workshop</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop</b>
Nottingham (Pilot)	Industrial, non-nuclear, urban	16-Nov 2013	23-Nov 2013
London	London, non-nuclear, urban	30-Nov 2013	07-Dec 2013
Penrith	Rural, nuclear	30-Nov 2013	07-Dec 2013
Bridgwater	Rural, nuclear, nuclear new build programme	30-Nov 2013	07-Dec 2013

<sup>12</sup> The Welsh Assembly Government decided not to participate in the dialogue, the Scottish Government has a separate policy on MRWS and as there are no current or planned nuclear facilities in Northern Ireland the province was excluded from the project.

It was made clear to participants – both at recruitment and during the workshops – that the selection of locations reflected the need to gather a range of views from different types of communities; it did not mean there were any plans or proposals to site a GDF in their community.

### 1.2.2 Recruitment of participants

The same participants attended both days of the workshop. Participants were recruited to represent a broad mix of local residents in each location (see Appendix A for the recruitment questionnaire). Recruitment took place on high streets at the selected locations. All locations were recruited to the same profile to ensure a good mix of participants (see table 2).

<b>Table 2: Quotas used in recruiting workshop participants</b>	
Gender:	
Male	10 minimum
Female	10 minimum
Age:	
18-34	6 minimum
35-54	6 minimum
55+	6 minimum
Social grade:	
ABC1	9 minimum
C2DE	9 minimum
Household composition:	
Child(ren) under 16 living in the household with them	8 minimum
No children under 16 living in the household with them	8 minimum
<b>Total</b>	<b>21 Participants</b>

The table below shows the participant profile for the final day at each location.

<b>Table 3: Participant profile of final day</b>				
<b>Quota</b>	<b>Nottingham</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Penrith</b>	<b>Bridgwater</b>
<b>Dates</b>	16 & 23 November	30 November & 7 December	30 November & 7 December	30 November & 7 December
<b>Attended Day 1</b>	20	13	17	18
<b>Attended Day 2</b>	20	12	15	16
<b>Day 2 attendance profile</b>				
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	10	6	7	10
Female	10	6	8	6
<u>Age</u>				
18-34	6	2	4	6
35-54	8	7	6	5
55+	6	3	5	5
<u>Social grade</u>				
ABC1	11	6	8	9
C2DE	9	6	7	7
<u>Children in household</u>				
Yes	7	3	6	4
No	13	9	9	12

Note: In each location participants were split across two tables, with both tables reflecting a balanced profile of those recruited. The composition of the tables was shuffled for the second event to ensure that the discussions on each could encompass the range of views expressed on the first day while still ensuring that each table included a balanced profile of participants.

To ensure all participants felt equally able and comfortable to give their views in the discussions, we excluded from the workshops people who other participants might view as “experts”. Specifically this meant excluding those who worked for the following organisations:

- The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC);
- Any organisation involved in regulating or representing the nuclear industry, building, running or decommissioning nuclear power plants, any part of the nuclear fuel supply chain, or managing nuclear waste;
- Local authority planning departments, including elected councillors with this portfolio;
- An environmental charity or pressure group;
- A market research company; and,
- Environmental journals or media.

### **1.2.3 Structure of the workshops and materials used**

A facilitation plan (see Appendix B) was set out to determine the structure of the day and guide the discussions. At each location, the workshops followed the same structure, with a mix of plenary presentations and discussions, as well as discussions in smaller groups, on both days.

The first day of the workshops was designed to give information and build understanding; it provided participants with the background information they needed to give informed opinions about the siting process for geological disposal of radioactive waste. The second day of the workshops was designed to allow consideration and discussion of the key proposals in the consultation document.

The dialogue covered a range of topics:

- Awareness of the wider MRWS process and the GDF siting process;
- Perceptions of the proposed revised GDF siting process;
- Overall attitudes to voluntarism;
- How to define a community in relation to GDF;
- Who should be the decision making body;
- The role of regulators in the siting process;
- Perceptions of a “demonstration of community support” and the right of withdrawal;
- Opinions on the proposed approach to community benefits;
- The approach to providing information about potential socio-economic and environmental effects; and,
- Information needs and preferred information channels.

The consultation document also sought responses to some more technical questions, but the decision was taken by DECC and Ipsos MORI to concentrate the discussions at the public dialogue workshops on those questions where the general public would feel most able to comment. The table below shows which questions from the consultation document were covered in the public dialogue.

<b>Table 4: Questions from the Consultation Document</b>		
<b>Q. No.</b>	<b>Question wording</b>	<b>Included in public dialogue</b>
1	Do you agree that a test of public support should be taken before the representative authority loses the Right of Withdrawal? If so, what do you think would be the most appropriate means of testing public support, and when should it take place? If you do not agree with the need for such a test, please explain why.	✓ Covered in Section 2.6 of this report
2	Do you agree with the proposed amendments to decision making within the MRWS siting process? If not, how would you modify the proposed phased approach, or, alternatively, what different approach would you propose? Please explain your reasoning.	✓ Covered in Section 2.5 of this report
3	Do you agree with this approach to revising roles in the siting process set out in the White Paper? If not, what alternative approach would you propose and why?	Partially covered, role of regulators
4	Do you agree with this proposed approach to assessing geological suitability as part of the MRWS siting process? If not, what alternative approach would you propose and why?	Not covered
5	Do you agree with this proposed approach to planning for a GDF? If not, what alternative approach would you propose and why?	Not covered
6	Do you agree with this clarification of the inventory for geological disposal – and how this will be communicated with the volunteer host community? If not, what alternative approach would you propose and why?	Not covered
7	Do you endorse the proposed approach on community benefits associated with a GDF? If not, what alternative approach would you propose and why?	✓ Covered in Section 2.7 of this report
8	Do you agree with the proposed approach to addressing potential socio-economic and environmental effects that might come from hosting a GDF? If not, what alternative approach would you propose and why?	✓ Covered in Section 2.8 of this report
9	Do you have any other comments?	

A series of stimulus materials (presentations, handouts, videos and crib sheets) were used in the workshops (see Appendix C). The majority of the materials used in the workshops were based on materials already in the public domain. The only new material generated for the workshops were a series of short “talking head” videos from the principle organisations involved in the GDF siting process: DECC, the Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD), the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), the Office of the Nuclear Regulator (ONR) and the Environment Agency (EA). These organisations were asked a series of agreed questions, a copy of which can be found in the Appendix D.

The facilitation plan and stimulus materials were designed and assembled by Ipsos MORI in collaboration with DECC and with support from Sciencewise. The final approval of the facilitation plan, presentations and materials was given by DECC; although all initial documents were reviewed by the project Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) in accordance with the Sciencewise 'Guiding Principles'.

The first location, at Nottingham, was used to pilot the facilitation plan, the materials and the roles of experts. A review meeting was held after each of the two pilot workshop days and changes were made to help the main stage events to run more smoothly.

The same facilitation plan, presentations and materials were used at each of the three remaining locations. At each location there were two experienced facilitators from Ipsos MORI (with consistent teams across both days). They were supported by two note-takers who kept a record of the various discussions on the day. Due to time constraints it was not possible for the same set of facilitators to attend all four locations, but at each location the same two facilitators attended both workshops. In order to ensure a consistent approach at each location an extensive briefing was given to the facilitators and note-takers before both workshops.

In addition to the Ipsos MORI team, a number of other individuals attended the workshops:

- Policy and technical experts from DECC and RWMD, who attended to answer questions raised by participants on the day, the DECC representative also gave the technical presentations; and,
- Observers from DECC, RWMD, ONR, EA, Sciencewise, members of the SRG and the evaluators<sup>13</sup> (Icarus), these people observed the workshops but did not interact with participants.

The project management team from DECC and Ipsos MORI held briefings with the experts and observers who attended the workshops to explain their role at the workshops and how the days would work.

#### 1.2.4 Glossary of terms

The table below shows the abbreviations and technical terms used in this report.

<b>Table 5: Glossary of terms used in this report</b>	
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>GDF</b>	Geological Disposal Facility
<b>MRWS</b>	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely policy
<b>CoRWM</b>	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
<b>DECC</b>	Department of Energy and Climate Change
<b>EA</b>	Environment Agency
<b>NDA</b>	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
<b>ONR</b>	Office of the Nuclear Regulator
<b>RWMD</b>	Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, part of NDA

To help participants engage with the topic and to understand the discussions, they were provided with a list of technical terms used in the presentations and discussions, a copy can be found in the appendices.

<sup>13</sup> The Sciencewise Guiding Principles state that projects should be independently evaluated to ensure it addresses the objectives and expectations of all participants in the process. Further, the evaluation means that experience and learning gained can contribute to good practice

### 1.3 Analysis, presentation and interpretation of findings

This report pulls together the findings from the four reconvened public workshops. The public's opinions were recorded in a number of ways: the key points of discussions were written on flipcharts, the note-takers detailed the discussions (referring back to audio-recordings as necessary), and participants completed an individual form summarising their opinions on the key topics covered at the end of the workshops. A homework task was set for the week between the two workshops and completed task sheets were collected on the second day. Following the completion of the main stage all facilitators attended an analysis debrief session to explore in detail their feedback on the key themes and issues raised at the different locations. All these information sources were used in compiling the findings in this report.

Across each of the locations a range of views was expressed about the proposed revisions to the GDF siting process. The report provides an indication to the extent to which each viewpoint was held, however being qualitative research the differences are noted in broad terms (e.g. most, many, a few) rather than specific proportions. Location appeared to have relatively little bearing on these views, but where differences were noted between the types of communities and locations these are reported. The findings in this report are illustrated with quotes taken from the various sources used in the analysis.

The results represent the broad range of views in the communities we visited. However, because this project is qualitative and not quantitative, these views cannot be considered to be fully representative of the general public, but only of the range of views held by individuals.

Further, the views expressed and the findings drawn from them do not represent a formal response by the communities to the consultation. Each participant was encouraged to complete and submit a formal response to the consultation to ensure their individual views were heard.

## 2 Research findings

### 2.1 Awareness of the MRWS process and GDF siting process

This section considers the extent to which participants' were already aware of radioactive waste, GDF as a solution and more specifically the GDF siting process.

#### Key findings:

Claimed awareness of the GDF siting process was low across all of the workshops.

Nearly all participants in all of the locations claimed to have little awareness of the GDF siting process prior to the workshops. Further, most felt that they did not know enough about the existence or extent of radioactive waste in the UK.

*"The community should be educated on what a GDF is and about nuclear waste."*

Penrith

This lack of awareness is reflected in an analysis of the Homework Task 1<sup>14</sup>. This task was undertaken by around half of the workshop participants, and their responses revealed that the majority of the people they interviewed as part of the homework task were not aware of radioactive waste.

Reported awareness was higher in Penrith, where most of the participants stated their interviewee was aware of radioactive waste compared to between a quarter and a half of participants in other locations. The most mentioned sources of information about radioactive waste were the news and media generally.

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<sup>14</sup> Homework Task 1 asked the participant to interview another person to gather their views of radioactive waste and the MRWS/GDF siting processes. The interviewee's responses were recorded by the participant on the Homework sheet.

## 2.2 Public perception of the revised siting process

This section reports the participants' broad response to the proposed phases in the siting process as set out in the consultation document. Their views on specific proposals and questions raised in the consultation document are then discussed in the subsequent sections.

### Key findings:

Most participants felt that the purpose and sequence of the various stages of the revised siting process (see figure 2 below) made sense. In particular there was widespread support for the awareness raising phase as they felt the management of radioactive waste was an important issue but one the public had little knowledge of.

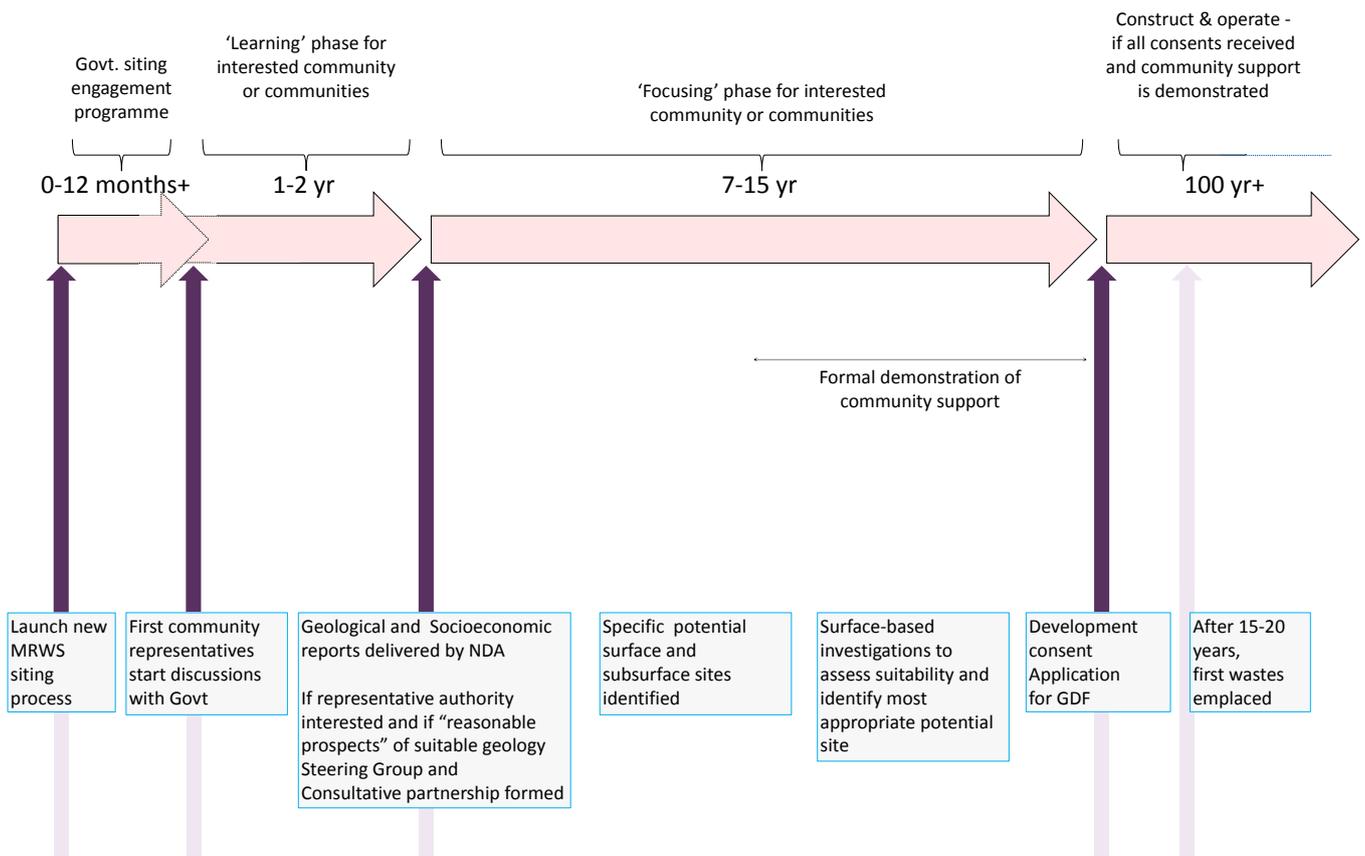
Most participants also expressed surprise at the amount of time needed before a GDF would start operating, and felt that the projected 9 to 25 years was too long and that the process could be faster. While most participants generally appreciated the reasons for the timescales when it was explained to them, they remained keen for the siting process to be completed as quickly soon as possible.

Many participants struggled to understand the purpose of the siting process as they were convinced it must be possible to identify viable sites for a GDF up-front. A popular viewpoint was that the process should include a screening stage, where potential GDF sites were identified. This was driven by a desire to make the process as efficient as possible.

### 2.2.1 Setting out the process

The revised siting process was explained to participants at the second workshop in each location. The diagram that formed part of this presentation is shown below. This is followed by a summary of the text which the experts used to explain the process, and which was repeated by the facilitators before continuing the discussion.

**Figure 2 of proposed revised GDF siting process from the Consultation Document<sup>15</sup>**



<sup>15</sup> This diagram is taken from the consultation document which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>

## **Finding a site for a GDF: summary of the proposed revised process**

- 1. Raising public awareness:** year-long programme covering what a geological disposal facility is; the fact that we've got radioactive waste to deal with in the UK and general information about geology and amount/type of waste.

There should also be greater clarity at an early stage about the scale and timing of community benefits<sup>16</sup> and the likely investment in an area.

- 2. First community representatives start discussions about GDF:** Communities would be represented by the most local competent authority (the 'representative authority'), which would retain the ongoing right to withdraw from the process. In England, this would be the **district council** in two-tier areas or **unitary authority** in unitary areas.

- 3. Learning phase:** opportunity for communities to find out more about the process **without making any commitment**. This involves producing independent reports on local geology and the potential impact of a GDF on the local area, paid for by the UK Government and delivered to the representative authority.

If both the representative authority and the UK Government wished to proceed beyond this phase, then the 'Focusing' phase would begin.

- 4. Focusing phase:** seeking to identify potentially suitable sites and investigate them in more detail. Limited community benefits could start being paid during this phase. It would be overseen by a decision making 'Steering Group', consisting of the representative authority with UK Government and RWMD as the developer. A 'Consultative Partnership' of wider local interests would also be formed.

There would also be a requirement for a **demonstration of community support** as the final step of the siting process. Without a positive demonstration of community support, development of a GDF could not proceed.

Beyond this point, any proposed development would, of course, remain subject to statutory planning and regulatory processes, and their accompanying public and stakeholder engagement and consultation requirements.

**Note about planning:** It is proposed to bring the GDF within the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project planning regime, as set out in the Planning Act 2008. This would mean it would have to go to a body called the Planning Inspectorate and get final sign off from the Secretary of State. Other big planning projects which fall into this category are offshore wind farms and new airports.

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<sup>16</sup> Community Benefits are discussed in section 2.7

## 2.2.2 Public perception of the revised siting process

Most participants felt that the purpose and sequence of the various stages of the revised siting process made sense. However, many also wanted the timescales for the process to be reduced. Perceptions of the various stages are discussed in turn below.

### Raising public awareness

There was widespread support for the awareness raising phase. Most participants felt it was important that the general public understand the challenge the nation faces in dealing with its radioactive waste, and why GDF was the Government's preferred solution for dealing with it. They felt it was necessary to establish this if communities were to consider whether or not they wanted to host a GDF.

*"I don't know how anyone can be asked to make a decision if they don't have any knowledge or a good grounding."*

Penrith

Beyond this many participants felt the awareness raising stage would need to address key concerns the public might have about disposing of waste underground (see section 2.9.2 for further discussion). They felt this was necessary if communities were to seriously consider the idea.

*"You need to highlight the main concerns first of all, and put these things into place and, get those doubts out of people's minds."*

London

Some participants in nuclear communities also felt that education would be necessary to overcome the potential stigma that they felt was attached to 'radioactive waste'.

*"You can only take the stigma away of it being so bad by education."*

Penrith

In addition, some participants felt that local councillors should be a target audience for this phase. They assumed that local councillors would make any initial expressions of interest and they felt it was important the councillors were informed so they had both the opportunity to express interest, as well as the information to evaluate whether or not it suitable for their community (see section 2.6.6. for further discussion of community involvement at this stage). Participants also felt the awareness phase would allow councillors to get a sense of residents' views before expressing interest.

*"I think District Councils should be involved in public awareness. ... It will make District Councils more aware of what's going on."*

Bridgwater

While there was general support for the awareness raising stage some participants were sceptical as to how effective it would be given the perceived difficulty of engaging with the whole population. An example quoted by some participants was general elections, where despite the very high profile people still did not engage.

*"How do you engage the public? You can spend millions and you'll still not get people."*

Penrith

It should be noted that many participants assumed it would be possible for the Government to screen out potential communities and that the awareness raising stage should be focused on these communities so they could then consider whether or not they wanted to volunteer.

## First community representatives start discussions about GDF

For those who supported voluntarism<sup>17</sup>, it made sense that an expression of interest from community representatives would follow the awareness raising stage. However, there was a wide range of views on who the community representatives would be at this point (see section 2.5.2).

### Learning phase

The learning phase was viewed as important by all participants. It was felt important that the community should have a clear understanding of what the GDF could mean for them in terms of its likely social, economic and environmental impacts. It was noted by some participants that many residents may have paid little, if any, attention to the awareness raising stage, and so it would be necessary to repeat much of the information provided. In particular, they felt it would be necessary to provide reassurances around any risks to health.

### Focusing phase

Participants were generally supportive of the focusing phase and believed that it would be necessary to undertake drilling to select a final site. However, many expressed reservations about the amount of time required for this phase. In addition, many participants felt a screening exercise, to determine whether volunteer communities were in suitable areas or not, could be applied to the overall process to minimise the risk of failure at this point.

*“I think it would make more sense to bore the holes first and then seek volunteers where the rock is suitable. Obviously it didn’t work out the first time, asking for volunteers first.”*

London

However, those who initially suggested it would be better to drill boreholes before asking for volunteer communities tended to retract the view when they realised the costs.

Most participants envisaged the focusing phase would include two clear demonstrations of community support. Section 2.6.3 covers these issues in more detail.

### 2.2.3 The timescale of the process

Most participants expressed surprise at the amount of time it would take before a GDF would start operating and many questioned why the timescale could not be reduced.

*“Problem is the whole process is too long, the early phases seem really small in comparison to the other later sections.”*

Nottingham

When the complexity of what would be required was explained to participants by the DECC and RWMD experts at the workshops, participants were more accepting of the timescales. However, many participants still wanted the process to be completed as quickly as possible.

Those participants who wanted a shorter timescale were keen for a GDF to be in operation as soon as possible so they could be confident the nation’s radioactive waste was being securely managed. They expressed concern that the longer the process took the more costly it would be and the greater the risk that it might never happen. In particular, participants were concerned that new political administrations might change their mind about GDF as a solution or about a particular site. There were also those who felt that community support could fall-away over this timeframe.

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<sup>17</sup> Voluntarism is defined as “the willingness of local communities to participate”.

*“There is a big problem with this. It has taken 17 years of talking it will take another 107 years going at this rate.”*

Nottingham

*“What happens if the people in charge changes, what happens if the next person comes in and changes everything?”*

Bridgwater

However, there were also those participants who felt that communities should not be rushed and that the phased approach would allow sufficient time for deliberation.

*“You should have a phased approach as you have to have the confidence of the districts. It means people are not being rushed.”*

Bridgwater

*“Everyone is ignorant of it so they need time to learn to absorb it. It’s important to have the information up front and so they can decide their views.”*

Bridgwater

#### **2.2.4 Inclusion of a screening phase in the process**

Many participants struggled to engage with the siting process as laid out in the consultation document as they were convinced that it must be possible to identify viable sites up-front. A popular viewpoint was that the process should include a screening process, building upon scientific data, and that engagement activity could then be more targeted at the most viable locations. This was driven by a desire to make the process as efficient as possible and, for some, by the desire to ensure a GDF was built as quickly as possible.

*“Scientists should determine a shortlist of sites and communities could volunteer to come forward after a learning/education stage. If none do then a decision needs to be taken nationally.”*

Bridgwater

## 2.3 Overall attitudes to voluntarism

It was explained to participants that the GDF siting process would be based on voluntarism<sup>18</sup>. This section presents the extent to which the public favoured this approach, as opposed to imposition of the GDF on a host community, and whether or not they felt it was practical.

### Key findings:

Most participants were supportive of the principle of voluntarism for the GDF siting process, although a few did favour imposition. However, many participants were sceptical over whether any communities would come forward.

Most of those who were sceptical felt that communities would be put off by concerns about the potential health and safety risk, and impacts on property and investment in the area. The history of the process in west Cumbria also made others sceptical about voluntarism, while some felt the Government was using voluntarism as a smokescreen for imposition.

In spite of the scepticism expressed, the participants believed that certain types of communities might be more interested in volunteering to host a GDF. This included deprived communities, existing nuclear communities and more rural communities. They did not have specific communities in mind, but felt these factors would characterise the types of communities most likely to volunteer.

### 2.3.1 The principle of voluntarism

Most participants were supportive of the principle of voluntarism for the GDF siting process. The key reason that participants supported voluntarism was because they felt it would guarantee transparency in how decisions around the management of radioactive waste are taken. Nearly all participants wanted these decisions to be taken in the open which, in turn, would enable them to take a view on any potential associated risks – namely to health and security.

However, many of those who were supportive were sceptical over whether voluntarism could work or not and whether any communities would actually come forward.

*“Voluntarism would be nice, but I don't think it will work in the long run without a lot of work convincing the relevant communities.”*

Penrith

There were a few participants who supported the idea of imposing a facility on a community. These participants were convinced that the management of the radioactive waste was an issue of national importance and expressed concern that communities would either not volunteer or voluntarism would simply take too long. They also often took the view that the GDF should be placed in the most suitable site. Factors which influenced their perception of suitability included the local geology, a desire to minimise the transportation of waste and the relative cost to the taxpayer.

*“Is it mandatory to tell them? Just don't tell them, pick a community and do the project.”*

Bridgwater

*“I feel it should be sited in the best geological location i.e. the safest, regardless of voluntarism.”*

Penrith

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<sup>18</sup> Voluntarism is defined as “the willingness of local communities to participate”.

However, support for imposition was a minority viewpoint, and several participants pointed out that even if it was desirable, it wasn't practical. It was felt that it could lead to protests or other forms of civil disobedience which would, in turn, derail the process.

*"Imposition doesn't work – we won't be forced to do something"*

Nottingham

Further, while most agreed with the need for a GDF there were some participants who felt the idea that 'all' communities could volunteer to host a GDF could be misleading. The implication taken from this idea was that a GDF could be sited anywhere; participants felt it was unrealistic to site a GDF under a city, and as such the statement was felt to be disingenuous.

### 2.3.2 Barriers to engagement with voluntarism

The research identified a number of barriers that prevented participants from readily accepting the concept of voluntarism. The primary barrier was scepticism over whether or not it would work; this is discussed in more depth in section 2.3.3. Further barriers included concerns about the terminology, a lack of community cohesion and scepticism about the Government's intention and a reluctance to take a decision which would impact future generations all of which are explored below.

