

## Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: Desk-based Identification and Assessment of Potential Candidate Sites for Geological Disposal - A Public Consultation

### Response form

You may respond to this consultation by email or by post.

Please note that if you accessing this document electronically you will only be able to enter text in the response fields.

Respondent Details	
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Tick this box if you are requesting non-disclosure of your response. ☐

Please return by 30 September 2011 to:
<p>Consultation on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely  Department of Energy and Climate Change  Area 3D  3 Whitehall Place  London  SW1A 2AW</p> <p>You can also submit this form by email:  <a href="mailto:radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk">radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>

## Consultation questions

Consultation question	
<b>1</b>	<b>Do you agree with the proposed process to identify Potential Candidate Sites? If not, why not?</b>
<b>Response</b>	Yes. We agree with the proposed process to identify potential candidate sites. Para 2.3 says a proposed framework will provide a "...nationally consistent, high level approach across all areas for which there is a decision to participate. However, to provide local flexibility, Community Siting Partnerships (CSP) that are set up to bring together the local authority and other local partners, will be able to adapt or develop the process to use local criteria...". Para 5.1 says "Government does not want to be prescriptive about the approach, but the process ... must be structured, evidence based and open and transparent". The process provides for flexibility in how specific siting criteria can be used (para 5.19).

Consultation question	
<b>2</b>	<b>Is there anything that could be included to improve the proposed process to identify Potential Candidate Sites, bearing in mind that physical site investigations will not start until later in the process?</b>
<b>Response</b>	Cumbria County Council has no additional proposals for identifying potential candidate sites at a national level and there appears sufficient flexibility to add additional selection criteria at a local level.

Consultation question	
<b>3</b>	<b>Do you agree with the proposal to use local and national criteria to identify Potential Candidate Sites? If not, why not?</b>
<b>Response</b>	Yes. It is appropriate to use local and national criteria to identify potential candidate sites. In West Cumbria the identification of additional local criteria has yet to be determined and will, of course, be subject to a decision by the principal authorities for West Cumbria about engagement with MRWS stage 4.

Consultation question	
<b>4</b>	<b>Do you agree with the proposed criteria for identifying Potential Candidate Sites? If not, why not?</b>
<b>Response</b>	Broadly Cumbria County Council agrees with the proposed criteria for identifying potential candidate sites at a national level. If the MRWS process in West Cumbria progresses to Stage 4 then Cumbria County Council would expect any Body or Bodies established to lead MRWS work locally to



	<p>consider whether additional locally determined selection criteria should be added to nationally determined selection criteria.</p> <p>The County Council is very aware of the potential adverse impact of the perception of a site selection process. We agree that socio economic issues (5.20 – 5.22) e.g. levels of relative deprivation and employment level, should be considered carefully taking account of any locally determined selection criteria and "...local development policies and priorities."</p> <p>It is not necessarily the case (para. 5.21) that GDF development will result in a net increase in jobs. It is possible that GDF development might be a barrier to other more labour intensive job creating investment opportunities or impact on other businesses that promote the quality brand image of Cumbria and the Lake District. We agree that the socio economic impact on an area's image is a criterion that should be considered nationally, but determined locally.</p>
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#### Consultation question

<b>5</b>	<b>Do you feel a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) should be used to assess Potential Candidate Sites? If not, why not, and what approach do you think should be used?</b>
<b>Response</b>	Yes. We agree that a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) should be used to assess potential candidate sites.

#### