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Management of Overseas Origin
Nuclear Fuels Department of
Energy & Climate Change,
Mezzanine 55 Whitehall, London,
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Date: 15 March 2014
Ref:

consultation; tail ends reprocessing

Dear sirs

As a local resident I am very concerned about the proposals to store foreign nuclear waste indefinitely at Sellafield.

All THORP contacts and most of the Dounreay contracts had a clause to allow return to the customer if reprocessing were not carried out. **Why is the option to return unreprocessed fuels not being invoked?**

Contracts entered into by UKAEA for Dounreay reprocessing are Scottish Nuclear Waste and as such should be the responsibility of the Scottish Executive or government if independence is granted in the future. **England should not become the dumping ground for Foreign [Scottish] Nuclear Waste.**

No action should be taken to move the Scottish waste until the political situation is clarified and the responsibilities, liabilities and costs [monetary and environmental] are agreed.

England does not have a final solution to the waste disposal problem. Successive governments have ignored the issue which will not go away. France is now developing a dump in clay geology, which as is well known has many technical advantages to immobilise radioactive species. England is currently only considering as nuclear dump sites unsuitable and non-ideal geologies full of geological faults [which promote spread of radioactivity in ground water flows] and lacking the special chemical binding properties of clay**. There are suitable clay formations in the UK [eg the Thames Basin] which would offer better technical solutions than are available in Cumbria.**

No action should be taken to move waste from other parts of the UK for interim storage in Cumbria, including specifically from Scotland, **until a Nuclear waste dump is operating.**

Is "Interim Storage" safe? Concrete Cask storage is untried technology in the UK. Various problems have occurred with Interim Storage Casks elsewhere where this technology has been used [eg pressurisation of containers due to corrosion from boronated water]. Pond Storage is not good alternative method for indefinite interim storage. **Indefinite Interim Storage is not a satisfactory alternative to proper treatment of nuclear waste.**

Yours faithfully

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