Many participants questioned whether voluntarism was the correct term to use to describe the GDF siting process. They perceived this as doing something for nothing. They viewed the MRWS process more as a contractual arrangement, or even bribery, rather than voluntarism. They often supported the idea that communities should receive benefits in return for locating a GDF site, but felt that this then rendered the term voluntarism inaccurate.

*"'Voluntary' means that there is no financial, material or education gain. ... So then dump the word 'voluntary' if the community wants something in return. Talk about drawing up a contract so the Government can't go back on what they said they'll provide."*

Nottingham

In addition, many participants also spoke about how communities had become increasingly fractured and diverse. This was perceived to be a potential barrier to voluntarism as they struggled to see how the community would come together to express interest in the siting of a GDF in their area.

*"Community doesn't exist anymore. It's harder to get communities on your side."*

Bridgwater

Some participants also struggled to fully engage with the idea of voluntarism as they were convinced that the Government would have already identified suitable areas to host a GDF. Generally, they felt that time and effort should be focused on trying to persuade 'priority' communities to accept a GDF.

*"What if you volunteer and then it turns out that the area is no good? It would be a waste of time. Surely they've looked already and know what areas are worth investigating."*

Nottingham

### 2.3.3 The practicalities of voluntarism

While most participants supported the principle of voluntarism, many questioned whether any communities would come forward, with the exception of those who had previously expressed an interest.

Most of those who expressed scepticism felt that communities would be too concerned about the potential health and safety risks, and how this in turn could impact property prices and

investment. Some participants also expressed scepticism due to delays in getting agreement on other controversial infrastructure projects in their area.

*“Nobody is going to volunteer. They are not even going to draw breath to consider it. They won’t accept an incinerator to burn rubbish, why would they accept this?”*

London

The history of the MRWS process in west Cumbria, and the impasse that was reached, was also cited as evidence by some that voluntarism does not work. In particular, they took the view that if it won’t work there (in a nuclear community), it would not work anywhere.

Others interpreted west Cumbria’s previous interest as an opportunity, and that the Government should focus on making it work rather than asking other communities to come forward. Indeed when the history of the MRWS process was explained in London, a few participants felt that this information negatively impacted their impression of the dialogue. Their perception was that Government was planning to site a GDF in west Cumbria, and they were being asked how best to engage or persuade this community (although these concerns were addressed by the facilitators).

Some of those who were sceptical about voluntarism assumed that the Government would be forced to impose a GDF on a community. Indeed there were those who felt this was the Government’s intention all along, and it was using the GDF siting process as a smokescreen.

*“I think they’ll compulsory purchase the land and then they will build it anyway.”*

Bridgwater

*“I think they know where they’re going to do it, they know where the rock is suitable and where they want to put it, they’re just not telling us that.”*

London

A few participants said they felt uncomfortable with voluntarism as it required the host community to make a decision which would impact future generations. They felt that the host community would be making the decision but would not have to live with the consequences as much as future generations would.

*“But I’m also against this as it involves people making decisions for future generations.”*

Bridgwater

In response to their scepticism, many participants emphasised the need for a sustained information campaign. They anticipated the public’s immediate reaction to hosting a GDF would be negative and they would require reassurances around the risks, as well as information on the benefits to overcome this. Indeed, some participants reflected how their own position had changed during the dialogue, and that they would now welcome a GDF in their community.

*“The question is whether the community will have enough education and information about the positives.”*

Nottingham

*“I think the main concern the Government has to get across is how safe it’s going to be – in terms of people’s health - once they get that across, they’re on the up.”*

London

### 2.3.4 Public perceptions of potential host communities

As noted many participants were sceptical that communities would come forward to volunteer. However, participants felt that certain types of communities might be more interested. This included communities with high levels of deprivation, existing nuclear communities and more sparsely populated communities. There was also discussion of whether a purpose built community could be established around a GDF; given the perception that the GDF would be built in a rural area and so would draw workers to it, some participants felt that a separate community could be developed around the facility.

#### Deprived communities

Many participants felt that communities with high levels of deprivation and unemployment might be more interested in volunteering to host a GDF as it could bring investment into the area, and help improve standards of living. However, it should be noted that some unemployed participants expressed opposition to the idea of a GDF in their community<sup>19</sup>. Some participants also expressed concern over whether more deprived communities were being, or had been, exploited in relation to the nuclear industry, and felt that the GDF siting process was aimed more at these communities than more affluent ones.

*“There are people that have got less than any of us - no job, no money - and they might say yes.”*

London

*“West Cumbria needs jobs, but how would affluent areas feel about having a GDF? Are they only accepting it because that’s about the only thing they’ve been given?”*

Penrith

#### Existing nuclear communities

Many participants felt that communities with nuclear facilities and where radioactive waste was already being stored would be the most likely to volunteer. They believed that these communities are more likely to consider that the potential benefits outweigh the risks. In addition, some also noted how they might be more educated about the risks.

*“I think if anyone was interested they’d come from the areas that already have it.”*

Nottingham

*“I’m from Workington – people there didn’t want it [Sellafield] at first, and now people live a comfortable life, on good money.”*

Penrith

#### Rural communities

In general, participants anticipated that a GDF would be built in a rural area. They felt this made sense as fewer people would be exposed to any risk if something were to go wrong. Many participants also felt that it would be easier to get agreement in rural communities as fewer residents would need to be consulted, and would be more likely to share a similar viewpoint.

#### Purpose built communities

Some participants took the idea of a rural community a step further and suggested that rather than a community volunteering, a GDF could be established in desolate land that was uninhabited. When challenged, participants struggled to think about where this could be, although some referenced the idea of using land owned by the Ministry of Defence, reclaiming

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<sup>19</sup> This viewpoint emerged in the course of wider discussions on the revised siting process. It was not part of the facilitation plan (or research aims) to understand whether participants would accept a GDF in their community.

land from the sea or using offshore islands. They felt that communities could then be established near the site, with workers and their families moving there on an informed basis.

*“Maybe you’ll need to look for a site which doesn’t come under a community... hence why I said out at sea or the MoD has got a lot of land.”*

*Bridgwater*

## 2.4 Defining a community in relation to GDF

The consultation document sets out how communities could be involved in the GDF siting process. This section reports the participants' perceptions of what community means in relation to a GDF. These views impact who they feel should be the representative body (see section 2.5).

### Key findings:

Most participants found defining a "community" very difficult and believed it could not be done until potential sites could be identified. However, some participants felt that existing local government boundaries (including parishes, wards, boroughs and counties) could be used as a basis for defining communities.

Often participants focused on those most affected by a facility as basis for defining the community. Some estimated this might be an area of 10-20 miles (which could cut across existing administrative boundaries). However, the issue of transportation of waste led others to broaden out these boundaries to a second tier of communities. Other participants went further still, and felt the entire nation should be involved in the siting process as we shared a collective responsibility for the waste, and could all be affected if something went wrong.

### 2.4.1 General views on community

Participants expressed a range of views on how they would define a community, which then underpinned their views on how they would define a community in relation to a GDF.

For many participants, a community was the town or village you live in; this provided residents with an identity. However, others questioned the extent to which political or administrative areas represented communities. They often felt community tended to be self-identifying around a common interest or goal.

*"A community is the town or village or area that you live in."*

Bridgwater

*"Bridgwater is about 50,000 you couldn't really call that a community you'd just call it a population."*

Bridgwater

*"A community is a group of like-minded people with a common denominator."*

Nottingham

### 2.4.2 Defining community in relation to a GDF

Discussions about how to define the community tended to become circular, revolving around the twin points of potential site and volunteer community; participants were unable to decide which of these two should be identified first.

Most participants felt that communities could not be defined until proposed locations for a GDF were on the table. However, some participants felt that existing local government boundaries (including parishes, wards, boroughs and counties) could be used as a basis for defining communities.

The key reason that many participants took the view that proposed sites needed to be set out before communities could be defined was because they viewed 'proximity' to the site and the 'relative impact' it might have on people's lives as the key criteria for defining a GDF community. Some participants estimated that the affected community might have a radius of between 10

and 20 miles, perceiving this to be the area they personally most identified with in terms of where they live. However, ultimately they felt it depended on the locations put forward.

*"[The community is] the people that are affected the most – all the people."*

Penrith

Participants suggested that the proposed sites themselves would provide residents (and landowners and businesses) with a common interest, that is, whether or not they wanted to host a GDF. For these participants this common interest is what would create a community. They noted that the community may well cross existing political and administrative boundaries.

*"It's a group of people living together who have different interests and lives but with a common goal."*

Penrith

Whilst most participants felt potential GDF host communities would need to be defined by proposed sites; there were also some who highlighted existing administrative and political boundaries as a basis for defining these communities.

*"If it were in Manchester, it would be Greater Manchester; you try and involve the whole region. If it were Cumbria, you'd expect the whole of the Cumbria."*

Penrith

Some participants also spoke about different tiers of communities that would be affected by a GDF. The first tier included those located nearest the facility who might endure the greatest disruption (during construction). However, a second tier could be those affected by the building of new transportation links or indeed the transportation of waste across their community.

*"It's easy for me to say if it was in west Cumbria it wouldn't affect me, but now I think about it, it would because of that one little thing: travel."*

Penrith

*"The whole country may be affected as materials move."*

Nottingham

The issue of transportation prompted some participants to reflect on whether a GDF community comprised the entire nation. Indeed, many participants perceived the challenge of managing radioactive waste safely as one of national importance. They felt the whole population had contributed to radioactive waste as energy users, and the entire nation could be affected if there was an accident or security risk. Because of this collective responsibility and involvement, some of those who held this view felt that the entire nation's views should be taken into account in the siting process.

*"Society as a whole because they're using the power and making the waste so they have a responsibility to make sure it's cleaned up."*

Penrith

*"The issue is our community as a country; it should be discussed as a country."*

London

There were mixed views on how extending community involvement might impact the siting process. Some participants felt it was better to involve more communities in the decision making process as it would strengthen the mandate for action. However, others took an alternative view and said that if more communities were involved in the decision making process then the less chance there would be of agreeing a site.

“It’s always better to provide information to all groups, and they should contribute to the decision, so more people agree and support it.”

Nottingham

*“But then there are more people to dispute it, and it’s never going to happen.”*

Nottingham

## 2.5 The decision making body

This section reports the participants' views on how the decision making body in the GDF siting process should be comprised, and the reasons behind this. The consultation document states the decision making body would act as the democratic representative of the community. It would hold the right of withdrawal and take the final decision on proceeding, subject to a demonstration of community support. Findings are also presented on participants' views on the role for other bodies as outlined in the consultation document including the steering group and the consultative partnership.

### Key findings:

Participants had mixed views on who should form the single decision making body. Most participants were uncomfortable with the idea that the body would be their local council, primarily due to a lack of trust in politicians. Most saw a role for a new set of directly elected community representatives, whose sole remit would be to manage the GDF siting process. However, some participants wanted decisions to be made by their existing local councillors.

Participants held a range of views on the precise nature of the decision making body. However, there were a number of principles which underpinned participants' perceptions of how the decision making body should work. These included: fairness (ensuring the body was democratic); forward-looking (that it took account of the views of future generations); balance (that it allowed an opportunity for both sides of the argument to be heard); efficacy (that it had the access to resources and expertise to manage the process effectively); and localism (that community representatives were drawn from the local community).

Many participants struggled to understand precisely the role of the steering group and consultative partnership in the siting process<sup>20</sup> and what it would do. Further, there was confusion about their role in relation to the decision making body in the GDF siting process.

All participants believed regulators have a key role in the GDF siting process. They wanted reassurances the process would be managed safely. They valued the independence of regulators in providing this reassurance due to a wider lack of trust in politicians.

### 2.5.1 A single decision making body

Participants generally wanted to avoid a repetition of the west Cumbria decision, where a split decision led to the search for a possible site for the GDF being abandoned. As such they tended to argue for a single representative body to take decisions on the GDF siting process.

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<sup>20</sup> The consultation document explains that a '**steering group**' would review the viability and acceptability of the process; guide UK Government and RWMD (as the developer) on the execution of the 'Focusing' phase; and engage and communicate with the wider local community. It would comprise the local representative authority, the UK Government and RWMD (as the developer).

A '**consultative partnership**', would provide another level of assurance. It would involve any stakeholder with an interest in the siting process (for example, members of neighbouring authorities, business representatives, Parish Councils, local public services, residents groups, or non-governmental organisations). In a two-tier local authority area, the **County Council** would be expected to play a prominent role.

*“If the County Council turns around and says yes but if all the others say no, what happens? It has to be majority vote, rather than all.”*

Penrith

## 2.5.2 Who should be the decision making body

There were mixed views on who should form the single decision making body. Most participants were uncomfortable with the idea that the body would be their local council (either district or county council). This was primarily because of a lack of trust in politicians at both a local and national level.

Across the locations, participants spontaneously suggested there should be directly elected community representatives with a single remit for taking decisions on the GDF siting process. This view was supported by most participants. This reflected a lack of trust in local politicians and a desire to take the decisions out of the party political system.

*“Councillors have been elected by the public. But for this issue the public need to have a say.”*

Bridgwater

However, there was a range of views on how the elected representatives would interact with local government structures. Some participants wanted all decisions to be made solely by the community representatives, whereas others envisaged they would make decisions with one or more of the following stakeholder groups: local councillors, environmentalists, landowners, business representatives, professional associations, and experts.

*“The councils should not be involved in any point. The decision making should be done by the local community and local community appointed representatives at all stages.”*

London

*“The person should be based specifically for this single issue, away from politics and the ‘council’.”*

Bridgwater

Many participants who supported the idea of community representatives were confident that candidates would come forward, as it would be likely to be seen as an important issue. However, a few participants argued that a jury service approach could be used instead, to appoint citizen panels to ensure community representation.

Some participants were opposed to the idea of community representatives, and instead thought the representative body should be one of the existing tiers of local government, because they believed that councillors had a local mandate for taking planning decisions. However, they held mixed views about which level of local government (county or district/borough) should be the representative body.

*“It’s got to be local government, that’s how it works.”*

Nottingham

## County Councils

Most participants argued against the idea of the County Council taking the lead, although there were some who felt it should be the representative body.

Many participants felt the area represented by the council was too big to take into account the views of the local communities affected. Some also felt it would make it much more challenging to build a consensus.

*“It’s a strange arrangement: we’ve been talking about communities but I wouldn’t have thought the County Council is a community; now you’re talking about political processes being involved. Taking the whole of the County Council in one go, you haven’t got a cat in hell’s chance of agreeing to host a GDF.”*

Nottingham

However, some participants supported the idea that the County Council should be the representative body. They thought it represented a more senior tier of local government than district councils and, as such, decisions by County Councils should carry more weight than those made by district councils. In addition, supporters of County Councils noted they would be in a better position to decide how best to allocate community funds in order to maximise their benefit, given their greater budget responsibilities.

### **District Councils**

Most participants were also sceptical of the idea that District Councils should be the sole decision making body, although again there were some participants who supported this proposal.

District Councils were favoured by some as the decision making body because they felt they were elected representatives who were local to their town or city and could therefore more clearly reflect the views in the local community.

*“The town council should be involved but not the county because it’s our town. People on the County Council don’t live there.”*

Nottingham

However, most did not want the District Council to be the single representative body because they lacked confidence and trust in their elected politicians. It was this lack of trust, based on a general cynicism about politicians, which was the greatest barrier to District Councils (and County Councils) being the representative body.

*“As soon as you say ‘District Council’ you just switch off. People are just as disappointed with things at a district level as national. It should be the community that make decisions, not councillors.”*

Bridgwater

### **2.5.3 Principles underpinning the decision making body**

The strength of feeling around distrust of politicians meant many participants rejected the idea that any tier of local government should be the decision making body. The discussions therefore focused on what characteristics participants wanted the decision making body to have.

Common principles which underpinned participants’ views on the decision making body included fairness, impact, balance, efficacy and localism, and are discussed in turn below.

Fairness was a key principle which influenced participants’ views on a decision making body. Elected community representatives were seen by many to embody this principle because of their links to the community, and the perception that they would act in the best interests of the local community.

Building on this, some participants were also keen that those less able or unable to voice their opinions should be represented. For example, a common theme was the need to take account of the views of children and future generations who participants perceived as the group of people who would be most directly affected because of the long timescales in both the construction and operation of a GDF.

*“I think they’ve got to involve youngsters ... as it will affect young people.”*

Bridgwater

Balance was another principle which underpinned views on the decision making body. Some participants suggested that representatives should be appointed from the groups who might have differing views on a GDF; for example representatives of the business community or local wildlife groups. They believed that this would ensure opposing views, as well as supporting views, would be heard in the decisions being taken on behalf of the community.

Participants were keen that the decision making body should be effective, and take decisions based on evidence. As such many saw a role for technical experts, who they felt could ensure that this was the case. However, participants had mixed views on whether they should take a purely advisory role or be actively involved in taking decisions.

Another guiding principle was that community representatives should be drawn from the local area and in touch with local opinion. Some participants contrasted this with politicians who could be ‘parachuted’ into a safe seat in order to get elected.

*“The community should be represented by people from the communities, for example, locals who employ people or are employed in the area and have knowledge and understanding of the mind-set of local people.”*

Bridgwater

#### 2.5.4 The role of other bodies in the process

The following definition was provided to participants of other potential bodies which could be involved in the GDF siting process.

- A **‘steering group’** would be formed comprising the local representative authority, the UK Government and RWMD (as the developer). The group would review the viability and acceptability of the process; guide UK Government and RWMD (as the developer) on the execution of the ‘Focusing’ phase; and engage and communicate with the wider local community.
- There would also be a **‘consultative partnership’**, providing another level of assurance. It would involve any stakeholder with an interest in the siting process (for example, members of neighbouring authorities, business representatives, Parish Councils, local public services, residents groups, or non-governmental organisations). In a two-tier local authority area, we would expect the **County Council** to play a prominent role.

Many participants struggled to understand precisely what the different groups would do in the siting process, this limited their discussions and so the evidence base on their views of the bodies as laid out in the consultation document is restricted<sup>21</sup>.

For some participants it seemed as if there was duplication across the two groups, and that it could lead to conflicting communications. This was of concern to participants as they wanted the process to be run efficiently and for the local community to have clear and consistent means of communication.

*“There is a bit of an overlap between the two groups. Directing their communications with the same audience [the public] there is a danger in having a misunderstanding in one group being made in both. ... You need to speak with one voice. ... There’s too many players in the field.”*

Bridgwater

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<sup>21</sup> The evidence is not clear on whether this concept was too complicated or that it was not sufficiently well explained, although it is the authors’ opinion that more could have been done to assist understanding by using a diagram to illustrate the different bodies and their relationships.

## Steering group

Most participants were broadly supportive of the idea of a steering group, and in particular the inclusion of expert advice feeding into the representative body from the steering group. However, there were also some concerns expressed that a steering group could add a layer of bureaucracy, increasing cost and adding time to a process they already considered too long.

*“A steering group is logical but not sure about a consultative partnership.”*

Bridgwater

*“[A steering group] might act as a positive thing, but might complicate things.”*

London

Some participants recognised a need for the steering group to be accessible, a further body that they could contact if they wanted either to receive more information or to share their views.

*“That’s fine as long as it’s very clear, who they are, so you can contact them. They need to be approachable.”*

Nottingham

## Consultative partnership

Many participants seemed particularly confused about the role of consultative partnership. They struggled to see how the various views of these organisations could be balanced against the decision making body, and were concerned about how opposing views would be reconciled.

However, for some participants the consultative partnership made sense, and a few had even spontaneously suggested a body similar in function and format to the consultative partnership.

*“You could have a tiered zone, with the core group in the nearest town to the surface site making decisions, and an outer zone of people ... who can have a say but are not involved in making decisions.”*

Nottingham

## 2.5.5 The role of regulators

The consultation document asked for responses about proposed changes to the roles of some bodies with specific, technical, roles in the GDF siting process. Discussions at the workshops covered only the role of regulators.

All participants saw regulators as key to the GDF siting process in ensuring the process was managed in line with their expectations. They were seen as independent and free from political allegiance, which was important to many participants who lacked trust in politicians. Their perceived role was believed to be to ensure safety and security, specifically to protect the host community and the environment by ensuring there was no cost cutting in the design, construction and operation of the GDF.

*“Being such a serious subject they have to be on-board.”*

Bridgwater

However, participants were not clear about when regulators should get involved in the siting process: too early in the process was seen as an unnecessary hurdle, but equally if they were not involved then there was the potential for risks and incidents to occur.

*“Too soon is too soon and too late is a disaster.”*

Bridgwater

## 2.6 Community support and the right of withdrawal

This section reports the participants' views on whether or not a demonstration of community support is required in the GDF siting process, as well as the format it should take and when. It also considers their views on the right to withdrawal, how communities should be involved in this and when it should end.

### Key findings:

Nearly all participants were in favour of the process requiring a demonstration of community support, believing this to be both fair and democratic. Most favoured a referendum as a demonstration of community support.

Many participants felt there should be two clear demonstrations of support. They wanted one at the start of the focusing stage to see whether there was community support for a GDF (and if not prevent resources being wasted in the focusing stage); as well as a further demonstration towards the end of the focusing phase, this would be the final demonstration once the community had a better understanding of the proposed site and its impacts.

Nearly all participants agreed that communities should have the right to withdraw, but tended to suggest that this should end before major capital expenditure took place.

### 2.6.1 Views on a demonstration of community support and its purpose

Nearly all participants were in favour of the process requiring a demonstration of community support, suggesting that this was both fair and democratic.

There were a number of drivers in terms of a demonstration of community support, which were based primarily around fairness and democracy. However, participants also touched on concerns around trust in politicians and community cohesion.

Fairness was the key reason nearly all participants supported the idea of a demonstration of community support. They felt that any one community was likely to hold a range of different views on whether or not they wanted a GDF to be sited in their area. As such, it was widely agreed that a measure of community support would be needed to determine the balance of opinion. It was felt this would add legitimacy to any decision which was made, as it would be democratic, taking into account the views of all of those most directly affected.

*"I don't mind being told no if I've been consulted first. If everyone was for it except me, I'd think, 'well I've had the chance to voice my opinion so I'd accept defeat'. It would be fair."*

Penrith

In addition, participants said it would prevent a vocal minority from imposing their views upon the community. Some, therefore, viewed the demonstration of community support as being important in order to avoid any escalation in community tensions between supporters and opponents.

Further, many participants expressed a lack of trust in Government and politicians. Consequently they felt it was important that the public demonstrated their support for the process, to prevent politicians from taking decisions in their own self-interest.

A few participants, however, argued against a demonstration of community support, or even allowing local government into the decision making process. They felt that a GDF was an issue of national importance, and were concerned that communities or councillors would not take this into account when making decisions, thus preventing a GDF from ever being built. A few participants also took the view that it was the job of our elected representatives to consider these issues and there was no need to measure community support outside of this.

*“They shouldn’t involve communities in the process. As a democratic country our representation works through ballot boxes.”*

London

In addition, some participants from Penrith highlighted the need to be clear on what the demonstration of community support meant. They felt the decision making process had become muddled in west Cumbria and that it needed to be clearer what people were agreeing to in future.

*“I think a lot of people were under the misapprehension that when Allerdale and Copeland<sup>22</sup> said yes, they were saying yes to having the facility, not that it’s the start of a long process.”*

Penrith

### 2.6.2 Preferred method for a demonstration of community support

Most participants viewed a referendum as the preferred method for delivering a demonstration of community support. They viewed it more favourably than alternatives such as surveys or citizen panels.<sup>23</sup> This was because a referendum gives everyone the opportunity to have their say and reinforces the principles of fairness and democracy, which were of importance to participants.

*“Referendum at critical stages along the way. It is too important to leave discussions to elected representatives alone.”*

Nottingham

*“A referendum is by far the optimum choice when determining public opinion.”*

Bridgwater

While generally it was felt that the referendum decision should fall in line with the majority view, some participants suggested that a bigger majority should be required for a final yes vote, for example 60%. The purpose of this was to retain community cohesion, as it was felt it would be too fractious a decision if was pushed ahead by a slim majority.

*“Majority 60/40 voting for the GDF in their community at various stages through the process.”*

Nottingham

### 2.6.3 The timing of a demonstration of community support

The overall view that emerged from the workshops was that there should be two clear demonstrations of community support using a referendum. When considering the timing of these demonstrations of community support, participants’ main concerns were around minimising cost in the GDF siting process.

Most participants suggested there should be a referendum at the following two stages:

- At the start of the focusing phase, before any major expenditure had taken place in terms of drilling. This would show if there was support in principle for a GDF in the community. This would not represent the final decision.

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<sup>22</sup> Allerdale and Copeland were the two borough councils in the west Cumbria partnership who had expressed interest in hosting a GDF.

<sup>23</sup> It should be noted it was felt that some participants in the pilot location (Nottingham) struggled to comprehend what the alternatives were, and consequently information was provided on these to participants at the remaining locations. However, this did not impact support for referendums.

- Towards the end of the focusing phase, after it was clear which site was the most viable, but before any contracts had been agreed for the construction. This was so that the decision did not result in a loss of potential revenue for businesses.

Many participants also said that in addition to any referendums taking place at key decision points, community support should be continually monitored – particularly given the likely length of the process. These participants felt that if there was a change in the mood of the community then this would need to trigger further engagement activities and potentially a referendum to allow a right to withdraw. However, views were mixed on how best to measure the community mood during the process: some felt it could be done through the community representatives or citizens’ panels, while others suggested regular opinion polling.

*“Opinion polls throughout phase three (every two to three years) followed by a referendum of the population directly affected by the proposed GDF.”*

Bridgwater

#### 2.6.4 Right of withdrawal

Nearly all participants felt that communities should have the right to withdraw from the siting process. This viewpoint reflected the reasons why they also advocated a demonstration of community and support; principally, fairness and democracy.

