

16th January 2012

Dear Colleague,

CALC CONFERENCE – 7 JANUARY 2012
“GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN WEST CUMBRIA?”

Thank you for participating in the conference on 7 January. I hope you found the morning useful.

I attach some notes from the conference:

- Copies of the slides from the two presentations
- A summary of the key issues and questions raised in the discussion groups
- A list of everyone who attended the event

Copies of these notes will be sent to the clerks of all parishes in West Cumbria and placed on the CALC website. I will be advertising their availability to all parishes in the next CALC Circular.

Yours sincerely



David Claxton
Chief Officer

Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste in West Cumbria ?

How will your council respond ?

Feedback from the CALC Conference held at the Hunday Manor Hotel, Winscales on Saturday 7th January 2012.

Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste in West Cumbria ?

Feedback from the CALC Conference held at the Hunday Manor Hotel, Winscales on Saturday 7th January 2012.

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CALC MRWS Conference 7 January 2012
Hunday Manor Hotel, Workington

List of Parish Attendees

No	Parish	District	Surname	Forename
1.	Above Derwent	Allerdale	Davidson	Geoff
2.	Above Derwent	Allerdale	Davies	Geoff
3.	Above Derwent	Allerdale	Throp	Margaret
4.	Appleby	Eden	Blair	A
5.	Arlecdon & Frizington	Copeland	Fox	Peter
6.	Bampton	Eden	Hughes	Neil
7.	Beckermet	Copeland	Manning	Peter
8.	Beckermet	Copeland	Matthews	Edwin
9.	Borrowdale	Allerdale	Carter	Becx
10.	Brigham/Weddicar	Allerdale	North	Tony
11.	Cleator Moor	Copeland	Messenger	Margaret
12.	Cleator Moor	Copeland	Denwood	Michelle
13.	Cockermouth	Allerdale	Davis	Len
14.	Crosscanonby	Allerdale	Smith	Geoff
15.	Crosscanonby	Allerdale	France	Kevan
16.	Dean	Allerdale	Worsley	Anthony
17.	Dean	Allerdale	Haslam	Sarah
18.	Distinguon	Copeland	Bowman	John
19.	Distinguon	Copeland	Bowman	Jackie
20.	Drigg & Carlton	Copeland	Hitchin	Keith
21.	Drigg & Carlton	Copeland	Dalton	Adrian
22.	Embleton & District	Allerdale	Petecni	Rick
23.	Embleton & District	Allerdale	Shepherd	Claire
24.	Ennerdale & Kinniside	Copeland	Wood	David
25.	Gilcrux	Allerdale	Perry	Jill
26.	Gosforth	Copeland	Polhill	Dave
27.	Gosforth	Copeland	Gray	David
28.	Gosforth	Copeland	Hutson	Dr Graham
29.	Greysouthen	Allerdale	Woodcock	Ann
30.	Greysouthen	Allerdale	Harbron	Don
31.	Haile & Wilton	Copeland	Hunter	Steve
32.	Haile & Wilton	Copeland	Routledge	Dorothy
33.	Haile & Wilton	Copeland	Phipps	Elizabeth
34.	Haile & Wilton	Copeland	Shaw	Helga
35.	Haile & Wilton	Copeland	Reed	Joyce
36.	Haile & Wilton	Copeland	Smith	Gordon
37.	Holme St Cuthbert	Allerdale	Molyneux	John
38.	Holme St Cuthbert	Allerdale	Gibbons	Paul
39.	Kendal	South Lakeland	Neall	Dr Fiona