Most participants agreed that, in order to enact the right to withdraw, majority backing would be required. Further, it was believed that the views of those most affected by a GDF site should prevail over politicians’ interests or that of vocal minorities (including lobbying organisations). Participants felt this would minimise civil unrest and protests within communities – a particular concern for some nuclear communities who had witnessed protests in the past.

*“A right of withdrawal is important to reassure people who may be involved with living with a GDF that their opinions count. That those saying “no” are heard and included.”*

Penrith

A referendum was considered the best means of measuring whether or not the decision to withdraw had majority backing or not. Indeed, for many participants, a demonstration of community support and the right to withdraw were two sides of the same coin. They felt the magnitude of the decision required a referendum. If the referendum resulted in a yes vote, then it would be a measure of community support, and if not, it would require the representative body to withdraw.

*“There would have to be a referendum more than likely into whether that community would want to withdraw or not!”*

Bridgwater

It should be noted that some participants suggested that the right to withdraw should rest with the decision making body (albeit there were different views on how this would be comprised). In some instances this meant the right to withdraw could be exercised at any time up until an agreed point (see below). However, those participants who backed the idea of using a referendum to enact the right to withdraw generally felt it would need to be restricted to agreed decision points. Some also felt that a referendum on a right to withdraw could be triggered by petitions, or monitoring surveys of public opinion.

Further, there were those who did not believe communities should have the right to withdraw, in particular those who backed the idea of imposition. This group of participants believed that there was a pressing need to get on and build a GDF in an area that was most suitable, irrespective of whether the community supported it or not.

### 2.6.5 The removal of the right of withdrawal

Nearly all participants wanted communities to retain the right of withdrawal up until a point of major capital expenditure, which was regarded as being the point of no return in the GDF siting process.

Views varied, however, as to when the point of major capital expenditure might be. For most, it was towards the end of the focusing phase after drilling had identified the most viable site in a community but before contracts were put in place for construction. These participants felt this timing struck a balance between being fair to communities, to those companies contracted for the work, and to the taxpayer as it would ensure public money was not wasted.

*“[The right of withdrawal should be removed] at the end of the focusing phase prior to consent for development.”*

Nottingham

*“The right of withdrawal should be just before the planning phase has begun and after this point there should be no choice to change mind. Communities who are interested in hosting a GDF should be given adequate time to educate themselves before making such a profound decision.”*

Penrith

However, for some participants, this point came much earlier in the focusing phase; that is up until drilling started which they perceived a major expenditure, or the payment of any community benefits.

*“Once you’ve started work [drilling] you’ve already put a lot of time and money in it.”*

Bridgwater

*“Once benefits package is agreed and achieved other than educational benefits. Once money is being spent the host community is committed.”*

Nottingham

A minority, however, felt the right of withdrawal should be extended into the construction phase because they believed that only then would residents have a full appreciation of the disruption on their lives.

### 2.6.6 Level of community involvement

There were a range of views on the level of involvement communities should have, with nearly everyone believing they should be consulted, but many wanting a more active role.

Nearly all participants felt communities should be involved at key decision points, and should be directly asked whether they support or oppose hosting a site in their area. In addition, many also believed that the decision making body should comprise community representatives, so that the community was more involved in how the process was managed.

*“There should be maybe not one person but a few people from each community who have been elected by their peers to represent that community.”*

Bridgwater

Some participants saw the community representatives working in partnership with the local council, whereas others saw them acting more independently, outside of local government. However, these participants acknowledged there would be a need to provide the community with professional support to help them understand the issues.

One of the reasons why some participants felt more proactive involvement might be required was the length of the process. There was concern that over this time period, it might be challenging to continue to engage communities. However, it was felt that community representatives could monitor whether the council was acting in the interests of the community.

*“You need a combination of people from the councils and local volunteers, to keep an eye on the process. ... Because once a process like this is started it is going to disappear out of the media.”*

London

### **2.6.7 Participant views on community involvement in any expression of interest**

Most participants felt that communities should be involved from the beginning of the process, from the point where an expression of interest is submitted. However, it was apparent from the discussions that some participants perceived this to be expressing support or not for a proposed site. This view was based on a common assumption that the Government holds, or could compile, a selection of proposed sites based on a number of criteria.

Other participants understood that the council might be voicing an expression of interest without a particular site in mind. Participants were divided on whether there should be a demonstration of community support at this stage with those against this suggesting that the public would not be sufficiently informed at this stage to make a decision, and so this should not happen until the learning phase.

*“You have to have community support from the start to know whether or not to even consider volunteering the community for a GDF site!”*

Bridgwater

*“I think it’s fine for District Councils to say we’re interested, it doesn’t matter that they haven’t consulted the community.”*

Bridgwater

In addition, a minority of participants took the view that the awareness raising stage could result in an organic demonstration of support or opposition through, for instance, petitions. This could then feed into any local council deliberations on an expression of interest.

## 2.7 The approach to community benefits

The consultation document acknowledges that building a GDF will bring jobs and infrastructure benefits to the host community but also re-iterates the Government's commitment to providing a community benefits package. The elements within a community benefits package were not defined in the consultation document, rather it was stated that any package would be developed in collaboration with the volunteer community and would reflect their needs. The community benefits package not only recognises the community's service to the nation but also ensures the community makes the most of the opportunities presented by such a major infrastructure project. Question 7 in the consultation document asked whether the proposed changes to the approach to community benefits package were endorsed or not. Participants at the workshops discussed this topic in relation to how the participants defined community benefits, when the package should be discussed and agreed, and when it should be paid.

### Key findings:

Most participants felt that, in principle, there should be benefits for the host community. However, some participants perceived a community benefits package as a bribe.

There was a wide range of views amongst participants about what these community benefits should include, although most believed that jobs and education would be key among them. There was also no consensus on when community benefits should be discussed or paid, although many felt that benefits should not be paid until after the community committed to host the GDF.

### 2.7.1 Overall perceptions of a community benefits package

The views of participants were mixed on whether or not communities should receive a community benefits package. Of those who were uneasy about it, participants suggested that it seemed akin to a bribe and questioned why these benefits were necessary. They felt this might undermine confidence in the process, and raise questions about how safe the process was if a community had to be incentivised to do it. Secondly, some participants felt that in a time of austerity it was unfair that some communities were being offered new facilities or services, while others experienced cuts.

*"If it is that safe, why would you be [offering community benefits]."*

London

For those who supported the use of a community benefits package, their main arguments were that it represented compensation for the disruption experienced during construction and for the stigma which they felt would be experienced by the community as a result of hosting the GDF. This latter opinion is explored in more detail in section 2.8 about addressing potential socio-economic impacts.

### 2.7.2 The timing of a community benefits package

Nearly all participants felt that the existence of community benefits should be clear from the start of the siting process, and most felt that this information should be given to communities during the learning phase. There was mixed views over when discussions about what these benefits should comprise ought to take place. However, it was clear that most felt this also should either be in the learning phase or early on in the learning phase.

*"I think it will have to be continuous information giving, becoming more local to an area, becoming more specific about what the benefits to that community would be."*

London

The uncertainty over when to hold such discussions appeared to stem from the belief that the benefits should be tailored to the needs of the host community. As such defining the benefits could not happen until the final host community, and their needs, was clear.

*“It comes down to the area; each area has different requirements.”*

Penrith

While participants did not want to define specific community benefits, given their perception that this would depend on the needs of the actual host community, those generic benefits that they saw arising from hosting the GDF were:

- Jobs, and the further benefit of higher wages for skilled jobs, with the caveat that these jobs should be available to residents in the host community<sup>24</sup>. It should be noted that while jobs would be a direct result of the construction and operation of a GDF rather than part of an agreed community benefits package for most participants jobs were seen as the primary benefit and this is included here to reflect the prominence of this in their discussions.
- Investment in education, principally to ensure that local residents have the skills required to obtain jobs;
- Reductions in Council Tax for the host community;
- Reductions in energy bills, or even free energy, for the host community; and,
- Improved infrastructure, for example better road and rail links.

There was a wider range of views over when the benefits should be paid. Some participants felt benefits, albeit minor benefits, should begin during the focusing phase or once “disruption” was being experienced.

*“Benefits should be progressive, start low and get higher.”*

London

Other participants felt that the benefits should not be paid until the community had confirmed they were happy to host the GDF. These participants felt paying the benefits too early increased the perception that it was a bribe; they were also concerned about what would happen to the benefits if the community decided to withdraw from the process after the benefits had started.

*“I wouldn’t pay people before they are confirmed.”*

Bridgwater

### **2.7.3 The recipients of a community benefits package**

Participants felt the community benefits should be for the host community. However, reflecting the difficulties described earlier over how to define that community, there were discussions about whether (and how) community benefits should be paid outside the immediate host community. Several participants suggested linking the amount of benefit to distance from the GDF with lower amounts of community benefits given to communities further from the GDF. Put simply, they felt the amount of benefits should reduce as the distance from the facility increased.

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<sup>24</sup> Although “jobs” is defined in the consultation document as a direct benefit and therefore not part of the community benefits package this is the main benefit participants saw arising from the GDF and for that reason is included here.

#### 2.7.4 Attitudes to the community fund

The proposed revised GDF siting process includes the setting up of a community fund, into which the government would begin paying during the focusing phase. This would create a lasting commitment to support the community through future generations. While the community fund is within the overall community benefits package it was discussed separately at the workshops.

The concept of a community fund split opinions: for those who considered the community benefits to be a bribe this was just another example of this; however, others felt it was a good idea and offered the community an opportunity to decide how they wished to spend part of the community benefits package.

*“It’s a good idea for the community fund. You know the money is there for them to access. Even if they can’t access it immediately.”*

Bridgwater

No matter what their views of the fund though, nearly all participants felt if it existed then it should be ring-fenced for the benefit of the host community and should not be available for the council to use more generally. Further, many participants felt that access to the funds should be prevented until after the area was confirmed as a viable site for a GDF.

## 2.8 Approach to providing information about potential socio-economic and environmental effects

The consultation document also included a question about whether there was agreement with the proposed approach to providing information on potential socio-economic and environmental effects. The findings from participants' discussions on this topic are detailed below.

### Key findings:

Nearly all participants wanted a staged approach to information about potential impacts; from generic information at the beginning to increasingly detailed and specific information as the search focussed on potential sites.

Participants felt that the information should be updated throughout the process as more is known about the site, the details of the proposed facility and its impacts.

Participants' most prominent concerns were around the impact on property values and health.

### 2.8.1 Providing information about potential socio-economic and environmental effects

Participants' views on how they wanted information about potential socio-economic and environmental effects broadly matched the proposals in the consultation document. They wanted information to be available as early as possible in the siting process.

*"People will want to know how is this going to affect their communities."*

Penrith

However, most participants recognised that it would not be feasible to produce specific details before geological investigations had shown whether sites would be potentially suitable. They therefore accepted the principle of a staged approach to information about these effects:

- National awareness raising phase = illustrative examples of expected impacts;
- Learning phase = more regional information; and,
- Focusing phase = specific site level information.

They expected that updated information would be available on the impacts throughout the process and that as the site search became more focussed the information provided would reflect this in having more site-specific detail.

### 2.8.2 Perceived effects

In general participants were more interested in the broad reaching impacts such as transport, construction, landscaping, and the wildlife or environment than on specific technical details of the construction or operation of the GDF.

*"You must make the valid point that it isn't going to be near people's homes early on. Because that is going to be the main concern, homes and schools and waterways and things like that."*

London

The impacts most frequently mentioned by participants were those on property value and health. Most participants assumed the GDF would have a negative impact on property values, however, they were generally reassured by the references to compensation in the stimulus and as such there was little discussion on this point. Concern about potential health impacts was a low level but a persistent presence in the discussions about the GDF, and some participants wanted some form of ongoing monitoring of radiation levels to allay any health fears in the community.

Other specific socio-economic impacts mentioned by participants included the impact of increasing population size on small communities as people move to the area for jobs. They also considered the impact on any tourism revenue in the community. When discussing this impact they often referred to “the stigma of hosting the GDF” and how this would impact on perceptions of the host community and people’s views on visiting the area.

## 2.9 Information needs and preferred information channels

In addition to discussing the key topics in the consultation document, participants also considered how local communities should be informed about the GDF siting process and the ongoing search for a potential site. The discussions covered not only the initial national awareness raising phase but also how to keep the local community informed and engaged during the learning and focusing phases and beyond.

### Key findings

Participants believed a phased approach to information provision was sensible, with generic information provided initially and the information becoming more specific as the site selection process progressed.

Participants felt that mass or national media were the preferred initial source, but with local media playing a larger role in the learning and focusing phases as well as more community focused channels, for example, public meetings, in the later stages.

They also believed information should be presented in plain English, using simple concepts but with a presumption of an intelligent reader. Further, more detailed, information should be available to all on the website which participants envisaged would accompany the siting process.

### 2.9.1 Attitudes to information

From the very beginning of the workshops (in the first “informing” day) nearly all participants stated that they wanted a broad reaching education campaign to make the general public aware of the issue of radioactive waste and its disposal. They felt this subject was important to how we live and use electricity and therefore should be in the public consciousness. Participants also wanted the information to cover the experience of the GDF siting process in other countries and how approaches have differed so that the general public could put this issue in context, and appreciate this is not a problem faced by the UK alone. At every stage of the discussions, the importance of the proposed national awareness phase was reinforced by participants.

*“Communities should be informed with all of the relevant information they need. Need to start from the very basics.”*

Bridgwater

As part of this awareness raising stage, some suggested that it would be important to reassure the public that they would have their say if their council did express an interest. It was thought that doing this would help to build trust in the process and prevent it from being derailed.

*“The public needs to be involved more, whether or not it’s cost effective. ... Make it clear they can pull out on that.”*

Penrith

Participants were pragmatic in their attitudes to the information they would receive. While they ideally wanted detailed information from the very start of the siting process, they recognised that this would not be possible. Therefore, they were happy for the information to be fairly generic in the early stages, with information becoming increasingly specific as the site search process became more focussed. The most important thing was that the communication was ongoing.

*“Keeping communities informed at each stage.”*

Nottingham

## 2.9.2 Information provision

The table below provides a summary of each of the potential phases in how information could be provided throughout the siting process as suggested by participants. It shows their perceived information needs, the channels they expected to receive information through and the messages they felt were important at each stage.

**Table 6: Summary of the potential elements of a phased information approach suggested most frequently by participants**

<b>National awareness phase</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Information on</b>	<b>Informed through</b>	<b>Messages to include</b>
Providing general education on the issue and raising awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is radioactive waste;</li> <li>• What is a GDF generally;</li> <li>• International examples;</li> <li>• Why the decision needs to be made; and</li> <li>• How the process will work.</li> </ul>	National and mass media means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TV;</li> <li>• Social media;</li> <li>• Websites; and</li> <li>• Schools education.</li> </ul> All formats need to be accessible to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information presented as intelligent science, using simple language but not dumbed down.</li> <li>• Information needs to cover pros and cons.</li> <li>• Some felt it better not to mention the local community benefits package (see section 2.7.2).</li> </ul>
<b>Learning phase</b>			
Providing local information and updates on progress, to allow the local communities to engage with the issue and become familiar with the implications for their local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to health and the environment;</li> <li>• Changes in local population size;</li> <li>• Costs of the GDF;</li> <li>• Maps to show potential areas;</li> <li>• Long and short term impacts and benefits; and</li> <li>• The community benefits package.</li> </ul>	Local media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters;</li> <li>• Meetings;</li> <li>• Leaflet or letter drops; and</li> <li>• Local TV and Radio.</li> </ul>	Representative body should be the source of information. Their role is to collect and assess the information and then communicate what they have learnt.
<b>Focusing phase</b>			
Consolidating the learning phase and refining the information provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on progress and specific stages;</li> <li>• More detailed and specific information about socio-economic impacts and community benefits as potential sites are identified and investigated.</li> </ul>	Same channels as in the learning phase with an additional short film before any referendums.	The representative body remains the main source of information to the community.

### 2.9.3 Presentation of information

For nearly all participants the starting point of the information and awareness process was mass media (national TV, radio and newspapers). In addition to this, participants pointed out the way in which children often educate adults by discussing issues covered in schools and so suggested that information be disseminated through the education system as well. Providing information through schools also chimed with participants' beliefs that young people needed to be involved because of the long timeframe of the process.

Nearly all participants strongly felt that the information provided should be aimed at the general public. They did not want the existing technical information to simply be made available to them. Instead they believed that specific documents and information sources should be developed aimed at the general public and local communities. For nearly all participants, this meant documents written in plain English, using simple concepts which the average citizen would understand. They did not see this as "dumbing down" the information, but as ensuring it would be easy to understand.

*"We need the information that's out there to be in plain English. If it's so academic it goes over their heads."*

Penrith

They were also keen that pictures should be incorporated. They felt that this was a useful way to alter public misperceptions of radioactive waste.

*"The language ... should be a bit more limited, like The Sun, with lots of photographs and not many words."*

London

*"I saw pictures of what they store it in and I found that very useful. [I know] it's not just rolling about loose but I found it very hard to envisage."*

Penrith

TV and other visual media were popular means of providing information, and there was some discussion around who should present the information. This included a range of suggestions from current TV personalities (for example, Professor Brian Cox), to experts, as well as ordinary people.

Participants mentioned several formats for the information including adverts and documentaries. Those supporting an "advertising" campaign envisaged a large scale campaign incorporating print, newspaper and TV to ensure that everybody should have the chance to see the campaign. Those suggesting documentaries felt this format allowed time for people to be informed and understand the issues of radioactive waste and its disposal. There were suggestions of a series of documentaries, with new programmes to update progress in the search for, construction of, and operation of the GDF.

Public community meetings were also a popular suggestion, especially once the learning and focusing phase began. These meetings were seen as an opportunity for the community to ask questions of experts and to find out more information. The opportunity to interact with experts was clearly valued by participants and they wanted this opportunity for the volunteer communities too. However, some participants felt that other residents may not be as engaged with the process as they were and therefore attendance at meetings would not be large and would be limited to those with strong views.

*"You would only get people with a vested interest."*

Bridgwater

Leaflets and flyers were also viewed favourably by many participants as ways to inform the public. Most participants wanted information that answered questions, was not too wordy and gave information in a balanced and impartial manner. They were attracted to leaflets branded with the logos of several organisations and viewed these as more likely to be impartial and balanced. However, the biggest problem with leaflets was seen to be how to get people to read them; for this reason leaflets were seen as secondary rather than primary information sources and needed to follow after a national TV-based education campaign.

*“If I didn’t know anything and got this [leaflet] a month ago I would probably have thrown it away. But if people are educated they might [read it].”*

London

Most participants wanted the information to be accessible by all, and this generally meant the provision of a website. Participants stated that this website should be a resource with all the information available. For example it should be possible to view or download any TV programmes about the process. As well as electronic copies of the information leaflets, many participants suggested that the website would also contain more detailed information for those who wanted further or technical information.

At all stages in the discussion there were some participants who felt it was important that the information presented was seen to cover the broad range of views on the subject. This included those who are opposed to the GDF as well as those who support it. Some participants included the caveat that lobby groups providing information should have a local focus rather than a national opinion.

*“I think it should include all groups – all sides of the argument. They should all have the same TV, literature, all the rest ... If [the community] are given the information, they can make an educated guess.”*

Penrith

In terms of the information to be provided, safety and security were key themes they felt should be communicated to the general public. This reflected participants’ underlying beliefs that, despite their personal confidence in the GDF and the siting process, they believed that other (less informed residents) would not view the policy in the same way as those who had attended the workshops.

*“I just think you need to get over to the general public that the risks aren’t as great as the benefits.”*

London

*“It says here that it’s safer underground than on top ... that would be persuasive to me. Safety, terrorism and all that.”*

Penrith

## 2.10 Key principles for the general public in revising the GDF siting process

Considering all the views expressed by participants throughout the two days of discussion, four key principles appeared to underpin participants' opinions of the revised GDF siting process and emerged throughout the discussions:

- **Awareness and education** – This was a key requirement for nearly all participants, workshop participants felt they initially knew very little (if anything) about radioactive waste and the agreed policy of managing it. They felt that if voluntarism was to succeed then the wider public needed to understand the challenges of managing our radioactive waste, and what the impact of a GDF might be for a community. Awareness and education was also seen as important in ensuring communities engaged with the long siting process; and would need to be sustained for future generations, or new residents moving to the local area.
- **Transparency and openness** – Participants felt that it was important that government was open and transparent about the need for a GDF, including what the potential risks could be from implementing it (or not). They wanted the siting process to be run in a similar vein with community representatives sharing the information on the potential impacts of a GDF and taking any decisions in the open.
- **Local** – In all the discussions participants referred back to the importance of ensuring the views of the “local community” and “local people” were heard, even though they generally struggled to define community in relation to a GDF. The emphasis on the local community underpinned their discussions about how to involve communities, how to demonstrate community support, who should represent them in the process and how community benefits should be distributed.
- **Fairness** – The participants frequently spoke of fairness and for most this meant ensuring that the process represented and involved everybody in the community. It was generally felt that the process should hear the views of those who opposed a GDF as well as those who supported the facility. Fairness also meant that the information which was presented to the community and its representatives needed to be balanced and impartial. This principle was apparent when participants discussed who should represent them, how the community should demonstrate their support (or not) for the GDF and the information they wanted to receive.
- **Efficiency** – There was a clear call from participants for the process to be run as efficiently as possible. They were keen to find efficiencies which could lead to cost savings, often reflecting back the language of austerity. In particular this principle underpinned responses around the calls for screening and targeting resources on specific communities (if possible) as well as queries around the timeline.

# Appendices

The following appendices are included:

- Appendix A: Recruitment questionnaire
- Appendix B: Workshop facilitation plans
- Appendix C: List of stimulus materials used in the workshops and copies of stimulus materials
- Appendix D: Questions asked in 'talking heads' videos
- Appendix D: List of technical terms provided to workshop participants
- Appendix E: Homework task sheet used between the two workshops

## Appendix A: Recruitment Questionnaire

### Recruitment approach

## Reconvened workshops, Recruitment Questionnaire

Ipsos MORI/13-073817-01

RESPONDENT RECRUITED FOR:
Reconvened workshops
RESPONDENT NO:

Specification – We want to recruit 21 people in total for at least 18 to attend both events. This questionnaire recruits people with the following characteristics.

Quotas:

- Individuals who are free on the required date/time.
- Quotas on gender, age, social grade and household composition, as below;

QUOTA TABLE	London, Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December
Male Female	10 minimum 10 minimum
18-34 35-54 55+	6 minimum 6 minimum 6 minimum
Social grade: ABC1 C2DE	9 minimum 9 minimum
Household composition:  Child(ren) under 16 living in the household with them	  8 minimum
No children under 16 living in the household with them	8 minimum
<b>Total</b>	<b>21 Participants</b>

**Good morning/afternoon/evening, My name is . . . . . from Ipsos MORI, the opinion poll company. We are inviting a group of people to take part in two workshops where we will discuss issues of national and local interest. The research is being conducted on behalf of the Government. Would be willing to take part? You will need to attend two workshops on consecutive Saturdays, both at the same venue in [insert location]. The first will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the second on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Both workshops will last from 10am until 4pm.**

*INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF PARTICIPANT ASKS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT THE WORKSHOP IS ABOUT, YOU CAN SAY THAT IT WILL BECOME CLEAR SHORTLY BUT YOU CAN'T TELL THEM AT THE MOMENT.*

**To say thank you for your time and cover any expenses incurred (including travel and childcare) we would like to offer £120 in cash. This would be split into two payments: £50 when you attend the first workshop, and the remaining £70 when you attend the second workshop.**

*NO ADDITIONAL EXPENSES WILL BE PAID*

**We are looking for particular groups of people; therefore I would like to ask you some questions about yourself to determine if you are eligible to take part. All information collected will be anonymised.**

**Q1 Would you be interested in taking part in principle? I will give you more precise details of what the research is about later on.**

Yes	1	CONTINUE
No	2	CLOSE

**Q2 Have you participated in a focus group or workshop discussion for a market research company in the last 6 months?**

Yes	1	THANK AND CLOSE
No	2	CONTINUE

**Q3 Can I ask if you are available on both Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 10 am - 4pm on both days?**

Yes	1	CONTINUE
No	2	CLOSE

**Q4 SHOWCARD B Do you or any members of your immediate family work in any of the following areas, either in a paid or unpaid capacity?**

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	1	THANK AND CLOSE
Any aspect of the nuclear industry: e.g. regulating or representing the nuclear industry, building, running or decommissioning nuclear power plants, any part of the nuclear fuel supply chain, or managing nuclear waste	2	
Any type of work requiring a background in geology	3	
Market research	4	
Environmental journalism/ media	5	
Environmental charities / pressure groups	6	
Local Authority either as a member (elected councillor) or an officer (employed by the local authority)	7	GO TO Q4A
No, none of these	8	CONTINUE TO Q5
Don't know	9	

**Q4a You mentioned that [IF CODE 7 AT Q4: you or a member of your immediate family] works in a local authority. Have you / they worked specifically on the planning team or been involved in planning decisions within the last two years?**

Yes	1	THANK AND CLOSE
No	2	CONTINUE
Don't know	3	

Q5 SHOWCARD A Which, if any, of the following things have you done in the last year or so on behalf of an environmental group or organisation?

Campaigned about energy infrastructure issues, e.g. wind farms or nuclear power stations	1	THANK AND CLOSE
Visited / written a letter to an MP / councillor about energy infrastructure, e.g. wind farms or nuclear power stations	2	
Been actively involved in an environmental protest or demonstration around energy infrastructure (e.g. wind farms or nuclear power stations)	3	
None of these	4	CONTINUE

Thank you. The research is specifically about the disposal of radioactive waste and how the Government should be consulting with local people when trying to identify suitable sites around the country for this. Please note that this is early in the consultation period and there are no plans for such a site in this area or any other areas of the country at the moment. The Department of Energy and Climate Change are just looking to speak to people in a range of different communities around the country to understand their views on how the search for a suitable site should be done.