40.	Keswick	Allerdale	Walker	Lynda
41.	Kirkby Stephen	Eden	Albon	Margaret
42.	Kirkby Stephen	Eden	Lumley	Glenys
43.	Lakes	South Lakeland	Truelove	Paul
44.	Lazonby	Eden	West	Chris
45.	Lorton	Allerdale	Poate	Chris
46.	Loweswater	Allerdale	Coles	Roger
47.	Millom Without	Copeland	Giles	Jack
48.	Moresby	Copeland	Troughton	Nick
49.	Muncaster	Copeland	Turner	Eileen
50.	Muncaster	Copeland	Entwhistle	Christine
51.	Oughterside & Allerby	Allerdale	Simcock	Nigel
52.	Oughterside & Allerby	Allerdale	Young	Paul
53.	Parton	Copeland	Bestford	Louisa
54.	Patterdale	Eden	Cooke	Judith
55.	Ponsonby	Copeland	Jones	Bob
56.	Ponsonby	Copeland	Stewart	Ranald
57.	Preston Richard	South Lakeland	Brakewell	John
58.	Seascale	Copeland	Batten	Sonia
59.	Seascale	Copeland	Eastwood	Eileen
60.	Seascale	Copeland	Pateman	Helen
61.	Seaton	Allerdale	Sandwith	Joe
62.	Skelton	Eden	Jolley	Terry
63.	St Bees	Copeland	Moules	Sean
64.	St John's, Castlerigg etc	Allerdale	Bickerdyke	Sally
65.	Underskiddaw	Allerdale	Soulsby	Pauline
66.	Underskiddaw	Allerdale	Wilson	Jim
67.	Wetheral	Carlisle	Holland	Jocelyn
68.	Whicham	Copeland	Capstick	Susan
69.	Whicham	Copeland	Gilligan	Lynette
70.	DECC		Dalton	John
71.	CALC		Richardson	Guy
72.	CALC		Claxton	David
73.	CALC		Shaw	Chris
74.	CALC		Bagshaw	Chris
75.	CALC		McCleery	Amanda
76.	CALC		Dumpleton	Gwen

Total 69 parish attendees from 15 Copeland parishes, 1 Carlisle parish, 17 Allerdale parishes, 6 Eden parishes, 3 South Lakeland parishes.

42 different parishes.

CALC conference: MRWS Update

7th January 2012

John Dalton
Assistant Head, Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
Office for Nuclear Development

UK nuclear history

- UK has been a “nuclear nation” since the 1940s
- Early work in support of weapons programme (Windscale)
- World’s first commercial nuclear power station (Calder Hall 1956-2003)
- Reprocessing to obtain useful materials
- Research reactors (Harwell) – Fast Breeders (Dounreay)
- Fuel manufacturing sites in support
- UK technology choices – Magnox and AGR



Where is the waste ?