Q6 Code sex (do not ask)

Male	1	RECRUIT TO QUOTA
Female	2	

Q7 Write In & Code Exact Age

Exact Age

18-34	1	RECRUIT TO QUOTA
35-54	2	
55+	3	

**Q8 Are there any children aged under 16 living with you in your household and that you have responsibility for?**

Yes	1	RECRUIT TO QUOTA
No	2	

**Occupation of Chief Income Earner**

Position/rank/grade .....

Qualifications.....

Industry type.....

Number of staff responsible for .....

**Q9. Social Class**

ABC1	1	RECRUIT TO QUOTA
C2DE	2	

**Q10 Thinking about attending the event, do you have any specific access requirements? For example, will you be using a wheelchair, or are you unable to use stairs? IF YES, ASK: Can you tell me what these requirements are? RECORD IN THE SPACE PROVIDED THEN GO TO Q10A**

Yes – special access requirements WRITE IN:	1	GO TO Q10A
No – no special access requirements	2	GO TO Q11

ASK IF CODE 1 'YES' AT Q10:

Q10a **And will a carer attend the event with you? IF YES, ASK: Can you tell me their name please? This is so we can let the venue hosting the workshops know. RECORD IN THE SPACE PROVIDED THEN GO TO Q11**

Yes – carer will attend WRITE IN CARER'S NAME:	1	CONTINUE
No – carer will not attend	2	

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ASK ALL

Q11 **At the workshops we will be providing lunch and refreshments. Do you have any special dietary requirements? IF YES, ASK: Can you tell me what these requirements are? RECORD IN THE SPACE PROVIDED**

Yes – special dietary requirements WRITE IN:	1	CONTINUE
No – no special dietary requirements	2	

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## Appendix B: Facilitation Plans

### Workshop facilitation plan – Day 1

#### Guide to the facilitation plan layout

Our facilitation plan is set out as a table with two columns and divided into sections for ease of understanding and moving around.

The left hand column sets out the details of the sections:

- The purpose of the section
- What information is being presented/discussed
- Key questions to be explored
- Instructions to facilitators

The right hand column sets out information which is useful to know, including timings of the sections

- The format of the section
- The key outcomes
- Materials being used
- Instructions to facilitators

Each of these different aspects are set out differently so that the facilitation guide is easy to use

Note: While we have set out typical questions which will be used to explore issues in each section, this is qualitative research and the actual questions asked may be differently phrased. The questions set out in this guide are for guidance only to highlight the key issues for facilitators to cover. Further, the order in which topics are covered may also change and the discussion ranges over the issue as a whole.

Section number. Section title	Expected timing (minutes) and except/end start time
<p><i>Purpose and objective of the section are explained in italics</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullet points list the information to be presented/discussed in this section</li> <li>• Separate issues as guidance for facilitators about the range of topics to cover</li> </ul> <p>CAPITAL LETTERS ARE USED TO INDICATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACILITATORS (some instructions can appear in the right hand box)</p> <p><b>Key questions are indicated in bold</b></p>	<p>Format of the session, eg Plenary or group working</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> What is to be achieved in each section</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <p>What will be used in each section (including document names for ease of reference to the materials submitted for approval)</p> <p>ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO FACILITATORS</p>

General crib sheet to be produced, with glossary of terms/acronyms on one side and agenda on the reverse.

## **Day 1 – Information and background**

There is a lot of information to impart to participants to bring them up to speed on MRWS so we can discuss the siting process in more depth on day 2. To maintain the energy we will use different types of presentation and exercises throughout the day

**Outcome for the day:** Participants informed about the issue of radioactive waste. Gain an understanding of their views about GDF, the siting process and the organisations involved. Gather initial understanding of what they consider a “local community” and “voluntarism” to be.

1. Introductions and background	20 mins (10.00-10.20)
<p><i>Introduction to the day, who is in the room and what their roles are for the day, what is expected, what will be done with the results, agenda etc</i></p> <p>Outcome: to orient participants to what will happen during the day, cover housekeeping issues, introduce the reason for the workshops and set out the goals for the day</p> <p><b>MATERIALS TO BE HANDED OUT:</b> Agenda for the day, glossary of terms</p> <p><b>Workshop warm up exercise:</b></p> <p><b>Right you’ve heard enough from me for now. So I’d like to get you all talking. We’ve put loads of pictures on the table here. Today and next week we’ll be talking a lot about communities. So to get the day rolling, I’d like each of you to pick a picture from the selection which sums up what community means to you. When you’ve picked a picture, I’d like you to tell the person next to you why you chose that particular picture and what it says to you about community.</b></p> <p>When all have picked, go round the group to find out each person’s views.</p> <p><b>Tip:</b> Pick a couple of confident people as the first to go as it encourages others who are less sure of their answers or choices</p> <p>Outcome: to break the ice and get all participants talking</p> <p><b>MATERIALS:</b> photos</p>	<p>Plenary session – Ipsos MORI lead/present</p> <p>Workshop chair to present the introduction. (Not the place for details but just to mention the topics to be covered during the day)</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <p>Presentation 1.1</p> <p>Agenda for the day/glossary of terms</p> <p>Pictures for warm up</p> <p>NOTETAKERS TO RECORD RESPONSES PLUS IF POSSIBLE PICTURE SELECTED</p>

2. What is radioactive waste?	45 mins (10.20-11.05)
<p><i>This section will give participants a chance to get familiar with radioactive waste and the size of the problem faced by NDA/RWMD and to ask experts for more details</i></p> <p>Outcomes: participants feel informed about radioactive waste. Participants start the journey to realising the scale of the issue to be addressed.</p> <p><b>We're going to start off by giving you some information about radioactive waste: what is it, where it is and how it can be managed safely. Then we'll split into our two tables so we can discuss what you've been told and see if there are any other questions you want to ask? We'll come back into the centre for answers to the questions.</b></p> <p>MATERIALS: presentation, handouts to discuss</p> <p>IN GROUPS – PARTICIPANTS TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES (name, any children at home, how much they know about radioactivity, the main thing they remember from the presentation and why. THEN REVIEW THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN PLENARY AND GATHER QUESTIONS FOR THE EXPERTS</p> <p>Reconvened plenary to answer questions from the groups</p> <p><b>What questions do you have for the experts about radioactive waste?</b></p> <p><i>Final key question to round up this section:</i></p> <p><b>How do you feel about radioactive waste as an issue facing the UK now and in the future?</b></p>	<p>Short plenary – DECC lead in presentation, then briefly working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead, then reconvene the plenary to answer questions raised in the groups</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b></p> <p>Participants feel informed about radioactive waste. Participants start the journey to realising that rad waste is an important topic for the UK and needs a solution</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <p>Presentation Slot 1.2, handouts</p> <p>RECORD RESPONSES ON FLIPCHART</p> <p>REMEMBER TO START A “PARKED ISSUES” FLIPCHART OF TOPICS TO COME BACK TO LATER.</p> <p>ALSO START A “QUESTIONS FOR EXPERT” FLIPCHART TO HELP WITH MANAGING FOCUS DURING THE Q&amp;A SESSIONS</p>
3. The need for a permanent solution	25 mins (11.05-11.30)
<p><i>The first opportunity to explore in depth the policy situation and specifically to introduce the concept of not leaving the issue for future generations to deal with</i></p> <p>Outcome: participants informed about policy background</p> <p>MATERIALS: presentation (DECC to script)</p> <p><b>We've covered the background on radioactive waste, now we'd like to give you some information about what is currently done and why it's not a permanent solution. Again, you'll have a chance to ask questions after the presentation.</b></p>	<p>Plenary session – DECC lead - plus Q&amp;A session (Ipsos MORI lead)</p> <p>RECORD QUESTIONS AND VIEWS/RESPONSES ON FLIP CHART/NOTETAKERS</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b></p> <p>Participants informed about policy background</p>

<p>Key question to round up this section:</p> <p><b>Do you think the UK needs to find a permanent solution to the disposal of radioactive waste? What have you seen/heard so far today that leads you to think this? Why is it important?</b></p> <p>Suggested starter question if participants have none: <b>“How do you feel about radioactive waste being stored in 30 places around the UK?”</b></p>	<p>Materials:</p> <p>Presentation Slot 1.3</p>
<p>4. Break</p>	<p>10 mins (11.30-11.40)</p>
<p><i>Tea break and a chance for participants to have a chat with DECC/NDA/RWMD representatives or among themselves about the issues they are there to discuss</i></p>	
<p>5. Policy decisions behind preference for GDF management option</p>	<p>30 mins (11.40-12.10)</p>
<p><i>Explaining the rationale for GDF and explaining the other options for permanent solution. Signpost to voluntarism</i></p> <p>Outcome: participants appreciate the rationale behind decision to back GDF</p> <p>MATERIALS: Presentation (DECC to script), rejected options notes/sheets (facilitator only not to go to participants), handout of multi-barrier concept (hand out at end of presentation)</p> <p><b>We’ve told you about why a permanent solution is needed. The government have a preferred option for this permanent solution – a Geological Disposal Facility or GDF. This next section gives you some information about why this is the preferred option and what it could look like so that later you can consider the impacts of a GDF on a host community.</b></p> <p><i>COVERING THE REJECTED OPTIONS: At end of presentation ask participants “How would you get rid of the waste?” If suggestion is on the list then “My notes say this was rejected because ...” If not on list, refer to experts</i></p> <p><i>Final key questions to round up this section:</i></p> <p><b>Why do you think GDF is the international choice? Do you think it is the best choice?</b></p>	<p>Plenary session plus Q&amp;A session – DECC lead</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Participants appreciate the rationale behind decision to back GDF</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <p>Presentation Slot 1.5, sheets with notes on rejected options, multi-barrier concept handout</p> <p>RECORD CONCERNS ON FLIPCHART</p>

6. The practicalities of GDF	45 mins (12.10-12.55)
<p><i>Allowing participants to explore what a GDF could be like and to think about what it would mean if built in an area – emphasis needs to be clear that this is “a” not “their” community</i></p> <p>Outcome: participants have considered what hosting a GDF would mean in a community. We gain a better understanding of community concerns.</p> <p>MATERIALS: there are quite a few handouts in this section. Introduce them as needed – the prompts below show the exactly handout each relates to.</p> <p><b>Before lunch we’re going to consider what hosting a GDF could mean to a volunteer community. Remember that a GDF may have positive and negative effects on a community.</b></p> <p><b>What do you think would be the impact on a community of hosting a GDF?</b></p> <p>ALLOW SPONTANEOUS IMPACTS AND IMPRESSIONS BEFORE PROMPTING WITH THE MATERIALS BELOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MATERIALS “How big will it be underground?” and “how big will it be on the surface?”: <b>What impact do you think a GDF like this would have on a community?</b></li> <li>• MATERIALS “How long will it take?”: <b>How do you feel about the uncertainty over how long it will take?</b></li> <li>• MATERIALS “What benefits will local communities see from hosting the GDF?” <b>What do you think will be the benefits to a community?</b> Economic aspects: jobs and skills, likely economic impact</li> <li>• MATERIALS “what other impacts could there be?” <b>What impact do you think these factors would have on a community? Are these impacts positive or negative? What impacts are missing?</b> Physical impact: ongoing construction as well as disposal activity once opened</li> <li>• Monitoring and managing the facility, safety etc</li> </ul> <p>AFTER EACH SECTION PRESENTED TO ASK:</p> <p><b>Is this information clear to you?</b></p> <p><b>What questions do you have for the expert?</b></p> <p><i>Key questions:</i></p> <p><b>What would be the impact on a community of hosting a GDF? GATHER POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE VIEWS, RECORD ON FLIPCHART</b></p> <p>ASK 1/2 PARTICIPANTS TO VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT BACK IN PLENARY AFTER LUNCH</p>	<p>Working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead</p> <p><i>Key outcomes:</i> Participants have considered what hosting a GDF would mean in a community. A better understanding of community concerns is gained</p> <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <p>Word document Slot 1.6 is the key document</p> <p>RECORD +VE AND –VE IMPACTS ON A COMMUNITY ON FLIPCHART. FLIP CHARTS WILL BE USED IN THE PLENARY SESSION.</p> <p>ENCOURAGE PARTICIPANTS TO START THINKING ABOUT WHAT “A COMMUNITY” MEANS.</p> <p>RECORD QUESTIONS FOR THE EXPERTS AND ASK IN “BLOCKS”.</p>

7. Lunch	45 mins (12.55-13.40)
8. Review of the morning	10 mins (13.40-13.50)
<p><i>Reviewing what happened in the morning, setting out plans for the afternoon. Chance for participants to ask any questions having had a little time to mull over the morning.</i></p> <p>Outcome: allow participants to see the workings in the other group and sharing of issues raised by each group</p> <p>MATERIALS: flipcharts produced in morning session 1.6</p> <p><b>This morning we gave you a lot of information about radioactive waste, the need for a permanent solution and why the government prefer a GDF over other options. You finished by considering what impact hosting a GDF could have on a community. We thought you'd like to see what the other table were considering so they'll talk you through the flipchart they produced.</b></p> <p>Key questions after each presentation: <b>Is that a fair reflection of your discussions? Is there anything missing or not covered?</b></p>	<p>Plenary session – Ipsos MORI to lead, but presentations by members of each table</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> drawing together the themes from the morning, sharing of issues raised.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> flipcharts produced in 1.6.</p> <p>NOTETAKERS TO RECORD ANY DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES PRESENTED.</p>
9. Who is involved	30 mins (13.50-14.20)
<p><i>Introducing the different agencies/bodies involved in the MRWS and GDF siting process and their roles and responsibilities</i></p> <p>Outcome: participants informed about roles and responsibilities of the main organisations involved in the GDF siting process</p> <p>MATERIALS: Video clip, notepages</p> <p><b>Having considered the impact of a GDF, we're now going to introduce the main organisations involved in the GDF siting process so that you can appreciate their roles and responsibilities. We have short video clips from 5 organisations. We'll run it through as one video, and you can make notes of any questions you have. You will have a chance to ask questions at the end.</b></p> <p>AFTER VIDEO CLIP PRESENTED ASK: <b>What other questions do you have about the various organisations and their roles?</b></p> <p><b>Key questions to round up this section:</b></p> <p><b>Do you have confidence in these organisations and their role in the process? Why/why not?</b></p> <p><b>Are there any other roles or organisations you think should be involved in the process? What role/organisation? Why?</b></p> <p>RECORD CONCERNS AND RESPONSES ON FLIPCHART</p>	<p>Plenary session with combined video clips short Q&amp;A at end of video – DECC lead discussion</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Participants informed about roles and responsibilities of the main bodies involved in MRWS and GDF siting process.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Video clips/talking heads. Handout to record questions</p> <p>QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS TO BE RECORDED ON FLIPCHART</p>

10. Previous MRWS process	30 mins (14.20-14.50)
<p><i>Explaining the current MRWS process, how it worked, the problems faced. Explaining the need to revise the process</i></p> <p>Outcome: participants understand the MRWS process and previous GDF siting process and where it currently stands.</p> <p>MATERIALS: presentation (DECC to script)</p> <p><b>Just before we have a tea break, we have a presentation with some information about the previous process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility. We'll also cover the problems faced by the previous GDF siting process and where it got to before it was stopped</b></p> <p><i>Key questions to round up this section:</i></p> <p><b>Does the GDF siting process need to be changed?</b></p> <p><b>What questions do you have about the GDF siting process?</b></p> <p><b>How would you change the GDF siting process to encourage communities to volunteer to host a GDF?</b></p>	<p>Plenary session – DECC lead to present. Ipsos MORI to facilitate the Q&amp;A session.</p> <p><i>Key outcomes:</i> Understanding of the MRWS process and previous GDF siting process and where it currently stands</p> <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <p>Presentation Slot 1.10</p> <p>RECORD QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND RESPONSES ON FLIP CHARTS</p>
11. Break	10 mins (14.50-15.00)
12. Voluntarism	40 mins (15.00-15.40)
<p><i>Exploring the concept of voluntarism and to make clear that voluntarism is an extra step in addition to the required planning and regulatory approvals</i></p> <p>Outcome: participants to begin thinking about how a Community should be defined. To provide insight into what voluntarism means to the general public.</p> <p>NOTE: THE DISCUSSIONS HERE AND ON DAY 2 ARE ABOUT “HOW TO ENCOURAGE” NOT “WHERE TO SITE” – STEER AWAY FROM ANY DISCUSSIONS OF WHERE.</p> <p><b>We've given you a lot of information so far today. Now we're going to start considering what all the information means to you. We'll start off by considering what you think “community” means and how you would define the community affected by a GDF. After this, we'll have a quick review of your thoughts, a few bits of admin and that will be the end of the day.</b></p>	<p>Working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead (results of discussions to be fed back in next section)</p> <p><i>Key outcomes:</i></p> <p>To begin thinking about how a “community” should be defined. To provide insight into what voluntarism means to the general public. This session is not designed to gather answers to the consultation question but really to get participants thinking about the core issue for Day 2.</p>

<p>MATERIALS: handout [INTRODUCED MID-WAY THROUGH]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How should the government decide where to site the GDF?</li> <li>• Do you think communities should volunteer or should it be imposed on communities?</li> <li>• How would you define “locality” and “local community”? What does this mean to you? How big/how small? (Note: we will probably return to this question several times in the discussions and certainly at the end to ensure that we gather the changes and nuances in opinions as they evolve)</li> <li>• USE MATERIAL NOW: What does voluntarism and partnership working mean in practical terms?</li> <li>• How should it work? How did it work?</li> <li>• What are the problems and benefits of voluntarism?</li> </ul> <p>Key questions (to fit into the discussions wherever they come up for):</p> <p><b>What is voluntarism?</b></p> <p><b>How would you encourage communities to volunteer for a GDF?</b></p> <p>ASK 1/2 PARTICIPANTS TO VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT BACK IN PLENARY</p>	<p>Materials:</p> <p>Word document Slot 1.12</p> <p>REPORTING BACK TO THE WORKSHOP AS A WHOLE ON THE KEY ISSUES AROUND VOLUNTARISM</p>
<p>13. Tying it all together</p>	<p>20 mins (15.40-16.00)</p>
<p><i>Wind down from the day and setting the scene for the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop. Explaining the homework task</i></p> <p>Outcome: sharing of the thoughts about community. Homework task understood by participants. Reminder about the consultation</p> <p>MATERIALS: flipcharts produced in section 1.12, homework task sheets</p> <p><b>Nearly done, let’s see what each table thinks of what a community is.</b></p> <p>EXPLAIN HOMEWORK AND INFORM THEM OF HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION.</p> <p>Homework: <b>We would like them to do one of the two tasks set out on the sheets. The tasks are simple. The first task is to speak to someone you know about what you have learnt today. You then need to ask them their opinions and write this down. The second task would be to do some research on the internet on how the GDF siting process has worked in other countries. The tasks are explained on the sheets and there are questions for you to complete about the task you chose. Please bring the completed task sheets with you next week as we will be talking about how you found the homework. Does anyone have any questions about the homework task?</b></p> <p>Consultation: <b>DECC acknowledge that these workshops run upto and after the official deadline for responding to the consultation and therefore have agreed to extend the deadline to 19 December for you to respond. You need to send your response to <a href="mailto:radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk">radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk</a>. Everything you need to know is in the consultation document</b></p> <p>HAND OUT HOMEWORK TASK SHEETS AND INCENTIVES FOR DAY 1</p>	<p>Plenary session – Ipsos MORI lead, but presentations by members of each table</p> <p>USING FLIPCHARTS FROM THE AFTERNOON TO COVER THE KEY ISSUES RAISED</p>

## Workshop facilitation plan – Day 2

### Guide to the facilitation plan layout

Our facilitation plan is set out as a table with two columns and divided into sections for ease of understanding and moving around.

The left hand column sets out the details of the sections:

- The purpose of the section
- What information is being presented/discussed
- Key questions to be explored
- Instructions to facilitators

The right hand column sets out information which is useful to know, including timings of the sections

- The format of the section
- The key outcomes
- Materials being used
- Instructions to facilitators

Each of these different aspects are set out differently so that the facilitation guide is easy to use

Note: While we have set out typical questions which will be used to explore issues in each section, this is qualitative research and the actual questions asked may be differently phrased. The questions set out in this guide are for guidance only to highlight the key issues for facilitators to cover. Further, the order in which topics are covered may also change and the discussion ranges over the issue as a whole.

Section number. Section title	Expected timing (minutes) and except/end start time
<p><i>Purpose and objective of the section are explained in italics</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullet points list the information to be presented/discussed in this section</li> <li>• Separate issues as guidance for facilitators about the range of topics to cover</li> </ul> <p>CAPITAL LETTERS ARE USED TO INDICATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACILITATORS (some instructions can appear in the right hand box)</p> <p><b>Key questions are indicated in bold</b></p>	<p>Format of the session, eg Plenary or group working</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> What is to be achieved in each section</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> What will be used in each section (including document names for ease of reference to the materials submitted for approval)</p> <p>ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO FACILITATORS</p>

**Day 2 – Consideration and decision**

This day is focused on understanding how the public feel the GDF siting process should be managed, how best to involve communities, and to understand the principles that underpin the range of views expressed. It seeks to provide answers to Q1, Q2, Q7 and Q8 in the consultation document. This day is about managing the discussions.

**Outcome for the day:** Gather views on ‘What is a community? Who represents it? And voluntarism’. Have some considered timelines with key touchpoints for communities. Have a better understanding of what “demonstration of community support” means to the general public.

<p>1. Introductions and welcome back</p>	<p>20 mins (10.00-10.20)</p>
<p><i>Review of 1<sup>st</sup> day, introduction to 2<sup>nd</sup> day, who is in the room and their roles, what is expected, what will be done with the results, etc. Plus covering/clarifying any parked issues from Day 1.</i></p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> participants clear about the structure and purpose of Day 1, clarify issues raised and not covered in Day 1</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Presentation, Agenda and glossary of terms to be handed out.</p> <p>Workshop warm up exercise – Parked Issues to be covered, brief answers on slides, longer/more detailed answers as handouts (given at registration).</p> <p><b>Introduction</b> to next session (before session): We’ve covered the parked issues and questions you had from Day 1 and noted those issues which you raised last week which will be covered during today. Let’s get started on today, if you go into groups we’ll be talking about the homework we asked you to do during the week.</p>	<p>Plenary session – Ipsos MORI lead on introduction. DECC/RWMD to lead on answering Parked Issues</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> participants clear about the structure and purpose of Day 1, clarify issues raised and not covered in Day 1</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Presentation 2.1 , final slide will be personalised to show those issues raised at individual locations. Agenda and glossary of terms to be handed out</p> <p>NOTE ON FLIPCHARTS FROM DAY 1 THE PARKED ISSUES WHICH ARE COVERED IN THIS SESSION</p>

2. Review of homework	20 mins (10.20-10.40)
<p><i>Reviewing the homework from last week, and gathering/ addressing the questions which were raised</i></p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Sharing experiences. Recap of views/thoughts from Day 1</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Homework sheets TO BE GATHERED IN FOR LATER REVIEW/ANALYSIS</p> <p>BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS AROUND THE TABLE AS TABLES HAVE BEEN SHUFFLED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Who did which task?</b></li> <li>• <b>What were the general findings?</b></li> <li>• <b>What extra questions did the homework raise for you? TO BE RECORDED</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key questions:</b></p> <p><b>Have your views about GDF siting changed since last week?</b></p> <p><b>How/why? RECORD ON FLIPCHART</b></p>	<p>Working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b></p> <p>Sharing experiences. Recap of views/thoughts from Day 1</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <p>Homework sheets TO BE GATHERED IN FOR LATER REVIEW/ANALYSIS</p> <p>USE PARKED ISSUES FLIPCHART</p>
3. Proposed revised GDF siting process	20 mins (10.40-11.00)
<p><i>The first opportunity to explore in depth the policy situation (history, context for consultation, key messages from last time/call for evidence) and specifically to introduce the concept of not leaving the issue for future generations to deal with</i></p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Participants informed about how GDF siting process could be changed</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Presentation Slot 2.3 (slides up to “presentation 2.5” face page)</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Before we start talking about the topics detailed in the introduction we’d like to give you some information about the revised GDF siting process as set out in the Consultation Document.</p> <p><b>Key questions to round up the session:</b></p> <p><b>Do you have any questions about the changes made to the GDF siting process?</b></p> <p><b>What would you have changed? Why – what difference would this make?</b></p> <p><b>Introduction (after plenary around the revised process):</b> These were the changes proposed by DECC, we’ll be talking around what you think of these proposals today. First we concentrate on how to involve communities, then who represents communities and then we’ll talk about how communities should be involved in the decisions made. Let’s start with a bit more detail on the changes proposed on how to involve communities.</p>	<p>Plenary session plus Q&amp;A session – DECC lead</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b></p> <p>Participants informed about how GDF siting process could be changed</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <p>Presentation Slot 2.3</p> <p>NOTETAKERS TO RECORD RESPONSES AND CONCERNS IN Q&amp;A</p>

<p><b>Materials:</b> Presentation Slot 2.5 (slides up to “presentation 2.6” face page)</p> <p><b>Introduction (before tea break):</b> We’ll have a short tea break now, when we come back we’ll be working at our tables to discuss how you think communities should be involved in the GDF siting process.</p>	
<p>4. Break</p>	<p>10 mins (11.00-11.10)</p>
<p>5. Involving communities</p>	<p>70 mins (11.10-12.20)</p>
<p><i>Exploring the issues around how to involve communities, and how they would want to be involved. Need to also explore the timescale issues and issue fatigue.</i></p> <p><b>Introduction (after break):</b> As covered in the presentation before the tea break, our first topic is how communities should be involved in the GDF siting process. Let’s go to our tables and discuss this.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Gain an understanding of how communities want to be involved and how the public define “community”. Responses to ConDoc Q5, Q7 &amp; Q8.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Word documents (see below), timeline poster</p> <p>For each topic below get participants to work in pairs discussing and recording on post-its their thoughts, then cover these in general discussion – place post-its on the timeline after the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How do you think the learning and focussing phase should work? Would you have different phases? In what ways different? (Q2)</b></li> <li>• <b>At what stage should communities be involved? Why at this point? why not earlier/later? When we talk about involving communities, who do we mean?</b></li> <li>• <b>Should communities be involved in the decision to express interest in hosting a GDF? Why? Why not? (Q1)</b></li> <li>• <b>How should they be involved? NEED TO COVER EACH STAGE OF THE PROCESS IN THE DISCUSSIONS</b></li> <li>• <b>Who should involve the communities?</b></li> <li>• <b>MATERIALS “COMMUNITY BENEFITS” What about community benefits, when should these be available? Is it appropriate to start providing benefits in the ‘focusing’ phase as proposed in the consultation document? Why/why not? What do you think of the idea of a community fund? (Q7)</b></li> <li>• <b>Over the timeframe, should communities be kept involved? How should they?</b></li> <li>• <b>MATERIALS “POTENTIAL IMPACT OF A GDF” What about other impacts (socio-economic and environmental) – when and how should these be discussed with communities? What do you think of the proposals about what information would be provided? Is there anything else you would want to know? When should it be provided? (Q8)</b></li> </ul>	<p>Working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead. Reconvened plenary – Ipsos MORI to facilitate, ideally member from each table to present their discussions</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b></p> <p>Gain an understanding of how communities want to be involved and how the public define “community”. Responses to ConDoc Q5, Q7 &amp; Q8.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <p>Word documents as detailed on left, timeline poster, plus materials to annotate as necessary (paper, post its, marker pens etc)</p> <p>PARTICIPANTS TO RECORD OUTCOMES OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE TIMELINE AND ADAPT TO THEIR PREFERENCES.</p> <p>MAIN QUESTIONS TO COVER ARE <b>HOW AND WHEN TO BE INVOLVED</b>. PLUS HOW AND WHEN TO <b>FIND OUT ABOUT ISSUES</b>, INCLUDING BENEFITS AND IMPACTS.</p>

<p>Key questions (to fit into the discussions wherever they come up for):</p> <p><b>When we talk about involving communities, who do we mean?</b></p> <p><b>At what stage should communities be involved?</b></p> <p><b>How should they be involved?</b></p> <p><b>Reconvened plenary intro:</b> So what were the key points that you discussed on [cover each table in turn]</p>	<p>USE PARKED ISSUES FLIPCHART AS REQUIRED TO KEEP FOCUS ON THE TOPIC IN HAND.</p> <p>WRITE THE QUESTION FOR EACH SMALL SECTION ON THE FLIPCHART AS AIDE MEMOIRE.</p> <p>USE MARKER PENS ON POST-ITS IF NECESSARY</p>
<p>6. The siting process: roles and responsibilities</p>	<p>40 mins (12.20-13.00)</p>
<p>Chapter 2 of the consultation document, in particular Question 2. Exploring how the decision making process should work. Need to explore District council as the decision making level and how participants feel this fits with their definition of community.</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> The next topic to discuss is how communities should be represented in the GDF siting process and who should represent communities. Firstly some information about how the proposed revised process is different from the previous process. [after DECC presentation] ... Any questions about what X has just presented? [answered by DECC or parked as necessary] Let's go to the tables and discuss this then</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Understanding of how and through who communities want the decision made. What do the general public consider a "demonstration of community support" to be. Responses to ConDoc Q2</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> DECC presentation (2 slides) plus word documents "THE REPRESENTATIVE AUTHORITY" "HOW LOCAL GOVT WORKS IN ENGLAND", "STEERING GROUP AND CONSULTATIVE PARTNERSHIP" and "ROLE OF THE REGULATORS AND OTHER BODIES"</p> <p>For each topic below get participants to work in pairs discussing and recording on post-its their thoughts, then cover these in general discussion – place post-its on the timeline after the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Materials:</b> "THE REPRESENTATIVE AUTHORITY" plus (if necessary) "HOW LOCAL GOVT WORKS IN ENGLAND" <b>What is a "representative authority"? Who should make the decisions for communities? Who represents the community? What are your views on the proposal that the district council (in England) should be the 'representative authority'? (Q2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Materials:</b> "STEERING GROUP AND CONSULTATIVE PARTNERSHIP" <b>What are your views on the proposals to establish a steering group and a consultative partnership? Are the right organisations involved in each? If not, who should be involved and why? (Q2)</b></li> <li>• <b>Materials:</b> "ROLE OF THE REGULATORS AND OTHER BODIES" <b>What are your views on the proposals about how regulators and other stakeholders, including organisations such as charities, campaign groups, parish councils etc, should be involved in the GDF siting process? (Q3)</b></li> </ul>	<p>Initial plenary session with 2 slides – DECC to lead. Then Working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead. Reconvened plenary – Ipsos MORI to facilitate, ideally member from each table to present their discussion</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Understanding of how and through who communities want the decision made. What do the general public consider a "demonstration of community support" to be. Responses to ConDoc Q2</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> DECC presentation plus word documents detailed</p> <p>IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO REACH CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE – THE RANGE OF VIEWS IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND</p> <p>RECORD OUTCOMES OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE TIMELINE</p> <p>USE PARKED ISSUES FLIPCHART AS REQUIRED TO KEEP FOCUS ON THE TOPIC IN HAND. WRITE THE QUESTION FOR EACH SMALL SECTION ON THE FLIPCHART AS AIDE MEMOIRE.</p>

<p><b>Key questions</b> (to fit into the discussions wherever they come up for):</p> <p><b>What is a “representative authority”? Who represents the community?</b></p> <p><b>What is a “demonstration of community support”?</b></p> <p>RECORD KEY POINTS ON FLIPCHART</p> <p><b>Reconvened plenary:</b> Just before we have some lunch, what were the key points that you discussed on [cover each table in turn]</p>	
<p>7. Lunch</p>	<p>40 mins (13.00-13.40)</p>
<p>8. Making decisions</p>	<p>45 mins (13.40-14.25)</p>
<p><i>Exploring the right to withdraw and how communities are involved in this process</i></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> This morning we talked about how communities should be involved and who represents them in the process. Now we’re going to talk about these times when a decision is required – specifically how you feel the right of withdrawal should work and what you think a demonstration of community support is. First, X is going to talk you through how these elements of the proposed GDF siting process are different from the previous element.</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Gain understanding of community views on “crunch points”. Understand what “demonstration of community support” means. Responses to ConDoc Q1 &amp;Q2.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> presentation slides and word documents “RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL”</p> <p>For each topic below get participants to work in pairs discussing and recording on post-its their thoughts, then cover these in general discussion – place post-its on the timeline after the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MATERIALS “RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL” <b>When should communities have the right to withdraw?</b></li> <li>• <b>When should the right to withdraw stop? Why then?</b></li> <li>• <b>Who should make these decisions about right to withdraw? How are they representative? Is it important that they are representative(Q1)</b></li> <li>• <b>How should communities be involved in this decision? (Q2)</b></li> <li>• <b>How would decisions be taken and noted? Would they take part in any formal decision recording procedures? EXPLORE HOW INVOLVED THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE IN EACH MAJOR DECISION</b></li> <li>• <b>What is a “demonstration of community support”? (Q1) Who should be involved, who should organise? How should it work? How often should it be made? When? (Q1) EXPLORE THE RANGE OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND WHICH PARTICIPANTS PREFER</b></li> </ul>	<p>Initial plenary with DECC slides – DECC lead, then Working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Gain understanding of community views on “crunch points”. Understand what “demonstration of community support” means. Responses to ConDoc Q1 &amp;Q2.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> presentation slides and word documents detailed</p> <p>RECORD OUTCOMES OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE TIMELINE</p> <p>USE PARKED ISSUES FLIPCHART AS REQUIRED TO KEEP FOCUS ON THE TOPIC IN HAND. WRITE THE QUESTION FOR EACH SMALL SECTION ON THE FLIPCHART AS AIDE MEMOIRE.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How should the final decisions/”demonstration of community support” to host a GDF be made? (Q2)</li> <li>• Do they understand why the different defined stages have been removed from the process?</li> </ul> <p>Key questions:</p> <p><b>What does “demonstration of community support” mean in this context?</b></p> <p><b>How should the right to withdraw work? What is an “on-going right of withdrawal”?</b> How can it work in practice? (Q1)</p> <p>RECORD KEY POINTS ON FLIPCHART</p> <p><b>Reconvened plenary:</b> What were the key points that you discussed on [cover each table in turn]. When we get back from the tea break we’ll be talking about what information you think communities would need or want, and how to get that information to them. Enjoy your cup of tea!</p>	
<p>9. Break</p>	<p>10 mins (14.25-14.35)</p>
<p>10. Information needed</p>	<p>50 mins (14.35-15.25)</p>
<p><i>Gathering views on information – what is needed, and preferences for channels and formats. Need to if format/information needs change with different information being provided, eg geological information vs community benefit information vs information about basic proposition and how to provide complex information in simple to understand formats</i></p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Understanding communities’ initial and on-going information needs and preferences. Explore attitudes to the information produced by Regulators.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Lots of examples to use as a start point for discussions from MRWS, Nirex (debranded), NDA and also from the Environment Agency. Plus blank paper and spare example materials for participants to “design” their preferred info formats</p> <p>INITIAL UNPROMPTED INFORMATION NEEDS (although participants will have seen information in day 1 workshop), THEN SHOW EXAMPLES OF MATERIALS</p> <p><b>Introduction at table</b> There are lots of different types of information on the tables, have a look through them and then we can talk about what you think communities need to know and how best to give them the information so that they can understand int.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What information is available? And what is needed? <u>Geological information</u> (of key interest is when this info is available), environmental information, social, economic and community benefits</b> SPONTANEOUS THOUGHTS BASED ON DISCUSSIONS SO FAR</li> </ul>	<p>Working in 2 groups – Ipsos MORI lead. Final 10 minutes is in plenary to feed back their thoughts to each other.</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b></p> <p>Understanding communities’ initial and on-going information needs and preferences. Explore attitudes to the information produced by Regulators.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Lots of examples to use as a start point for discussions from MRWS, Nirex (debranded), NDA and also from the Environment Agency. Plus blank paper and spare example materials for participants to “design” their preferred info formats</p> <p>RECORD OUTCOMES OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE TIMELINE PLUS ANY GENERATED DESIGNS</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At what stages should this information be available to communities?</b> EXPLORE THE QUESTIONS THEY WANT ANSWERS TO</li> <li>• <b>In what format? Who are trusted sources?</b> EXPLORE THE DIFFERENT COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS</li> <li>• <b>How should this complex information be communicated to communities? What is the best format for this complex information so that everybody can understand it? How would you explain this complex information? What are the best ways to get this information to communities?</b></li> <li>• <b>When should the information be available? Different times for different information?</b> EXPLORE WHEN INFORMATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE</li> <li>• <b>Does information need to be updated? How to update communities?</b></li> <li>• <b>What do you think of the regulator leaflet? (JOINT REGULATION FACT SHEET) Is the information clear? What would they change? Is the format and layout attractive and clear?</b> THIS IS THE ONLY LEAFLET TO EXPLORE IN DETAIL</li> </ul> <p>Key questions (to fit into the discussions wherever they come up for):</p> <p><b>How should this complex information be communicated to communities?</b></p> <p><b>When should the information be available? Different times for different information?</b></p> <p>KEY POINTS TO BE RECORDED ON FLIPCHART</p> <p><b>Reconvened plenary:</b> What were the key points that you discussed on [cover each table in turn]. We're nearly there now</p>	<p>USE PARKED ISSUES FLIPCHART AS REQUIRED TO KEEP FOCUS ON THE TOPIC IN HAND. WRITE THE QUESTION FOR EACH SMALL SECTION ON THE FLIPCHART AS AIDE MEMOIRE.</p> <p>WE WILL TAKE INDIVIDUAL COPIES OF THE REGULATOR LEAFLET FOR ASSESSMENT SO THAT EVERYONE CAN HAVE A COPY TO READ AND ANNOTATE.</p>
<p>11. Final message to DECC</p>	<p>20 mins (15.25-15.45)</p>
<p><i>A final chance to cover any outstanding Parked Issues and for participants to question the policy expert but also to put on paper the key messages they (as individuals) want DECC to take from this dialogue. A chance for DECC to set out what will happen with the findings from the public dialogue and how it fits in with the wider open consultation and stakeholder engagement</i></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> We are very nearly at the end of the day. Before we finish do you have any questions for the experts? [if questions then DECC/RWMD to answer]. We are also very interested to hear your final thoughts on the GDF siting process and all that we've discussed over the two days. Please take a few minutes to put your thoughts down and answer the questions on the paper. Don't forget that you can also complete a formal response to the consultation, we have spare copies of the consultation document for anybody who want it. All the information you need to send a response in on Page 53 and remember that the deadline has been extended especially for us to 19<sup>th</sup> December.</p>	<p>Plenary discussion with Q&amp;A for DECC/RWMD reps, then individual working to write their thoughts</p> <p><b>Key outcomes:</b> Covering any outstanding Parked Issues and gathering final considered thoughts on the issues and tying up any final issues.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> No formal presentation but word document to fill in with final thoughts</p>

<p><b>Key outcomes:</b> gathering final considered thoughts on the issues and tying up any final issues.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> No formal presentation but word document to fill in with final thoughts</p> <p>HAND OUT FINAL THOUGHTS FORM</p> <p><b>Key questions to round up the session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What are the key messages you want DECC to take from this workshop?</b></li> </ul> <p>DISTRIBUTE SHEETS FOR PARTICIPANTS TO RECORD THEIR THOUGHTS</p>	
<p>12. Tying it all together</p>	<p>15 mins (15.45-16.00)</p>
<p>Wind down from the day.</p> <p>Review of what has been covered and achieved – focussing on the similarities and differences between the thoughts of the two groups</p> <p>How the findings will be used and responding to the consultation (DECC to lead on this part) and reminder to complete and return a consultation response</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> And the very final things we need to do are to ask you to complete a form for the evaluators about how you think the workshops have been run. And we need to give you some money for attending. Please go back to your tables for this, we'll only keep you for a few minutes.</p> <p>FILL IN EVALUATION SHEETS</p> <p>HAND OUT INCENTIVES FOR DAY 2</p>	<p>Plenary session – Ipsos MORI lead. Then return to tables for end of day admin tasks.</p>

## Appendix C: Outline of stimulus used in the workshops and materials

An outline of the presentations used in the workshops is presented below, and copies of the presentations can be found below this table.

<b>Presentations</b>	
<b>Workshop Day 1</b>	
Presentation 1.1	Introduction to the day <i>Covering introduction to the day, who is in the room and what their roles are for the day, what is expected, what will be done with the results, agenda.</i>
Presentation 1.2	What is Radioactive Waste <i>Gave participants information about radioactive waste and the size of the problem faced by NDA/RWMD .</i>
Presentation 1.3	The need for a permanent solution <i>Explored the policy situation and introduced the concept of not leaving the issue for future generations to deal with.</i>
Presentation 1.5	Why is a GDF solution preferred? <i>Explained the rationale for GDF and why other options for a permanent solution were dismissed.</i>
Presentation 1.10	The previous MRWS and GDF siting process <i>Explained the current MRWS process, how it worked, the problems it faced. Explained the need to revise the process.</i>
<b>Workshop Day 2</b>	
Presentation 2.1	Introduction to the day and review of Day 1 <i>Review of 1<sup>st</sup> day, introduction to 2<sup>nd</sup> day, who is in the room and their roles, what is expected, what will be done with the results. Plus clarified any parked issues from Day 1.</i>
Presentation 2.3	Proposed revised GDF siting process <i>Gave details of the policy situation (history, context for consultation, key messages from last time/call for evidence) and the proposed revised process.</i>
Presentation 2.5	Community benefits and impact assessments <i>Introduced the concepts and detailed changes proposed to the process.</i>
Presentation 2.6	Roles in the GDF siting process <i>Explained the roles in proposed decision making process should work.</i>
Presentation 2.8	Decision-making <i>Explained the changes in the proposed decision making process relating to the right to withdraw.</i>

# Welcome!

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Ipsos MORI  
Social Research Institute



## What's today about?

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Ipsos MORI  
Social Research Institute



## Radioactive waste:

What is it and where it's come from

What we should do with it

# GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY

or

# GDF

## Who commissioned today's workshop?

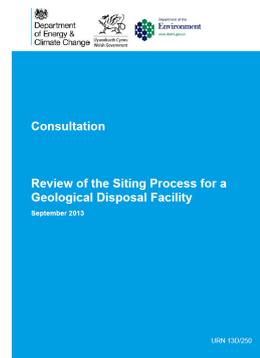
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The Department of Energy and Climate Change and Sciencewise have commissioned Ipsos MORI to recruit and manage the workshops

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has put forward some ideas on how best to involve communities who might be interested in hosting a geological disposal facility

These ideas have been published in a consultation document

The findings from this workshop, will sit alongside other responses to the consultation document



## The aims of the workshops

6

The aims of the two workshops (today and next week) is to:

- Understand the extent to which you are aware of a) how we currently manage our radioactive waste; and b) the idea of geological disposal
- Obtain feedback on ideas put forward by Government for improving the process of how best to involve communities who might be interested in hosting a facility
- Enable your views to be fed into the development of an improved process

## The boundaries of the workshop

7

**Today is not about** the rights and wrongs of nuclear power, nor the programme to build new nuclear power stations. We recognise there are a wide range of views on this subject

We also recognise there are potentially different solutions for managing radioactive waste. We will explain why the government has decided upon a geological disposal facility as the best option.

We want to understand your reaction to this. But the focus of the discussions will be around the process for involving communities who might want to volunteer to host a facility

## What are we going to do today?

8

<b>Day 1</b>
Introduction
What is radioactive waste?
The need for a permanent solution
Tea break (11.30)
Why is a Geological Disposal Facility the preferred solution?
What is a Geological Disposal Facility?
Lunch (13.00)
Who is involved in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process
Problems faced in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process
Tea break (14.45)
Voluntarism and what is a community

## Who is in the room?

9

### Experts

here to answer any questions you have today

### Observers

here to see how the process works and to hear at first hand what the general public are saying

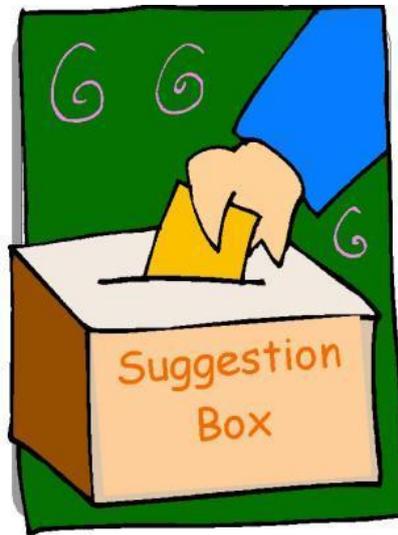
### Facilitators

here to keep the discussions on track and to time

## Housekeeping rules

10

- **We want to hear from everyone**
- **Treat one another with respect**
- **If something isn't clear, ask us!**
- **Everything you say is anonymous**
- **Please turn off mobile phones**
- **Breaks for food and drink**
- **Health and safety**



# Any questions on today?

# What is community?

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# What is radioactive waste?

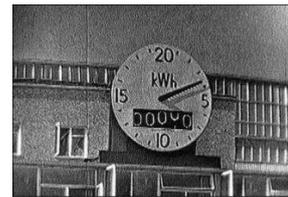


## UK Nuclear History

### In from the beginning

UK has been a “nuclear nation” since the late 1940s

- Early work in support of weapons programme
- World’s first commercial nuclear power station
- Waste management and cleaning up sites were not priorities.





# Nuclear sites to manage

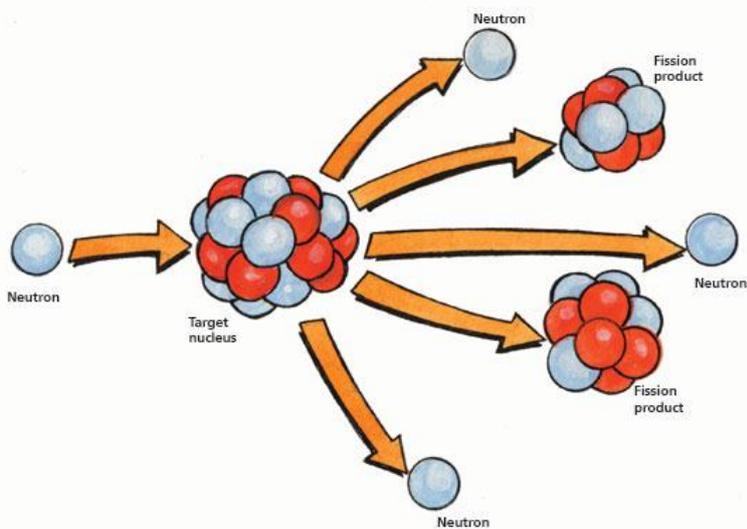


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# Nuclear Fission

The basis of commercial reactors



**Releases Energy**

Heat  
Sound  
Light

4

# Radioactivity

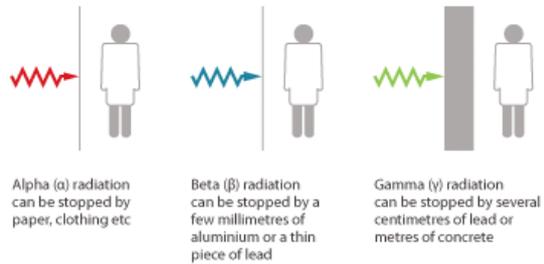
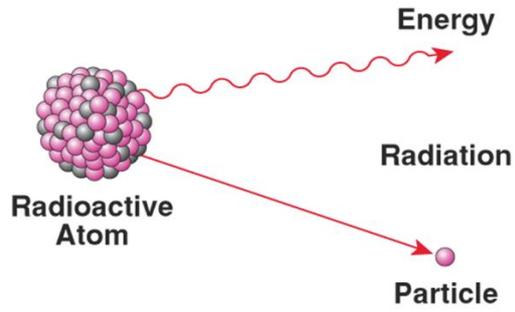
Radioactive decay

Unstable atom (spontaneous) → Stable atom

Alpha particles ( $\alpha$ ) – 2 neutrons & 2 protons  
 e.g.  $^{238}\text{U}_{92} \rightarrow ^{234}\text{Th}_{90} + ^4\alpha_2$

Beta particles ( $\beta$ ) – electron  
 e.g.  $^{60}\text{Co}_{27} \rightarrow ^{60}\text{Ni}_{28} + \beta$

Gamma radiation ( $\gamma$ ) – E-M radiation  
 e.g.  $^{99m}\text{Tc} \rightarrow ^{99}\text{Tc} + \gamma$



Redrawn by Bell design

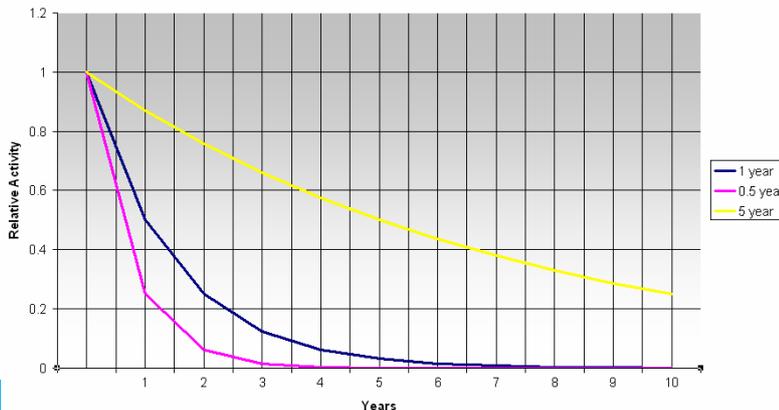
# Radioactivity

**Half-life** ( $t_{1/2}$ ) is the time taken for any given number of radioactive nuclei to reduce to half that number.

Examples of half-life variability:

1. Uranium-238 = 44,680,000,000 years
2. Sulphur-35 = 87.3 days
3. Oxygen-15 = 122 seconds

Radioactive Half Life



# Waste for disposal

So what do we need to dispose of? (Part 1)



**HLW – High Level Waste**  
**ILW – Intermediate Level Waste**  
**LLW – Low Level Waste**



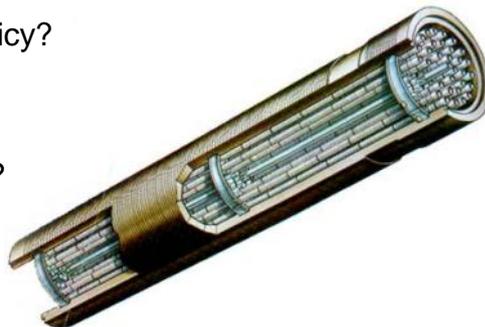
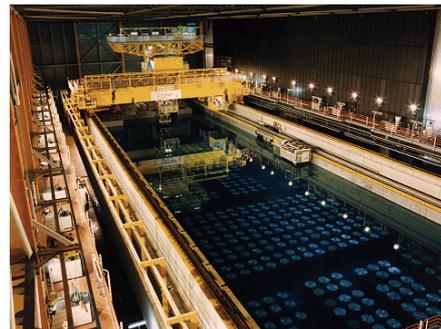
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# Waste for disposal

So what do we need to dispose of? (Part 2)

Uncertainties in the Inventory for disposal

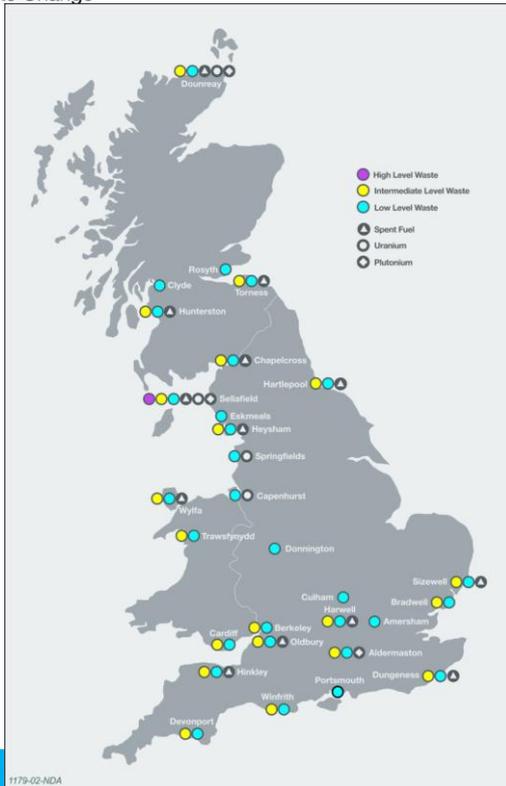
- Spent Fuel quantities for disposal?
- Future of reprocessing?
- Plutonium policy?
- Uranics?
- “Exotic” fuels?