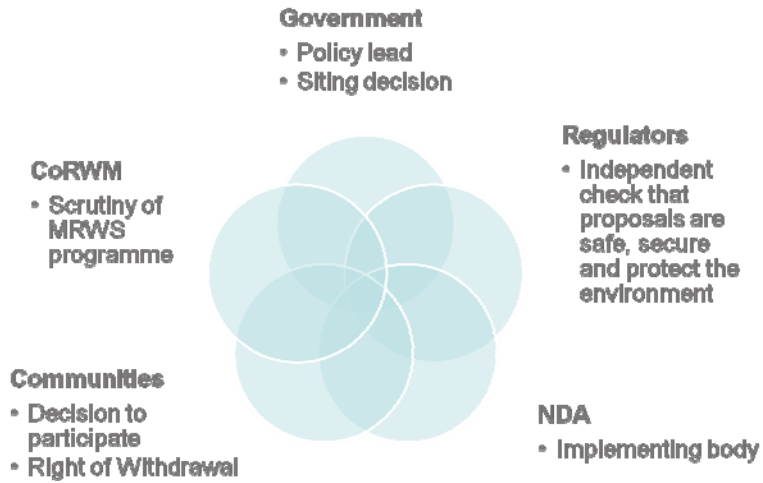


MRWS Programme

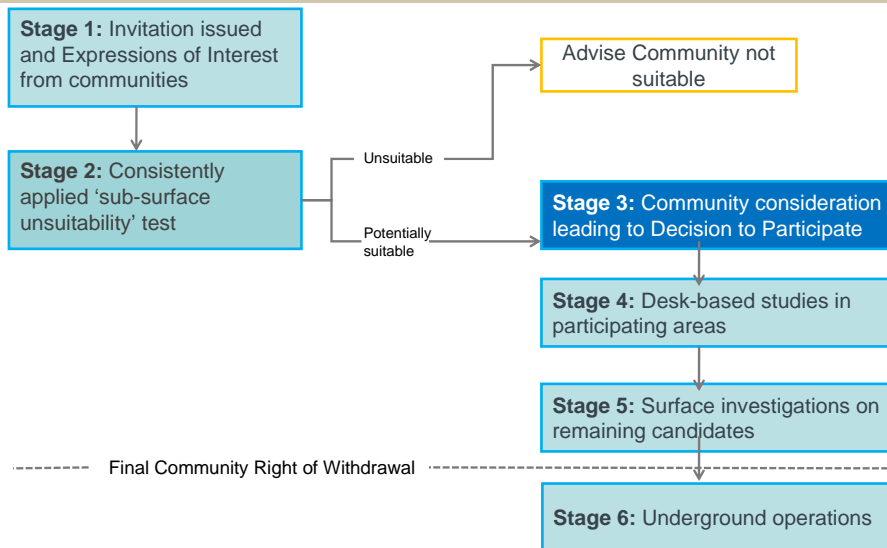


- 1999 Lords' Science and Technology Committee
- 2003 Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
 - "to undertake a thorough review of all the options for managing the higher activity wastes and recommend an option, or combination of options, that could provide long-term protection to people and the environment, and that could inspire public confidence"
- 2006 CoRWM recommendations
 - Geological disposal
 - Safe and secure interim storage
 - Research & Development
 - Flexible and staged decision-making based on engagement and willingness to participate
- 2008 MRWS White Paper / invite to communities
- 2008/9 3 expressions of interest (Copeland/Allerdale areas of Cumbria)
- Invite still open

Who is involved ?



Site selection process



What's happened so far?



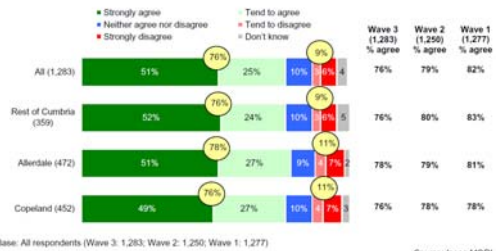
- 2008 – Call for volunteers
- 3 Expressions of Interest (for 2 areas)
- Establishment of West Cumbria MRWS Partnership (LAs, trade unions, tourism, chamber of commerce, National Farmer's Union, National Park etc)
- BGS initial 'sub surface unsuitability' test
- Ongoing local engagement
 - Safety
 - Community benefits
 - Siting/Planning
 - Impacts
 - Inventory



Local community engagement in west Cumbria



- 6-weekly partnership meetings, open to the public
- Two rounds of public and stakeholder engagement completed
- Round 3 – Late 2011 - Final planned public consultation round prior to 'decision to participate' (or not?)
- Move into Stage 4 (or not?) – spring 2012?



Wider engagement

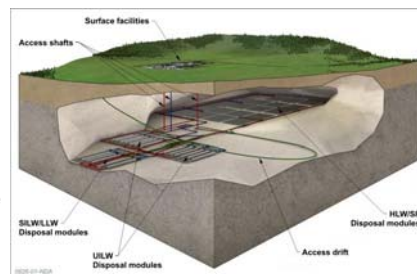
“Voluntarism” in practice



Why get involved?