8



# Where is the waste stored?



**30+ sites around the UK**



# What is radioactive waste?



# The need for a permanent solution

Workshop Day 1 – Presentation 1.3



## We are dealing with radioactive waste safely now but not a permanent solution

The nuclear industry safely handles radioactive materials throughout the stages of nuclear power:

- **Safely** produces uranium
- **Safely** produces nuclear fuel
- It operates power stations **safely** for the many decades of their life
- It can store spent fuel and waste **safely**

To complete the cycle we need to **safely dispose** of the radioactive waste materials which are created

## So what do we do with all this?

Modern, safe and secure interim storage can contain all this material in the short to medium term

But...

...this requires people to monitor and protect the materials being stored at the earth's surface



We would also need to constantly rebuild, repackage and monitor waste that will remain hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years at great risk and cost.

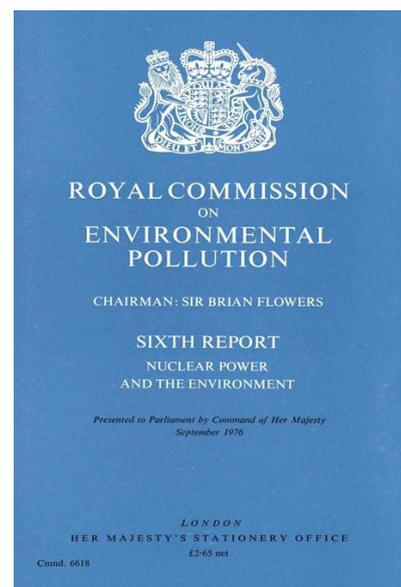
## The solution?

LLW disposal already underway

Sea dumping in the past

Flowers Report 1976

Other attempts have been made to identify sites.





# Managing Radioactive Waste Safely

- 1999 House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee
- 2001 Consultation
- 2003 Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
- 2006 CoRWM report
- 2006 Government accepts recommendations
- 2007 Consultation on implementation
- 2008 MRWS White Paper



## Seeking independent advice

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)

Independent advisory committee considered all options for managing higher activity wastes.

### Key recommendations:

- Geological Disposal is the best available approach
- Robust interim storage required
- Enhanced research and development programme on both storage and disposal
- Site selection must be based on engagement, partnership and willingness to participate



# Why is a GDF solution preferred?

Workshop Day 1 – Presentation 1.5



## Why Geological Disposal?

Radioactivity decays – hazard reduces over time, but some will remain hazardous for 100s of 1,000s of years

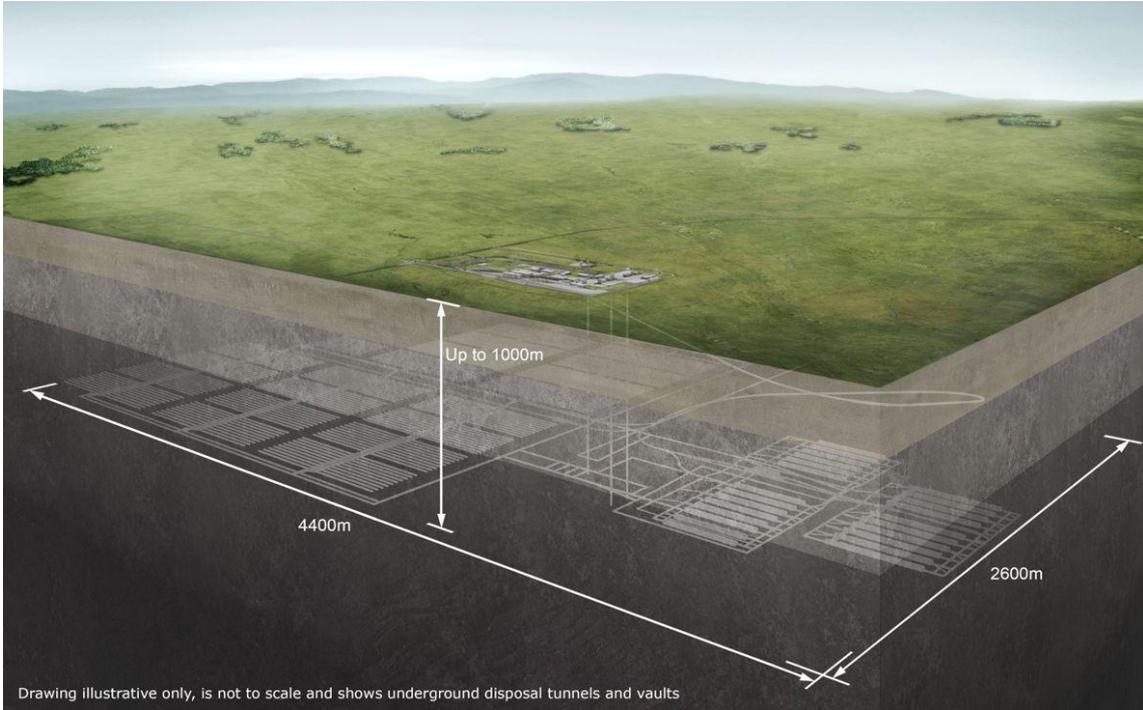
Geological disposal is the best approach to deal with these timescales.

Isolation from the surface environment protects the waste from:

- Climate change
- Sea Level changes
- Ice Ages
- Human intrusion
- Societal breakdown

# Geological Disposal

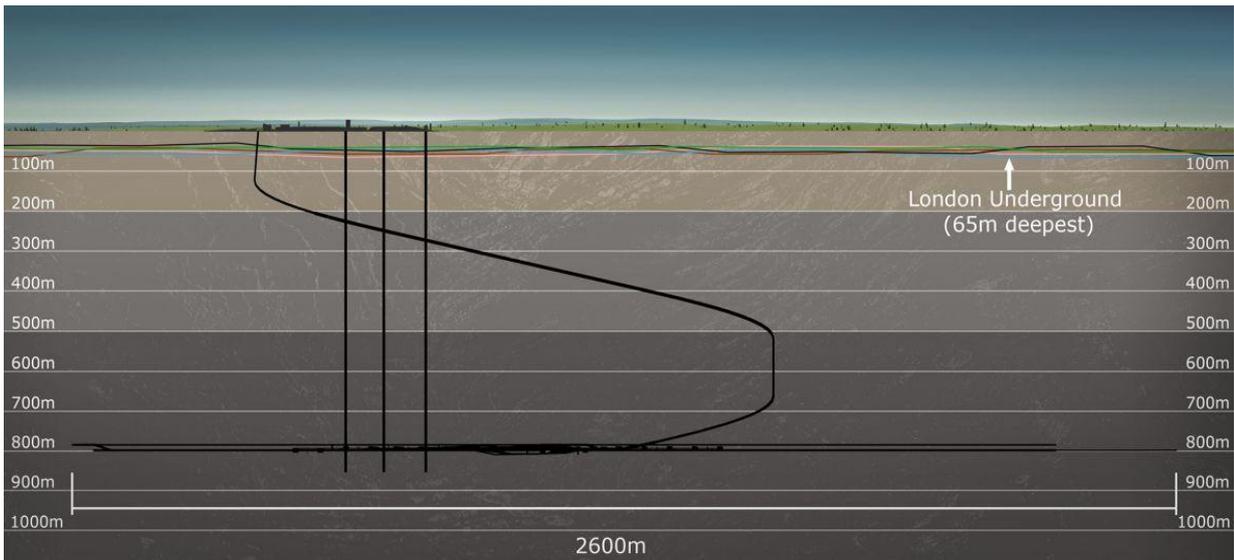
## The preferred solution



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# Geological Disposal

## What is it – big picture?

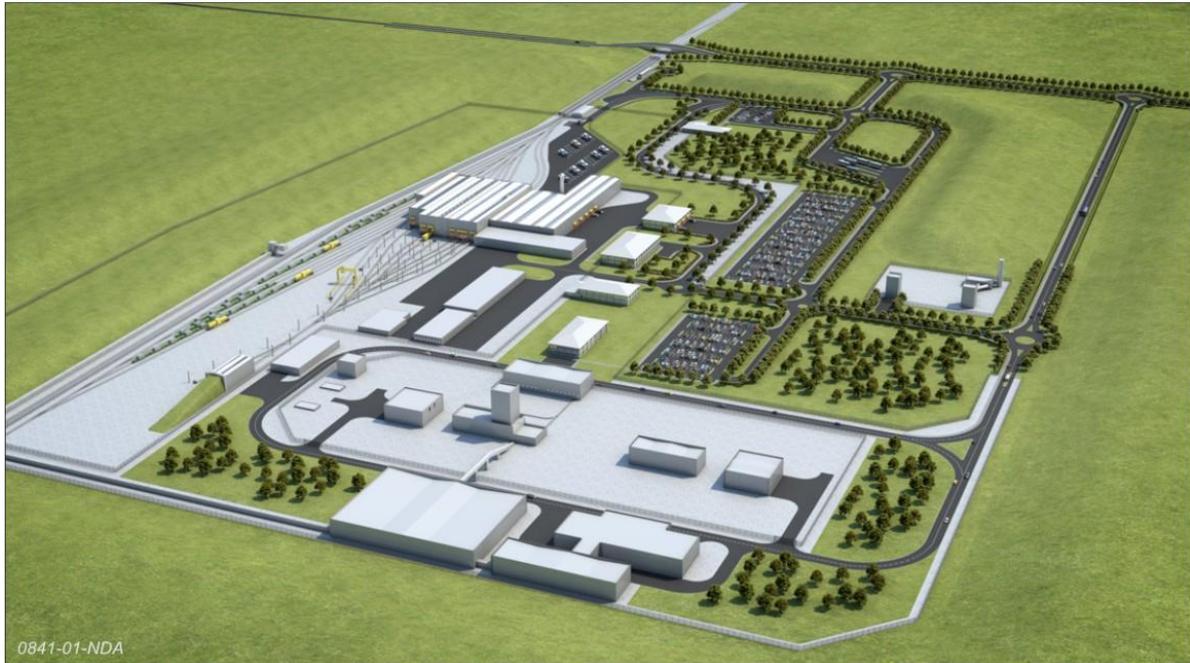


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# Geological Disposal Facility

## Surface facilities



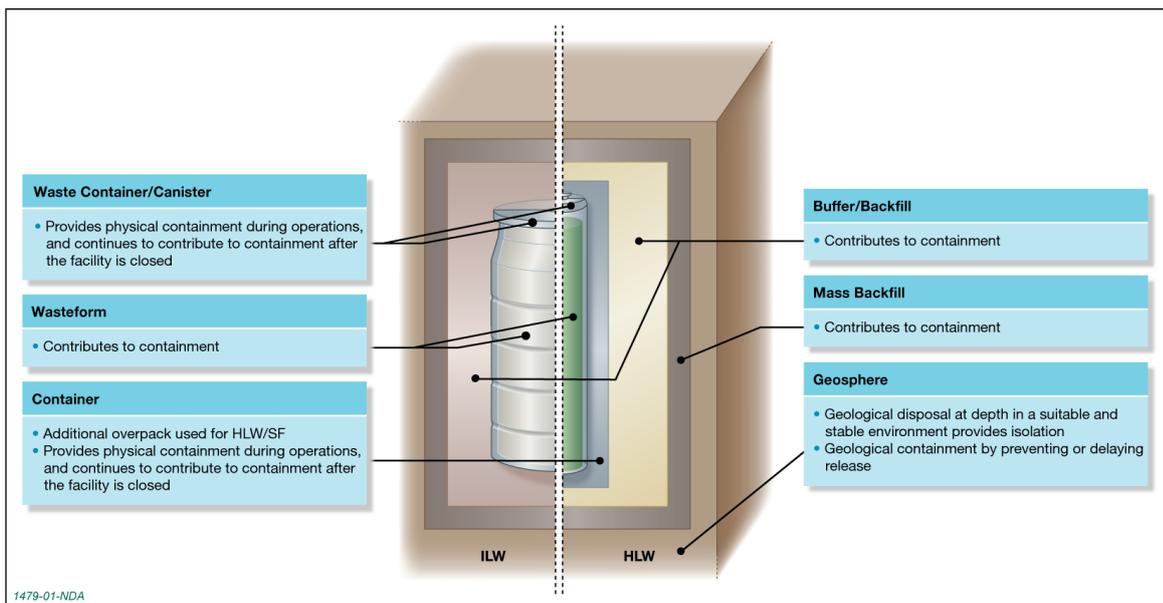
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# The Multi Barrier Concept

## Packaging barriers



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# Safety

How can we be sure?

- Strict regulatory controls through a staged process
- Package design and facility design
- Multiple barriers appropriate to particular types of waste
- Understanding the geology
- Understanding the hydrogeology
- Monitoring and retrievability?
- Natural decay
- Physical and chemical processes to protect from waste

24

## Intermediate Level Waste Disposal Design Concept



25



# High Level Waste / Spent Fuel Disposal Concept



26



## What are other countries doing?

43 countries deal with potentially harmful radioactive waste.

The countries which have made a decision about how to manage it have picked geological disposal as the safest and most secure solution:

Canada	Hungary	Slovakia
China	India	Sweden
Czech Republic	Japan	Switzerland
Denmark	Poland	Taiwan
Finland	Romania	UK
France	Russia	USA
Germany		

# Timescales

How long will this take?

- US WIPP** - **operational since 2001** work commenced 1974
- Finland** - siting began in 1983 facility to be operational ~ **2020**
- Sweden** - expression of interest in 1992, facility by ~ **2023**
- France** - siting began 1993 facility to be operational ~**2025**
- Belgium** - facility planned to be operational in ~ **2040**
- Switzerland** - facility planned to be operational in ~ **2040**
- UK** - facility anticipated ~ **2040 at the earliest**
- China** - facility anticipated ~ **2050**

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# Overseas Work

These things are a reality



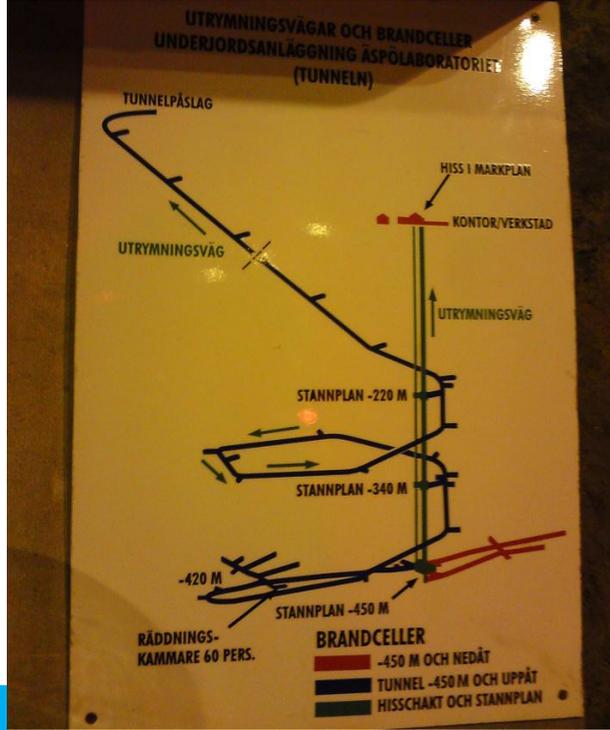
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Department of Energy & Climate Change

# Overseas Work

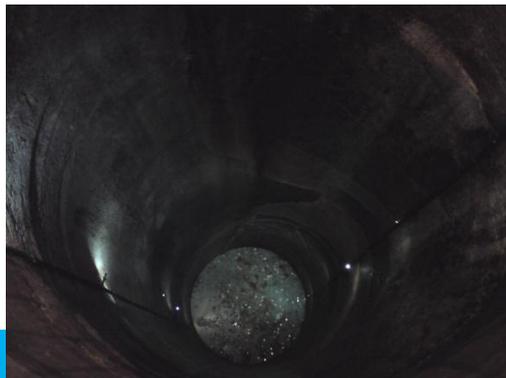
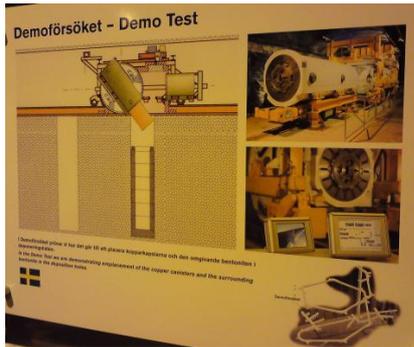
These things are a reality



Department of Energy & Climate Change

# Overseas Work

These things are a reality





# Overseas Work

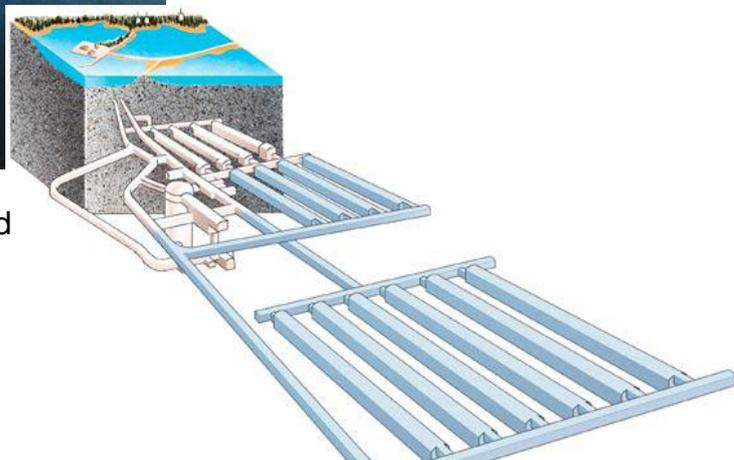
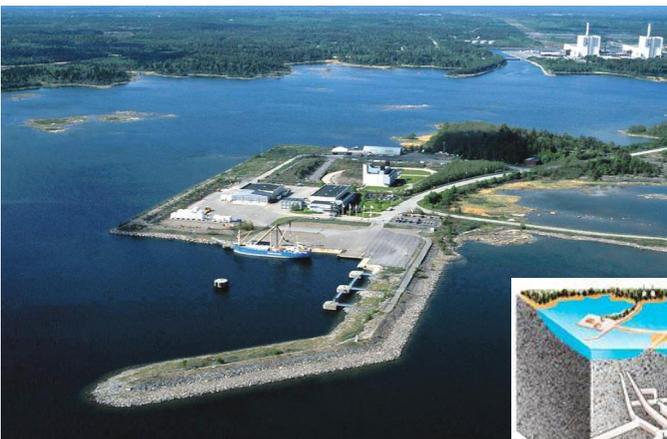
These things are a reality



32



## Sweden



Existing caverns and silos in white; planned in blue

33

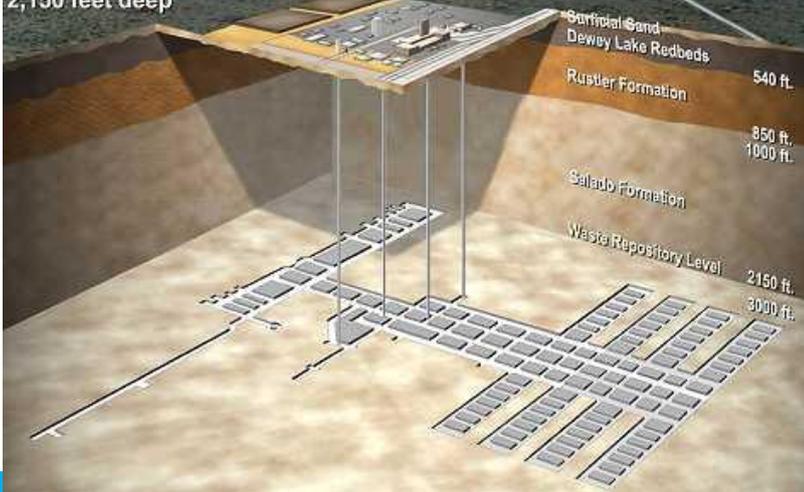


## Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

U.S. Department of Energy facility

Designed for permanent disposal  
of transuranic radioactive waste

2,150 feet deep



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## America

- long-lived wastes from defence applications
- disposal began in 1999
- site in New Mexico first identified in 1975
- two decades of work before an application for opening the repository was submitted in 1996



# Why is a GDF solution preferred?

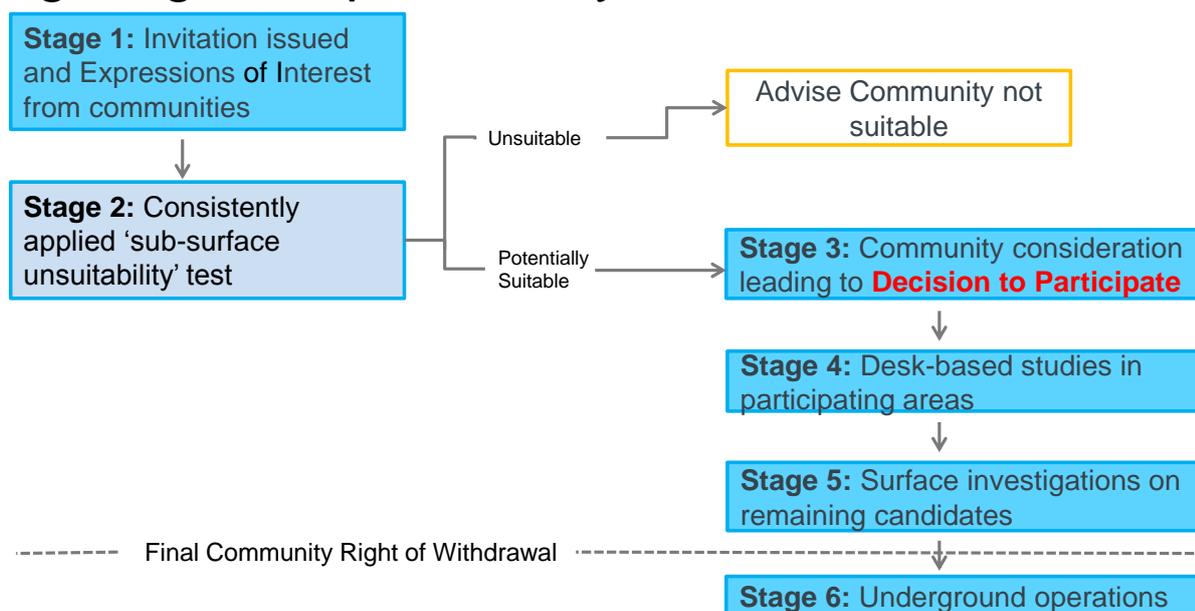
Workshop Day 1 – Presentation 1.5

# The previous process

Workshop Day 1 – Presentation 1.10

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## Previous process for selecting a site for geological disposal facility

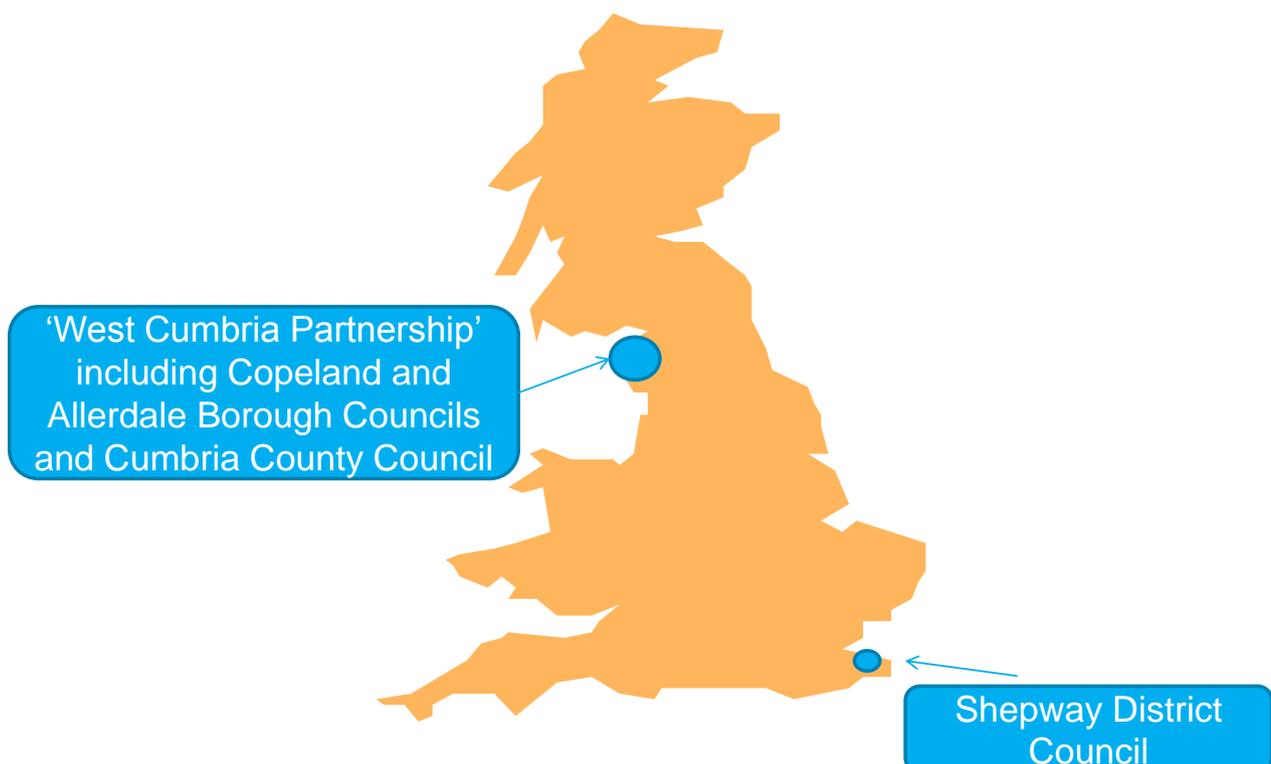


## How the previous process worked

- “Voluntarism” supported by a Right of Withdrawal
- Key role for the Community Siting Partnership
- Community engagement package would cover costs of participation, enabled effective engagement and gave access to independent advice
- The process anticipated that a facility would contribute to the well being and development of the host community
- Process was open and transparent subjected to independent scrutiny and regulation
- Underpinned by research and development

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## Who was potentially interested



## Progress in West Cumbria

- Initial geological screening revealed large areas that could not immediately be ruled out
- July 2012 – West Cumbria Partnership provided recommendations to councils
- January 2013 there was a vote
  - ✓ Allerdale and Copeland voted to continue in the process
  - X Cumbria County Council decided not to continue.
- Support needed at Borough and County level to proceed
- Process came to an end in West Cumbria

40

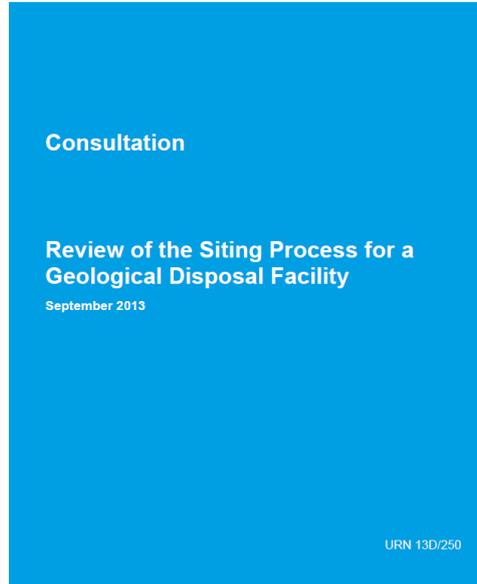
## What happened next?