- Inherent benefits from hosting large-scale, long-term engineering project
 - Average of over 550 jobs per year (1,000 during construction stage)
 - Majority skilled and professional
 - Over £2 billion likely to be paid in wages
 - Potential spin-off developments
- Inward investment mitigation of impacts
 - Will depend on location
 - Could include transport and infrastructure
- Additional community benefits package
 - Depends on local needs and aspirations
 - Short and long-term measures to be included
- Overall, significant investment in the area that ultimately hosts a GDF



Further information



- www.decc.gov.uk/ - DECC Website
- mrws.decc.gov.uk - Dedicated MRWS Website
- www.nda.gov.uk - NDA Website
- www.corwm.org.uk - CoRWM Website
- westcumbriamrws.org.uk - West Cumbria MRWS Partnership
- www.environment-agency.gov.uk/geo-disposal - Joint regulators website on their role in geological disposal

CALC CONFERENCE

GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN WEST CUMBRIA?

HOW WILL YOUR COUNCIL RESPOND?

Guy Richardson
CALC MRWS Advisor

CALC, Cumbria Association of
Local Councils

The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

- “Decision to Participate” – end of Stage 3; whether to participate with Government in looking for a site for a GDF
- Assist DMBs in making a decision about participation
- Build understanding within Partnership and general public about MRWS process and benefits and disbenefits of a GDF.
- Membership wide but no ‘green’ groups

CALC, Cumbria Association of
Local Councils

Whether to participate?

- Establish criteria
- What we are looking for
- “Do we know enough?”
- “Is what we know acceptable to us at this stage to justify entering the siting process?” (ie Stage 4)

CALC, Cumbria Association of
Local Councils

Partnership's Consultation Document

- Initial opinions about the degree to which each criterion has been satisfied
- Do you agree?
- Does the evidence support the conclusion/opinion?

CALC, Cumbria Association of
Local Councils

CALC's involvement

- CALC invited to represent parishes
- Consultation with member councils in summer 2009.
- "Position Statement"
- A neutral position
- Participation has been challenging

CALC, Cumbria Association of
Local Councils

Two issues

- Imbalances in Partnership and problems of "predisposition"
- "Voluntarism" – DMBs will decide. The wider community view vs the host community view.

CALC, Cumbria Association of
Local Councils

Finally.....

- After this consultation the Partnership will prepare a Final Report for the DMBs
- 'Voluntarism' gives local communities a real voice
- How will your council respond?

CALC, Cumbria Association of
Local Councils

The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership's consultation
“GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE
IN WEST CUMBRIA?”

Some Key Issues for Local Councils to Consider

Below are *some* of the key issues and questions identified by the participants in the CALC conference held on 7 January 2012. Other issues can be found in the notes for each discussion group. Please consider these issues before making your response to the consultation.

Chapter 4: Geology.

- Whether better evidence of the possible suitability of the geology should be obtained before making a commitment to participate in the siting process.
- Whether the NDA should be required to describe in advance the detailed characteristics of the geological environment it is looking for.

Chapter 5: Safety, security, environment and planning.

- Does the national policy of deep geological disposal seem sound?
- Whether more could be done to reassure lay communities that the regulatory framework will be fully competent in the short and longer term.
- Have the possible impacts on the National Park been given sufficient attention at this stage?

Chapter 6: Impacts of a Repository

- Whether the 'brand protection' research (e.g. impacts on the Lake District tourism brand) commissioned by the Partnership needs to be completed and consulted on prior to any decisions.
- Have the really very long term impacts of a GDF been adequately considered?

Chapter 7: Community Benefits Package

- How should the benefits be allocated across the area, including between the three tiers of local government and local communities ?
- What will be the process for putting together proposals for community benefits to central government and how will local councils be involved in it ?
- If principal authorities are minded to proceed to the next stage, is there a strong argument that such a decision should be conditional on a satisfactory package of community benefits being agreed in principle with central government before further studies take place ?

Chapter 10: The Process for Siting a Repository (and other issues about the MRWS process generally)

- whether in the proposed Stage 4 siting process the balance of influence between local community/local council interests and wider community/Principal Authorities' interests is appropriate.
- whether there is confidence in the essential features of the MRWS process (e.g. voluntarism, role of Decision Making Bodies, Right of Withdrawal etc).
- Is the Partnership's approach to measuring levels of community support (Appendix 3) satisfactory?

CHAPTER 4, GEOLOGY

Criterion a) Integrity of BGS Screening Report

NB Such a report obligatory part of process – demanded in Government White Paper.

Both groups agreed that the report ruled out unsuitable areas based on limited criteria (namely minerals or drinking water that future generations might wish to access. Any drilling could inadvertently hit repository). Both groups agreed that the report therefore had a narrow remit.

There is no report stating what kind of rock would actually be suitable. But, councillors felt that if the rock was not clearly suitable, then even more technical research would be needed. There was a suspicion that NDA would somehow make rock of agreed site work.

Second group emphasized that the distance between surface facilities and repository could be up to 10km. It meant that, though it was unlikely that the surface facilities would be built in the National Park, the repository could be, and the whole MRWS consultation was not just about West Cumbria coast.

Criterion b) Sufficient Areas Left

(i) Amount of Land (quantity)

Sufficient area appears to be left, after unsuitable areas have been screened out by BGS report, in a physical sense.

(ii) Geological Suitability (quality)

Again, no organisation or reports stating what rock would actually be suitable. Indeed, Professor Smythe felt that all the geology was unsuitable. Although other geologists say that they just don't know yet.

A key issue for one group therefore was insufficient information and evidence to answer this criterion. Detailed desk top studies or bore holes investigations have not happened, and are only scheduled for after the decision by the three authorities as to whether to participate in looking for a site. Instead, the group wanted to know more about the geology search before that decision is made.

The other group wanted to know more about whether the right to withdrawal by the three authorities (NB. decision not taken by parish councils) could be trusted. If it could, then it would be acceptable (in terms of geology at least) for the three authorities to agree to participate in looking for a site, and to do detailed desktop and borehole work, and thus find out more about suitable rock. If it could not, then the parish councils need the geological evidence now in order to answer criterion in an informed way.

CHAPTER 5, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Group 1

The group wondered whether the Government had a 'Plan B'. It was suggested that the White Paper implied no, but the Scottish Government had drawn a different conclusion.

It was observed that where this process has taken place in other countries, the benefits to the local/host community had been 'frontloaded', ie spelled out far more explicitly and up front, rather than promised theoretically down the line.

The question about lessons learned in the NIREX siting process was reiterated. Are we taking this to the same question NIREX considered, only to reach the same conclusion about the suitability of the geology in West Cumbria?

It was felt there should be more information readily available on the international regulatory framework. To what extent is the UK government in sole charge of the regulatory management of high level waste?

There was concern that the Partnership was insufficiently expert to meaningfully evaluate the competence of the regulatory bodies. How would councillors convince communities that their expertise was sufficient to allow them to offer an opinion, and indeed, should they?

The group asked how they could be expected to make regulatory assumptions over such a long period.

They discussed how best to take the concerns they had as individuals to their communities. One particular issue was the task of visualising a development on such a massive scale. There was a lot of concern about the impact on the Lake District National Park. Cllr Judith Cook, in her role as chair of the LDNPA's planning committee, explained the dilemma for park planners about the possibility of the geological disposal site going under the Park boundary. Whilst the NPA would probably be able to defeat a move to build the surface facilities inside the Park, it would present a difficult decision making process if the proposal couldn't actually be seen and was a major piece of national infrastructure.

Another concern was how the decision making process would relate to the Localism agenda.

Group 2

The group asked whether the 'Big Issues' could be summarised more simply before they were put before parish councils. It was suggested CALC would do this as a short briefing document. The 'Big Issues' could be picked from the Issues Register. It was felt that this would greatly aid councils in cutting to the chase of the consultation,

rather than trying to become experts on the wide range of issues that they have to consider.

One issue the group felt would be asked by councils and their communities was 'Have all the alternatives been explored?' This is an area where the various consultees on the Partnership's document would have to look at the evidence presented and make up their own minds.