- Government remains committed to geological disposal and implementation using voluntarism and partnership
- Confident new nuclear build can continue
- Overseas programmes have taken time to overcome obstacles
- Reflecting on experience of site selection process to date
- 13 May – 10 June 2013: Call for Evidence
- **Now a consultation to find a new workable solution to the process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility**

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# What happened next?

Now a consultation to find a new workable solution to the process for siting a Geological Disposal Facility



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## The previous process

Workshop Day 1 – Presentation 1.10

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# Welcome back!

Ipsos MORI  
Social Research Institute



## What we covered last week

Ipsos MORI  
Social Research Institute



## The story so far ...

3

We looked at the issue of radioactive waste and what we do with it.

As discussed, the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), recommended a Geological Disposal Facility

*It is important we have the best solution for our radioactive waste. When CoRWM was first created in 2003 it spent approximately 4 years looking at what the best option for the UK was. After extensive research ... it made the recommendation to Government that the best option was geological disposal.*



## The story so far ...

4

The previous process for finding a Geological Disposal Facility encountered problems with a split vote in west Cumbria.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change put forward some ideas on how best to involve communities who might be interested in hosting a geological disposal facility

These ideas have been published in a consultation document

The findings from this workshop, will sit alongside other responses to the consultation document

# What we will focus on today

## The aims for today

6

- To gather views from the general public on questions from the consultation document:
  - Approach to **community benefits**
  - **Impact** of hosting a Geological Disposal Facility
  - What is a **demonstration of community support**
  - At what points should the community have the **right to withdraw**
  - Who **represents the community** in decision making
- Plus how best to **inform communities** about hosting a Geological Disposal Facility

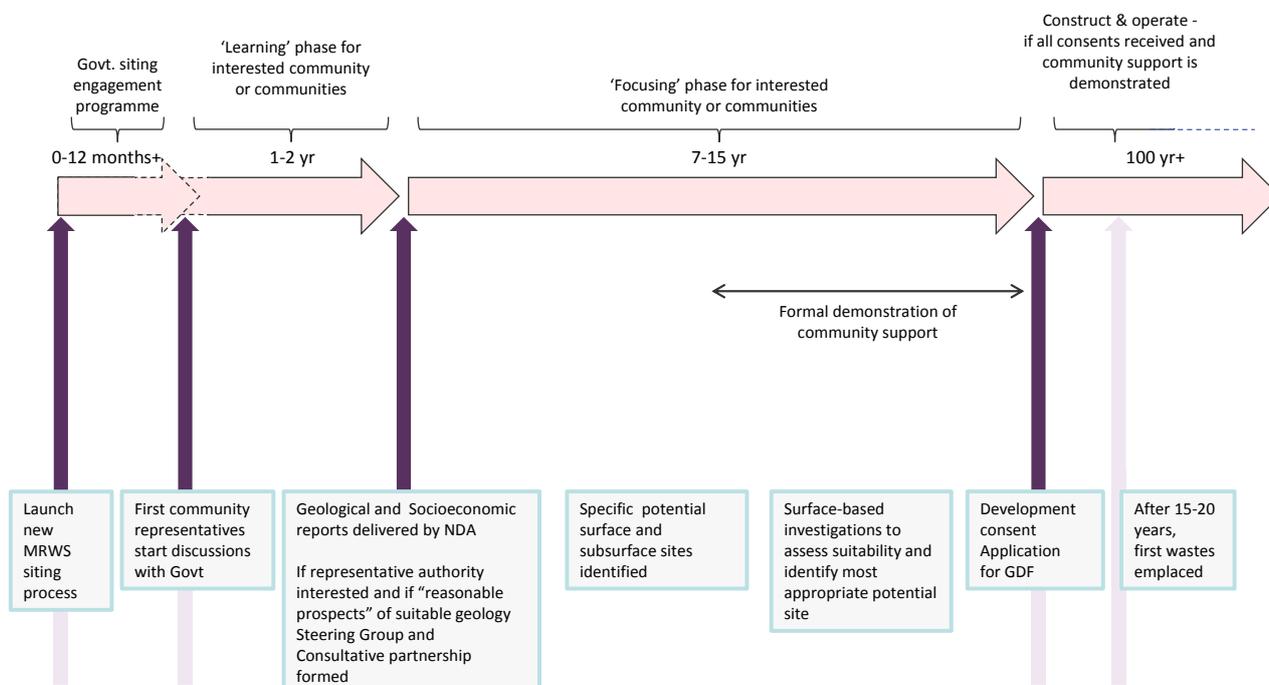
# Last week was about information and background This week is to talk about revising the GDF siting process

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Day 1	Day 2
✓ Introduction	Introduction
✓ What is radioactive waste?	Review of homework tasks
✓ The need for a permanent solution	The proposed new GDF siting process
Tea break	Tea break (11.10)
✓ Why is a GDF the preferred solution?	How should communities be involved?
✓ What is a GDF?	Who represents the community?
Lunch	Lunch (12.50)
✓ Who is involved in the GDF siting process	Making decisions and Right to Withdraw
✓ Problems faced in the GDF siting process	What information do communities need
Tea break	Tea break (15.15)
✓ Voluntarism and what is a community	Final messages to DECC

## Illustrative timeline – we’ll be using this a lot today!

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Holding a workshop here does **not** mean that this is a potential host community, communities will need to **volunteer** to participate

You are not deciding where the facility will go. We want your feedback on the process of how best to involve communities who might be interested in hosting a facility.

# Introductions and housekeeping

## Who is in the room?

11

### Experts

here to answer any questions you have today

### Observers

here to see how the process works and to hear at first hand what the general public are saying

### Facilitators

here to keep the discussions on track and to time

## Housekeeping rules

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- **We want to hear from everyone**
- **Treat one another with respect**
- **If something isn't clear, ask us!**
- **Everything you say is anonymous**
- **Please turn off mobile phones**
- **Breaks for food and drink**
- **Health and safety**



# Issues and queries from last week

## Parked issues



## Questions from suggestion box



# Issues and queries from last week

- **What is the purpose of the consultation? Why not go back to Cumbria?**
- **Have there been any accidents in the UK involving transporting nuclear waste?**
- **Why is a GDF considered to be better than other potential options?**
- **Why not conduct a geological survey of the country first before inviting communities to express an interest?**
- **What will happen if no communities volunteer?**
- **What is buried deep now may be much closer to the surface in 100,000 years' time. How will this be mitigated against?**
- **What say will communities neighbouring a volunteer community have?**
- **Why has no benefits package been put forward yet?**

## Issues and queries from last week

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- **What is the purpose of the consultation? Why not go back to Cumbria?**
- **Why is a GDF considered to be better than other potential options?**
- **What will happen if no communities volunteer?**
- **The public will need to be educated about the need to dispose of radioactive waste via a GDF.**
- **Would a GDF ever be built near a community, or would it only be built in a rural area?**
- **What happens if a community volunteers but the local geology isn't suitable?**

## Issues and queries from last week (1)

18

- **Why not conduct a geological survey of the country first before inviting communities to express an interest?**
- **The public will need to be educated about the need to dispose of radioactive waste via a GDF.**
- **Why has no benefits package been put forward yet?**
- **What safety procedures are there for a GDF e.g. relating to environmental impact, national security, or nuclear reaction?**
- **How would you prevent any local consultation or public events being dominated by people who scaremonger or 'shout the loudest'?**
- **How will the political will for the policy be carried on across various governments over 100+ years?**

## Issues and queries from last week (2)

19

- **Who will own the land where the GDF is sited? Compulsory purchase, or leasing?**
- **Views may change over time as demographics in an area change e.g. as new people move in. How is this accounted for?**
- **Why was this not addressed many years ago?**
- **How will you disseminate information about the GDF to the public?**
- **What are the potential economic benefits to the area where the waste will go?**
- **What will happen with Scotland's waste if it becomes independent?**
- **Will the geologists and engineers doing the assessments be independent?**

## Issues and queries from last week (3)

20

- **What will the total cost of the disposal of all the radioactive waste be?**
- **Couldn't the community benefits be seen as a bribe?**
- **How are GDFs overseas managed, and what could we learn from them?**
- **Will most of the transportation of waste to the GDF be by road or by rail?**

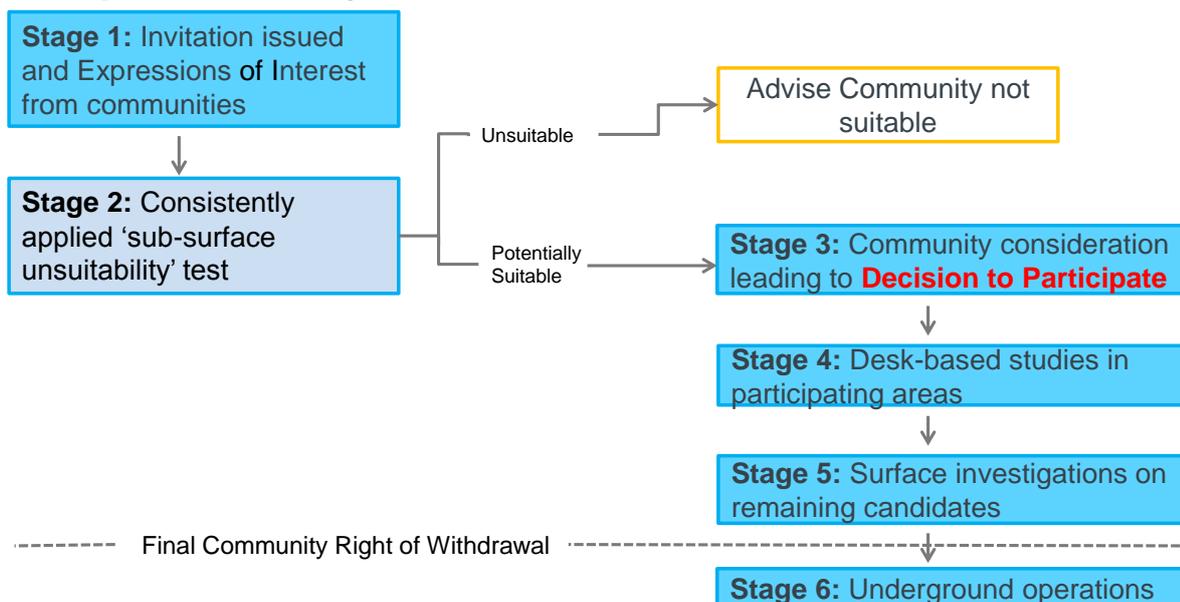


# DECC consultation proposals

Workshop day two: Presentation 2.3



## Previous process - selecting a site for geological disposal facility



## Lessons learned

- Need earlier information on **geology**
- Clearer on scale, nature and timing of **community benefits** and **when a community can withdraw**
- New **independent bodies** to review the process or to make decisions

3

## Lessons learned

- Support for **voluntarism**
- Lack of **trust** in the current process, DECC and / or RWMD
- Need to be clearer about the **decision making process**
- Clarity on **nature and scale of waste** for disposal in a GDF

4



# The consultation

It's **not** about whether or not we should have geological disposal.

We are interested in:

1. Views on the proposed revised process for siting a geological disposal facility.
2. Obtaining evidence on (and reasons for) any proposed alternative approaches.

5

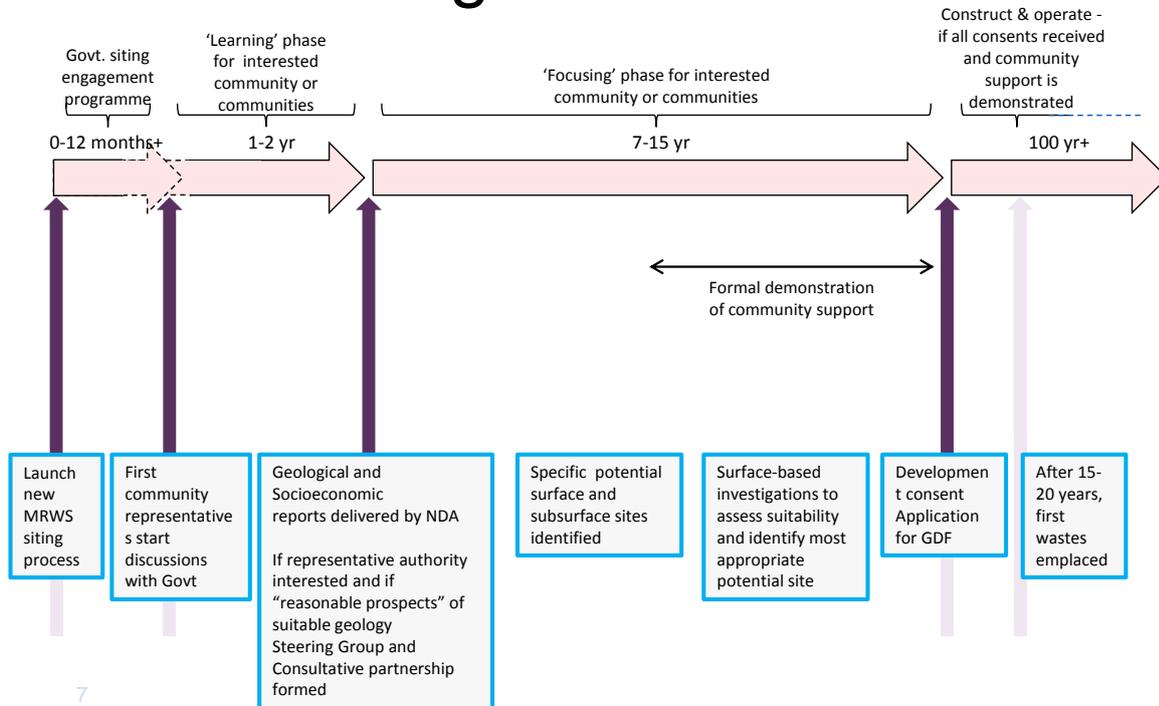


# Our proposals

- **Public information** sharing up front
- Clear, easy access info on **regional geology and inventory**
- National **planning** process
- Two phases: **learning and focusing**
- More info up front on scale and timings of **community benefits**
- Demonstration of **community support**
- **District Councils** act on behalf of community
- Community has **continuous Right of Withdrawal**

6 DECC introduction

# Indicative timings



## Exploring the proposals

Today we're keen to get your views on:

- **Involving communities** including the proposed process of 'learning' and 'focusing'; community benefits and the impact of GDF
- **Decision making and roles** including the role of district council and other organisations in the process

# Community benefits and impact assessments

Presentation 2.5

## Community benefits

<b>Previous process</b>	<b>PROPOSAL for consultation</b>
Government not clear on the amount of community benefits that would be available	Government to make clear, early in a revised siting process, the potential scale of community benefits
No significant payment of community benefits until a community commits to hosting a GDF	Start paying limited benefits to a potential host community during the 'Focusing' phase
Mechanism for delivering long-term community benefits unspecified	Government create a community fund – only able to retrieve these funds if a GDF was not constructed in the community

# Roles in the GDF siting process

Presentation 2.6

## Roles

Previous process	<b>PROPOSAL</b> for consultation
Government and RWMD's role largely passive and reactive	Government and RWMD to carry out national public awareness and engagement programme. RWMD, as the developer, to form part of 'Steering Group' with local councils
Lack of clarity over the role of locally-elected bodies	District Council to be specified as the local decision making body. 'Consultative Partnership' to provide a role for Counties and Parishes.
No formal means of independent verification or peer review of the process	Government to explore using CoRWM, a pool of professional peer reviewers and / or a new independent advisory body

# Decision-making

Presentation 2.9

## Decision-making

Previous process	<b>PROPOSAL</b> for consultation
A number of specified 'decision points' before each of the six stages can commence	A more continuous process of two phases, with an ongoing Right of Withdrawal
'Expressions of interest' sought from the launch of the siting process	A period of national public awareness raising and engagement before seeking volunteers
Level of local decision making not specified – to be determined by each participating area – which led to conflict and confusion	Specify that it is the District Council that will exercise the Right of Withdrawal during the siting process
No requirements on a local decision making body to consult with its community before committing to host a GDF	A possible requirement for a demonstration of community support before a community commits to hosting

Thank you for listening

Any questions

Email:  
[radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

An outline of the handouts used in the workshops is presented below, and copies of the handouts can be found below this table.

<b>Written materials</b>	
<b>Workshop Day 1</b>	
Handout 1.1	Agenda for the day, glossary of terms
Handout 1.2	What is radioactivity? Where is radioactive waste stored?
Handout 1.5	Illustration of the multi-barrier concept diagram
Handout 1.6	The practicalities of Geological Disposal Facility <i>Covered how large, how long it would take to build, benefits to host communities and impacts</i>
Handout 1.9	Page for note-taking during the video presentations from main organisations involved in the siting process
Handout 1.12	Voluntarism and partnership working definition
<b>Workshop Day 2</b>	
Handout 2.1	Agenda for the day, copy of the timeline used throughout the day
Handout 2.5	Definitions of: community benefits; and potential impact of a GDF
Handout 2.6	Definitions of: the representative authority; steering group and consultative partnership, and the role of the regulators and other bodies
Handout 2.8	Definition of: the right of withdrawal
Handout 2.12	Sheet used to gather participants' final thoughts on the issues discussed

## Glossary of the technical terms you will hear today

GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
MRWS	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely policy
HAW	Higher Activity Waste
HLW	High Level Waste
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
LLW	Low Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
BGS	British Geological Survey
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Nirex	Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive – no longer in existence
RWMD	Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, part of NDA
UKAEA	UK Atomic Energy Agency
GW	GigaWatt – the measure of electricity production. One giga Watt is 1,000,000,000,000 Watts. Your electricity bill will talk about Kilo Watts or 1,000 Watts
Becquerels (Bq)	<p>A Becquerel is how we measure radioactivity. 1 Becquerel – one atomic transformation per second:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,000 Bq can be found in 1kg of coffee or 1kg of granite;</li> <li>• 1,000,000 Bq = 1 megaBecquerel can be found in 1kg of LLW;</li> <li>• 1,000,000,000,000 = 1 teraBecquerel – 1 kg of vitrified HLW has 10 teraBecquerels.</li> </ul>

## Timetable for the workshop

<b>Day 1</b>
Introduction
What is radioactive waste?
The need for a permanent solution
Tea break (11.30)
Why is a GDF the preferred solution?
What is a GDF?
Lunch (12.55)
Who is involved in the GDF siting process
Problems faced in the GDF siting process
Tea break (14.50)
Voluntarism and what is a community

## Workshop materials – Day 1 – Handout for session 1.2

### Discussion session one: What is radioactivity

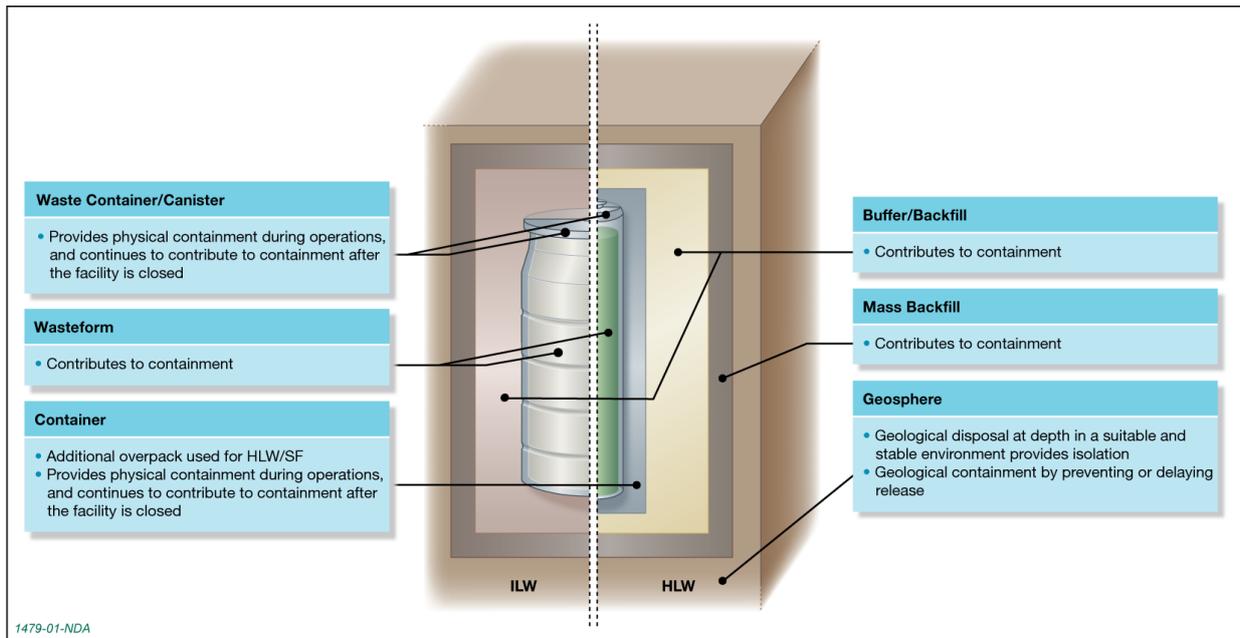
**Think about during this session:** is there any information you want to know about radioactivity? How do you feel about radioactive waste as an issue facing the UK now and in the future?

### Where is the waste stored now?



# The Multi Barrier Concept

## Packaging barriers

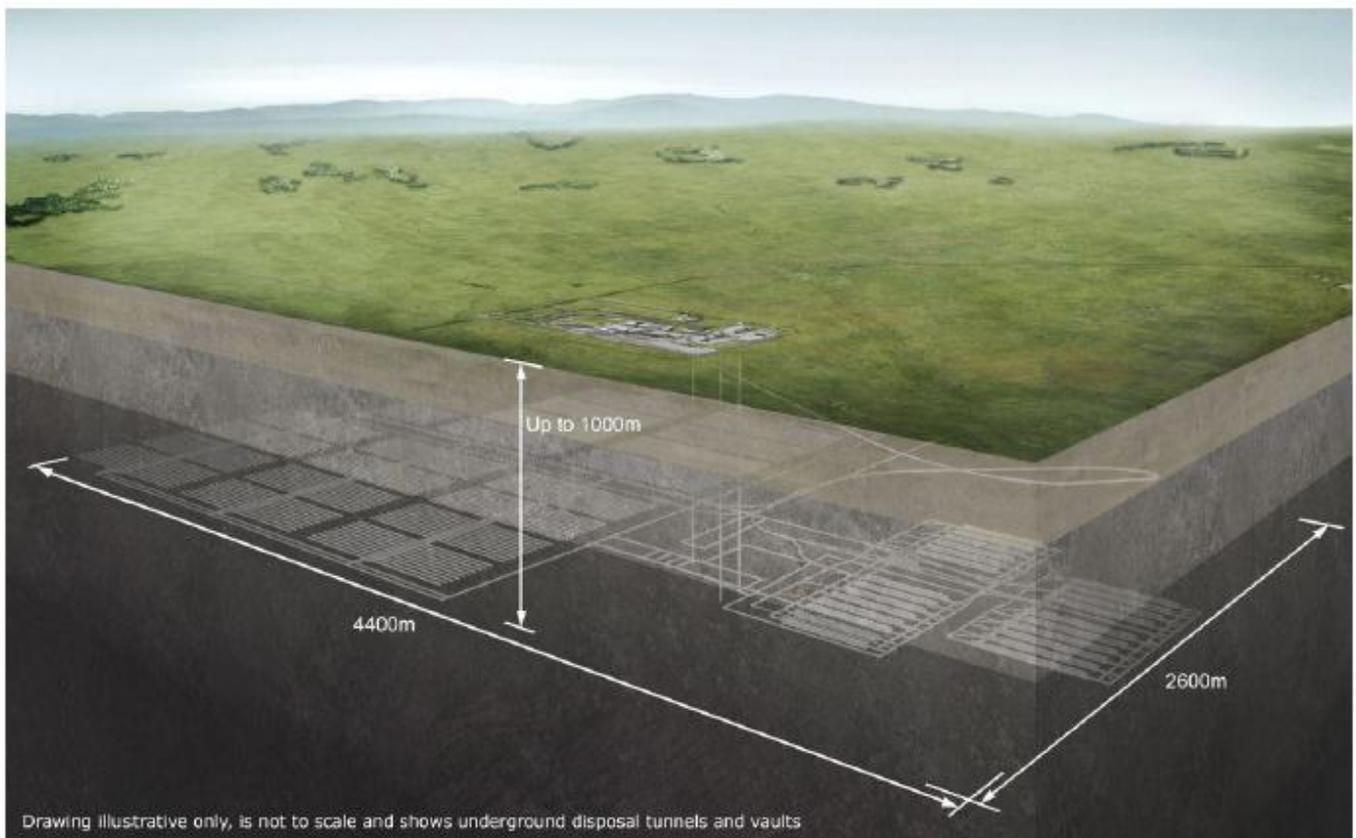


## Workshop materials – Day 1 – Handout for session 1.6

### Discussion session two: The practicalities of Geological Disposal Facility

#### 1.6.1 The likely size of a Geological Disposal Facility

##### How big will it be underground?



##### **Size comparisons**

Aspect	Size	Comparison
Depth beneath surface	200 to 1000 meters	Eiffel Tower is 324m high, The Shard is 310m high,
Expected size of underground facility	5.7Km <sup>2</sup>	About the size of 23 typical supermarket car parks, or 800 football pitches

## How big will it be on the surface?



## Size comparisons

Aspect	Size	Comparison
Overall size	1Km <sup>2</sup> or 100 Hectares	About the size of four typical supermarket car parks or 140 football pitches
Height of tallest building	30m	About 1½ Angels of the North (20m) or two-thirds of Nelson's Column (52m)

## **1.6.2 How long will it take?**

We can't be exactly sure how long it will take to construct a geological disposal facility or dispose of the waste, but international comparisons can help.