Consultees would also have to take a view on the likelihood of more waste being produced, or of technology overtaking the need for storage of large quantities of High Level waste. Some delegates showed knowledge of 'transmutation' and other processes which might in future lead to a reduction in the volume of High Level Waste. The group wanted to know if more information might be available about this. It was suggested that potential changes in the future production of waste wouldn't necessarily alter the waste that existed already. There was then some discussion about the relative benefits of retaining access to the stored waste over the very long term.

There was some discussion about the capacity of communities to make judgements about the regulatory framework in such a technical and long term context. The point was made that whilst an effective regulatory framework could be mapped out, the layman could only really make a judgement based on what they know or what they have seen. The regulatory framework may well change, as it has been seen to change over the last 50 years of production at Sellafield.

There was some concern that the Scottish Government had drawn different conclusions about the long term suitability of geological disposal, preferring to advocate a 'near surface, near site' solution. It was suggested that they had drawn these differing conclusions because under devolved decision making, 'they could'. But it was felt that communities might like to explore the differences in opinion before making up their own minds.

CHAPTER 6: IMPACTS OF A REPOSITORY

- Impact list not comprehensive – needs expansion.
- The report on 'Brand Protection' referred to in the consultation document needs to be made available to parish councils before they have to make a decision. No date is given for when the report is to be published but ideally needs to be before the end of January.
- The current consultation ends on 23 March 2012 but no date is given for when the Partnership are to make their report to the DMBs.
- Concerns expressed about governance including the inclusivity and transparency of past and future consultations and decision making. Points raised include:-
 - Voluntarism? The decision to enter the 1st stage of the process was made by the principal authorities with no prior consultation having taken place.
 - How much has been pre-decided?
 - How much weighting will be given to public opinion in the future?
 - DMBs need to become more directly involved with communities.
- If there is a future change of leadership within DMBs or the Government what would the impact be on this project?
- Questions asked on specifics go unanswered. Need visibility of the details/documents supporting each decision in order to be able to understand why a decision has been made and how recommendations have been arrived at. Without this additional detail it was felt that parish councils may not have enough understanding to be able to make a decision.
 - Suggestion made, and generally agreed, that additional information should be included in this consultation outlining the top six or so issues highlighted in each of the chapters with details of the research and actions that have previously been undertaken to inform decision making. CALC asked to facilitate this action.
 - Need to have caveats such that if a parish council/community feel that the supporting information is not detailed enough to enable an educated decision to be made then that decision making point should be delayed.
- Perceived pressures on local infrastructure:-
 - Road and rail; including building contractors, transfer of radioactive waste, commuters. This has an impact on both the local area and on 'through-route' areas within Cumbria. This issue has not been adequately addressed at previous meetings.
 - Health Service provision increase in the future – figures?
 - Education; including provision locally of specialist training/courses to retain jobs within the local labour force.
 - More detail needed on research/analysis on each of the above factors.
- Long term direction:-
 - There needs to be a much greater/better involvement with schools/young people as it is their future.

- A large volume of information has been sent out to schools but it is not manageable.
- Stronger engagement needed with Youth Clubs and Youth Workers.
- Concerns about impact over the longer term on:-
 - The focus on nuclear industry in West Cumbria could result in the loss of diversity e.g. with jobs.
 - Transport volume.
 - Area/brand perception – effect on tourism, business investment etc.
 - Effect on environment/global warming etc.
- Look at other sites overseas. Have they had the same issues? If so how were they addressed?
- Community benefits/compensation packages – very little information available on what this will or could be.
 - Compensation limited by deprivation criteria?
 - Look at other examples in the area and elsewhere in the UK of how this has been dealt with.
 - Look at the Swiss example of how community benefits are distributed.