The only operating deep geological disposal facility for higher activity radioactive waste is in the United States, near Carlsbad in New Mexico. America began work on this facility in 1974 and it started operating in 2001. And Finland began looking into a facility in 1983 and it is expected to start operating in 2020.

Plus, it is also important to remember that the independent regulators will only allow a geological disposal facility to be built or operated if they are satisfied that it meets demanding safety, security and environmental standards.

- **The timescales are not precise**
- **The process for building a facility elsewhere in the world has taken around 30-40 years**

### **1.6.3 What benefits will local communities see from hosting the Geological Disposal Facility?**

As construction is continuous through the facility's operation, it is estimated that there will be an average of 550 jobs each year that need to be filled, with peaks of 1,000 vacancies.

On top of this, it is expected that there will be a further 231 jobs<sup>25</sup> available in related activities – for instance, for companies supplying goods and services to the facility. For instance, companies involved in the transport or packaging of waste to be disposed of in the facility.

There are also the secondary jobs that are created in the local area to consider too. For instance: in local garages; at nurseries to care for the children of the people who work at the Geological Disposal Facility; in local pubs, cafes and restaurants and so on.

We will discuss more about likely benefits on day two.

- **Potential employment opportunities both at the facility itself, and in wider services for the workforce**

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<sup>25</sup> Source: NDA, Geological Disposal – Manpower and skills requirements 2012 Update

#### 1.6.4 What other impacts could there be<sup>26</sup>?

- Disruption

As with any major construction project, there will be a certain amount of noise, dust and dirt generated. While much of the disruption will be contained within the construction site itself, it is likely that it will be visible from the immediate surrounding area, depending on the site chosen.

- Transport

There is also likely to be increased road and rail traffic as a result of the construction and maintenance of the facility. This may have a positive effect on transport links including new roads or rail links.

- Physical landscape

The building of the surface facilities will have some impact on the local environment. However, this will be more noticeable when the excavation work takes place for the facility due to the sheer amount of rock that is excavated.

This rock may be used for different purposes:

- to help screen the surface facilities from view;
- in other construction projects (for example as aggregate);
- kept on site to be used for infill for the facility when it is being closed.

The extent of these impacts will not be known until the search for a potential site begins, as it will depend on the precise local circumstances. However, some of the potential impacts can be minimised, for example through the use of schemes such as 'property value protection' (PVP) plans. These are schemes underwritten by the Government whereby homeowners receive compensation if, on trying to sell, they find that the value of their house has dropped significantly. Such schemes have been used overseas and provided reassurance and confidence to the affected communities.

Such PVP schemes are usually only developed when a specific site is found, so that geographic boundaries can be drawn, and clear rules for applying for compensation can be agreed.

- **Some noise, dust and dirt**
- **Increased traffic but likely to be accompanied by new road or rail links**
- **Excavation of large amount rock but this could be used for different purposes**
- **Compensation schemes could be put in place if there is an impact on property values when trying to sell the property**

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<sup>26</sup> Source: Entec Assessment Report (October 2010)

## Workshop materials – Day 1 – Handout for session 1.9

### **Video session one: main organisations involved in the siting process**

We are showing a video of the five organisations describing their role in the process. Make notes of any questions you have about the organisation or their role as we go through so that you can ask them at the end

Baroness Verma, DECC
Bruce McKirdy, RWMD
Helen Peters, CoRWM
Frans Boydon, ONR
Joe McHugh, EA

## Workshop materials – Day 1 – Handout for session 1.12

### Discussion session three: volunteering to host a GDF

#### Partnership working

Government policy is to encourage communities to volunteer to host a geological disposal facility, working with them on its development.

This approach has been recommended by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management who concluded in their original report that a process should be adopted whereby communities were **willing participants** working in partnership with an implementing body.

In using a voluntarism/partnership approach the government recognises that there will be local communities outside the host community that have an interest in whether or not a facility should be built there. Each of the relevant communities will need to liaise closely with one another as the process is taken forward.

## Workshop materials – Day 2 – Handout for session 2.1

### Timetable for the workshop

Day 1	Day 2
Introduction	Introduction
What is radioactive waste?	Review of homework tasks
The need for a permanent solution	The proposed new GDF siting process
Tea break	Tea break (11.10)
Why is a GDF the preferred solution?	How should communities be involved?
What is a GDF?	Who represents the community?
Lunch	Lunch (12.50)
Who is involved in the GDF siting process	Making decisions and Right to Withdraw
Problems faced in the GDF siting process	What information do communities need
Tea break	Tea break (15.15)
Voluntarism and what is a community	Final messages to DECC

### Glossary of the technical terms you will hear today

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MRWS	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely policy
HAW	Higher Activity Waste
HLW	High Level Waste
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
LLW	Low Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
BGS	British Geological Survey
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Nirex	Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive – no longer in existence
RWMD	Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, part of NDA
UKAEA	UK Atomic Energy Agency
GW	GigaWatt – the measure of electricity production. One giga Watt is 1,000,000,000,000 Watts. Your electricity bill will talk about Kilo Watts or 1,000 Watts
Becquerels (Bq)	A Becquerel is how we measure radioactivity. 1 Becquerel – one atomic transformation per second: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,000 Bq can be found in 1kg of coffee or 1kg of granite;</li> <li>• 1,000,000 Bq = 1 megaBecquerel can be found in 1kg of LLW;</li> <li>• 1,000,000,000,000 = 1 teraBecquerel – 1 kg of vitrified HLW has 10 teraBecquerels.</li> </ul>

## Workshop materials – Day 2 – Handout for session 2.5

### Section 2.5: Involving communities

#### Community benefits

The potential host communities are providing a service to the nation and therefore will receive certain benefits.

It is proposed that the scale of community benefits would be made clear early in the revised siting process and certain benefits would start during the focusing phase.

Likely benefits:

- **Engagement** funding. Ensuring that local authorities do not incur financial expenses in participating in the process, for example, when seeking the demonstration of community support for a GDF through surveys, referendums, citizen panels or any other method.
- **Community benefits package.** Could include direct payments to a community, starting as early as the beginning of the 'Focusing phase.'
- **Community Fund** which will constitute a long-term investment in the wellbeing of the host community.
- A community is also likely to see improved long-term **employment** and **education** plus **infrastructure** investments. An average of 550 jobs over the 100-year lifetime of the facility, with about 1000 jobs during peaks in construction.

***This is in response to lessons from previous process:***

- Government was not clear on the amount of community benefits that would be available.
- No significant payment of community benefits until a community committed to hosting a GDF.
- Government was not clear on the mechanism for delivering long-term community benefits.

**Question: What do you think about the proposed approach on community benefits associated with a GDF? Would you propose an alternative approach and, if so, why?**

## **Section 2.5: Involving communities**

### **Potential impact of a GDF**

There will be an impact to the host community from a GDF; for example, on local transport and environment. It is proposed that assessments of these and other issues, such as health, would be made at a general level early on, during the 'learning' phase.

This information would be used to help identify potential sites for a GDF during the 'learning' phase. More detailed work would happen once potentially suitable sites are identified, during the 'focusing' phase.

### ***This is in response to lessons from previous process:***

- The previous process set out that these types of assessments would only take place once a decision to participate had been taken.
- Most respondents to the call for evidence felt that more information should be provided at an early stage in the siting process, to reduce uncertainty around the potential effects of a GDF. This may include effects on the local environment, businesses, house prices and tourism.

**Question: What do you think about the proposed approach to addressing potential socio-economic and environmental effects that might come from hosting a GDF? What alternative approach would you propose and why?**

## Workshop materials – Day 2 – Handout for session 2.6

### Section 2.6: The siting process: roles and responsibilities

#### The representative authority

It is proposed that communities would be represented by one level of local government which would retain the on-going right to withdraw from the process.

In England, this would be the district council in two-tier areas or unitary authority in unitary areas.

Other tiers of local government (e.g. Parishes and Counties in England) would still have an integral role to play in the process, as well as in subsequent statutory planning and regulatory processes.

#### ***This is in response to lessons from previous process:***

- Level of local decision making not specified which led to conflict and confusion.
- The identification of the district council as the representative authority is a reflection of international and domestic experience which suggests that a single local authority should represent the interested community.
- It is also in line with the Government's localism policy, where we believe that the representative authority should be the one that represents the people most directly affected.

**Question: What do you think of the proposed amendments to decision making within the MRWS siting process? If you do not agree with them, how would you modify the proposed phased approach, or, alternatively, what different approach would you propose? Please explain your reasoning.**

## **Section 2.6: The siting process: roles and responsibilities**

### **The ‘steering group’ and ‘consultative partnership’**

Other bodies will still have important roles to play in addition to the ‘representative authority’.

A ‘**steering group**’ would be formed comprising the local representative authority, the UK Government and RWMD (as the developer). The group would review the viability and acceptability of the process; guide UK Government and RWMD (as the developer) on the execution of the ‘Focusing’ phase; and engage and communicate with the wider local community

There would also be a ‘**consultative partnership**’, providing another level of assurance. It would involve any stakeholder with an interest in the siting process (e.g. members of neighbouring authorities, business representatives, Parish Councils, local public services, residents groups, or non-governmental organisations). In a two-tier local authority area, we would expect the **County Council** to play a prominent role.

**Question: What do you think of the proposed amendments to decision making within the MRWS siting process? If not, how would you modify the proposed phased approach, or, alternatively, what different approach would you propose? Please explain your reasoning.**

## **Section 2.6: The siting process: roles and responsibilities**

### **The role of the regulators and other bodies**

It is proposed that both the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and, in England, the Environment Agency (EA) should play a more prominent role, engaging with communities throughout the siting process – but in a way that does not undermine their independence.

There are also roles for Natural Resources Wales and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency throughout the siting process.

Their involvement would increase public confidence in the stringent safety and environmental protection standards that a GDF will have to meet in order to obtain a nuclear site licence and environmental permits.

Constructive challenge and feedback on the proposals and implementation plans for a GDF would also be welcomed from non- governmental organisations and independent peer reviewers like academic groups such as the Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering and the Geological Society.

**Question: What do you think to this approach to revising roles in the siting process set out in the White Paper? If you do not agree, what alternative approach would you propose and why?**

## Workshop materials – Day 2 – Handout for session 2.6

### How local government works in England

Local government works in two main ways:

1. Two tiers (levels) of local government where there is both a **county** council and a number of **district, borough or city** councils
2. A single tier, such as **unitary authorities**, London boroughs or metropolitan boroughs

In single tier areas, the unitary authority is responsible for delivering all services to local residents. In two tier areas responsibility of providing services is split between them:

<b>County Council</b> is responsible for:  Education Transport Planning Fire and public safety Social care Libraries Waste management Trading standards	<b>District, borough and city councils</b> are responsible for:  Rubbish collection Recycling Council Tax collections Housing Planning applications
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In both systems, local councillors are elected to represent people who live in their area or ward every 3 years.

In addition to the councils described above, some areas also have **parish, community or town** councils. These councils are also elected and look after very local issues such as: allotments, public clocks, bus shelters, community centres, play areas. They also have the power to issue fixed penalty fines for things like: litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences.

While the full council is responsible for all decisions within its remit, regardless of the level, in practice most of the work is given to smaller groups of councillors (committees). Every council must publish:

- Details of when key decisions will be taken
- Papers of meetings
- Minutes of meetings

These can be viewed on their website. The public can attend most council meetings, but are not usually able to speak at them.

## Workshop materials – Day 2 – Handout for session 2.8

### Section 2.8: The siting process: roles and responsibilities

#### **Right of Withdrawal: testing public support**

A community, through its representative authority, could continue to progress through the siting process as long as it wished to. It would have an on-going 'Right of Withdrawal' which means it could stop the process at any time.

It is proposed that a community would also need to demonstrate that it had secured public support for hosting a GDF before that 'Right of Withdrawal' is removed.

Suggestions for how to demonstrate public support include:

- **Opinion polling:** where a surveys are carried out of the defined 'community', sometimes by an external organisation.
- **Citizens' panels:** where a sample of community members take part in a panel to consider GDF in their area.
- **Community hearing:** similar to citizen panels and often used in local democracy .
- **Referendum** in a suitably defined area: can be a vote in which an entire community is asked to either accept or reject GDF.

#### ***This is in response to lessons from previous process:***

- The previous process required communities to 'opt in' to a process before Government was able to provide them with the information they needed to be confident in this decision.
- Previously there were no requirements on a local decision making body to consult with its community before committing to host a GDF

**Question: Do you agree that a test of public support should be taken before the representative authority loses the Right of Withdrawal? If so, what do you think would be the most appropriate means of testing public support, and when should it take place? If you do not agree with the need for such a test, please explain why.**



## Regulating Geological Disposal

### **Joint working between the Environment Agency, and the Office for Nuclear Regulation**

The Office for Nuclear Regulation will work with the Environment Agency in England to regulate any future geological disposal facility (GDF) for radioactive waste in England. This will ensure that any future facility meets the required high standards for environmental protection, safety, security, waste management and radioactive waste transportation.

We are working together to provide a unified response to regulatory matters and prevent any problems that may arise when environmental and safety issues are considered separately.

### **Who are the regulators?**



The Environment Agency in England is responsible for the enforcement of environmental protection legislation in the context of sustainable development. The Environment Agency's remit is wide and its activities cover, for example, environmental pollution, waste management, flood risk management, water resources, fisheries and conservation.

The Environment Agency is responsible, in England, for regulating disposals of radioactive waste from nuclear licensed sites and other premises using radioactive substances. Disposals of radioactive waste include discharges into the atmosphere, surface waters and groundwater, disposals by transfer to another site and disposal to land including geological disposal.



The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) was launched on 1 April 2011 as an agency of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The ONR is now working towards becoming an independent public corporation.

ONR is responsible for regulation of safety, radioactive material transport safety, and nuclear security. ONR's role is to provide efficient and effective regulation of the nuclear industry, holding it to account on behalf of the public, by ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and by influencing the nuclear industry to create an excellent health, safety and security culture.

ONR is responsible for granting nuclear site licences to anyone installing or operating a nuclear installation.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Nuclear installations are defined in the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) and in the Nuclear Installations 1971. A geological disposal facility does not, at present, come under this definition. Government have made it clear that the necessary changes will be made to prescribe such sites under NIA65 and require a licence before construction begins.

## What is our role in geological disposal?

### Site Selection

During the site selection process for a GDF, we will provide guidance, advice, and comment on matters within our regulatory remit to communities, local authorities, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), the UK Government and others. We will provide information to increase awareness and understanding of our regulatory roles and processes. We will work with communities, the UK Government, and the NDA (the implementer for geological disposal) to build understanding of our regulatory requirements during the site selection process and before there is a need to apply for an environmental permit or a licence in the future. We will explain how we will ensure protection of people and the environment now and in the future.

### Construction

Prior to construction of a GDF, the developer will require a revised environmental permit under EPR10 and a nuclear site licence under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65). Once a revised permit and licence are granted, the regulators will ensure continuing safety through the conditions attached to the permit or licence. This regulators will also use of “hold points” to ensure that the developer does not progress beyond an agreed stage without the consent of the regulators.

### Closure

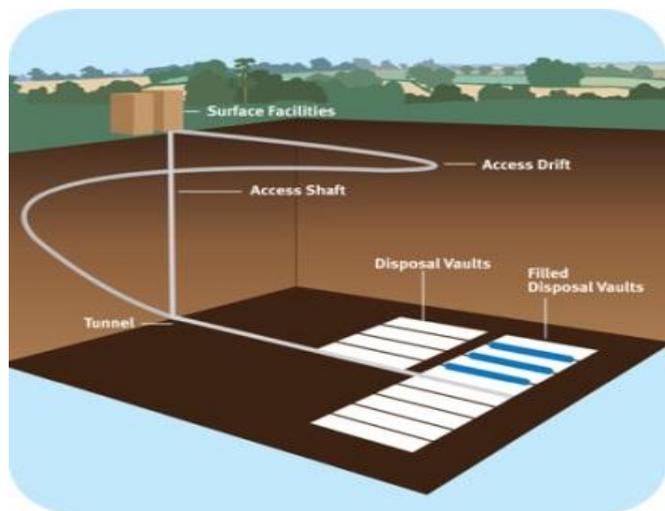
When disposal operations finish, the developer will need to be granted a revised environmental permit by the Environment Agency to allow start of closure operations, for example, backfilling of tunnels and sealing of access shafts and drifts. The operator will need to provide evidence that the closed GDF will meet regulatory requirements for long-term protection of people and the environment. The operator will continue to remain under regulatory control until the Environment Agency accepts surrender of the environmental permit; this might be many years after the underground facilities have been closed and sealed.

### Site investigations

Where a community is interested in hosting a GDF and agrees to proceed with investigations of a potential site or sites, the developer might decide to drill boreholes to investigate the geology. Under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (EPR10), the developer would need to be granted an environmental permit by the Environment Agency before starting such work. The Environment Agency will ensure that the work does not compromise the long-term safety of a possible geological disposal facility at a potential site. ONR or HSE<sup>28</sup> will also regulate such activities to ensure protection of workers and the public from a safety point of view.

### Operation

The operator will need to be granted an environmental permit by the Environment Agency before starting disposal of radioactive waste. The regulators will ensure continuing safety through the conditions attached to the permit and the nuclear site licence. The regulators will carry out regular inspections of the facility to ensure that the operator complies with regulatory requirements and notifies the regulators of any significant change or modification that may affect safety or environmental protection.



**Further information on joint working to regulate any future geological disposal facility for radioactive waste in England and Wales can be found on our website <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/geological-disposal>**

<sup>28</sup> ONR will take the lead for non-nuclear safety on licensed sites. Prior to licensing, the arrangements are not yet confirmed but ONR or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will lead. The standard of regulation will be similar whichever organisation leads.

## What are the key things you think DECC need to know

Please use the space below to write in your final thoughts on what you think DECC need to know about the different things we have talked through today and last week.

How should the GDF siting process should work?

How should communities be involved in the process?

Who should represent communities in the process?

What is a demonstration of community support, when should it be?

How should the right of withdrawal work?



## Printed and published materials used in Day 2 session 2.19

In section 10 on Day 2 of the workshops participants were invited to look at a range of different pieces of information around the management and regulation of radioactive waste. These pieces of information are detailed below.

Document	Originating organisation	Brief description
3a fsc glossary	Nuclear Energy Agency	Stakeholder confidence in radioactive waste management – an annotated glossary of key terms
MRWS Factsheet 1	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Factsheet produced in the previous GDF siting process to explain “Geological Disposal the facts”
MRWS Factsheet 2	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Factsheet produced in the previous GDF siting process to explain safety and security aspects of geological disposal
MRWS Factsheet 3	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Factsheet produced in the previous GDF siting process to explain potential benefits to host communities
MRWS Factsheet 4	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Factsheet produced in the previous GDF siting process to explain how the GDF siting process will work
EA only briefing note	Environment Agency	Briefing note for the general public to explain the Environment Agency’s role in monitoring geological disposal
EA or joint DL leaflet	Environment Agency and Office for Nuclear Regulation	Leaflet explain the organisations’ roles in regulating geological disposal
EA or joint postcard	Environment Agency	Postcard format description of the Environment Agency’s role in regulating geological disposal
Office for Nuclear Regulation : Nuclear Bulletin	Office for Nuclear Regulation	Example of e-bulletin about progress in geological disposal
Geological Disposal: Manpower and skills requirement	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Report on manpower and skills required to operate a GDF
Geological Disposal: Development of manpower and skills : Data summary – May 2011	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Updated report on manpower and skills required to operate a GDF

Geological Disposal: How the world is dealing with its radioactive wastes – July 2013	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Report on how other countries are dealing with their radioactive waste
EA example graphics sheet	Environment Agency	Graphics showing how a GDF would be built
Joint Regulation Factsheet – Oct 2013	Environment Agency and Office for Nuclear Regulation	2-page Leaflet explaining the joint roles for the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation
Leaflet 1 – What is radioactivity?	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Leaflet explaining what radioactivity is
Leaflet 2 – Radioactive wastes in the UK	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Leaflet showing what radioactive waste is and where it is stored in the UK
Leaflet 3 – What should we do with radioactive waste?	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Leaflet describing the options available for disposal of radioactive waste
Leaflet 4 – What are other countries doing with their radioactive wastes?	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Leaflet explaining what other countries are doing with their radioactive waste
MRWS – Sample tweets	Environment Agency and Office for Nuclear Regulation	Example tweets to show how this medium could be used in the GDF siting process
Office of Nuclear Regulation only Factsheet	Office for Nuclear Regulation	2-page note describing the role of the ONR
Office of Nuclear Regulation Information leaflet	Office for Nuclear Regulation	12-page Booklet describing the role of the ONR
Office of Nuclear Regulation Quarterly News	Office for Nuclear Regulation	Quarterly newsletter
Website – screen shots	Environment Agency	Example website page explaining geological disposal

## Appendix D: Questions asked in 'Talking Heads' videos

The following questions were asked of representatives from those organisations taking part in the talking heads videos shown at section 9 in the Day 1 Workshop Facilitation Plan.

1. *Who are you and what is your organisation?*
2. *What are the main responsibilities of your organisation?*
3. *Why does your organisation believe that the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste is important for the UK?*
4. *What will be your organisation's role during the GDF siting process?*
5. *What do you think the benefits would be to a community of hosting a GDF?*

## Appendix E: List of technical terms provided to workshop participants

Term	Definition
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
MRWS	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely policy
HAW	Higher Activity Waste
HLW	High Level Waste
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
LLW	Low Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
BGS	British Geological Survey
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Nirex	Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive – no longer in existence
RWMD	Radioactive Waste Management Directorate, part of NDA
UKAEA	UK Atomic Energy Agency
GW	GigaWatt – the measure of electricity production. One giga Watt is 1,000,000,000,000 Watts. Your electricity bill will talk about Kilo Watts or 1,000 Watts
Becquerels (Bq)	<p>A Becquerel is how we measure radioactivity. 1 Becquerel – one atomic transformation per second:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,000 Bq can be found in 1kg of coffee or 1kg of granite;</li> <li>• 1,000,000 Bq = 1 megaBecquerel can be found in 1kg of LLW;</li> <li>• 1,000,000,000,000 = 1 teraBecquerel – 1 kg of vitrified HLW has 10 teraBecquerels.</li> </ul>

### Tasks To Do

We would like to you to carry out a task before the next session.

We hope you find it interesting and thought provoking – it should take you about an hour.

**Choose one of the two tasks** below and make full notes of what you do – we'll be asking you to feed back next time!

If you have any problems completing the task, or more questions, call **Stefan Durkacz on 0207 347 3908**.

Thank you!

The Ipsos MORI team.

#### TASK 1: YOU'RE THE INTERVIEWER!

With a friend or family member, tell them about the workshop you attended today. You can also show them the materials we used. Tell them what you learned and how you found the day.

Then ask them the following questions and note down their answers as fully as you can. You should use the questions as a start point for a discussion and give us as much detail as possible about what your friend thinks.

#### About the person you are interviewing

**What is your name? How old are you?**

**What do you do?**

**Geological disposal of radioactive waste...**

Have you heard of geological disposal before as an option for disposing of radioactive waste? If so, what have you heard and from where?

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*Explain to them what geological disposal is based on what you've learned from the workshop.*

Imagine that the Government wanted to find out if local people in this area would accept a geological disposal site.

What do you think would be the most important things that you would need to know to enable you to decide whether or not you would support a geological disposal site in this area?

*Prompt them with some of your own ideas if they can't think of anything – and keep asking them "What else?" until you have a list of ideas.*

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*Go through each of the things your friend suggests one by one.*

*Why is this idea important?*

*What would this look like in practice?*

*Would there be any difficulties in making this happen?*

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## TASK 2: ONLINE INFORMATION SEARCH

Using Google, find out some more about geological disposal of radioactive waste in another country. This could be information from any country which has considered how to dispose of their waste.

What did you search for? What were the exact search terms you used?

Which websites did you find? What did you think of them? How much did you trust each one, and why?

What information did you discover? What did you find out about countries other than the UK?

What was interesting or surprising?

How did you satisfy yourself that the information was correct and accurate?

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