Getting Local Views - suggestions from final group (small)

- Article or newsletter insert in local magazine, e.g. Parish or Church.
- Article in own newsletter.
- E-mail to councillors.
- Send information out through schools and local groups.
- Verbal report and discussion at council meeting.
- Through local newspaper.
- Website – not popular idea.
- Parish groupings.
- Debates within schools and youth groups. Involvement of the younger generation was deemed essential and as such should be a high priority Partnership led initiative.

CHAPTER 7 - COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The two groups did not consider the question whether or not the repository should be sited in West Cumbria. The comments that follow have in mind the need to achieve the best outcomes for the host community and West Cumbria if the principal authorities were minded to take a decision to proceed to the next stage having regard to all the available evidence.

Although the comments made by the two groups were broadly similar a different emphasis was given to the particular points summarised below :

1. there should be a requirement for the headquarters of the body undertaking further site and other investigations to be based in West Cumbria ;
2. a commitment should be given to early investment in training in Cumbria so that local people would be able to benefit from employment opportunities arising from the planning, design and building of a repository ;
3. major transport improvements would clearly be required to facilitate the construction of a repository (as well as the building of new nuclear generators) and it needs to be established in discussions with Government that such improvements would be treated as part of the development costs and would not be regarded as additional ;
4. while the set of principles set out in chapter 7 is broadly satisfactory, the extent to which the host community would have an effective say in the determination of community benefits is not clear ; there therefore needs to be a requirement for host communities to be involved in such decisions.
5. that it should be a clearly established principle that local (town and parish) councils will be involved from the outset in decisions about the allocation and use of community benefits ;
6. it needs to be established that the benefits for local councils would not be capped in the way Government has proposed in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy ;

CHAPTER 10, PROCESS FOR FINDING A SITE

Group 1

1. Balance between principal authorities and local councils over voluntarism.
There was concern that whilst the views of many stakeholders including local councils was being sought, in fact the principal authorities could take the decision without taking any notice of others views.

2. Surface facilities Host communities' views should be sacrosanct
One delegate made this point suggesting that the location of the underground repository wouldn't matter. Others disagreed.

3. Question of Net Support

A general discussion took place about opinion surveys as opposed to ballot box vote.

4. Survey should be analysed on a geographical basis. A delegate argued that the upcoming opinion survey should be analysed on a geographical basis and if it was shown that (for illustration) Distington people responding were generally in favour of entering the siting process but Cleator Moor people were generally against, then the search should centre on Distington There was no support and it was pointed out that the appropriate question was not being asked.

5. More basic information required

There was support for a simple one-side document giving basic information (It was suggested that CALC could produce one).

6. Legal opinion on decision making bodies

One delegate argued that local councils were decision making bodies and that the definition in the White Paper was only illustrative of the type of council that could be regarded as being a DMB and that the term "For Example" allowed other local authorities including parish councils to take on that mantle.

Group 2

1 Governance Process and ability to opt out

One delegate was concerned that there was no process manager and queried how governance worked when no one had overall charge. Others were concerned that the ability to opt out would be overruled by the DMBs.

2 Concerns over Right of Withdrawal

There was an argument put forward the right of withdrawal was in essence a sham citing the White Paper paras 6.39 and 6.5.

3 Planning issues

Mention was made of the Infrastructure Planning Commission and it was suggested that their involvement would take the whole process out of local hands.

4 New Partnership in stage 4

The question was asked whether the same bodies and people as the current partnership would form a stage 4 partnership.

5 Opinion surveys and Referenda in stage 4

It was suggested that the consultation document did not make clear whether public opinion would be sought during stage 4.

6 Qualitative and Quantitative Consultation responses

When a delegate referred to net support in relation to responses to the consultation document an explanation was provided about qualitative (the broad support principle) and quantitative (the opinion survey).

7 Knowledge from other countries

A question was asked about the siting process overseas, though making it clear that this was not about community benefits overseas

8 How to respond

A discussion took place on who should complete a response form and had one gone (or would go) to every household with the overview document. The answer to that question was no but it was a matter for parish councils how they dealt with this issue and reference was made to page 6 of the consultation paper.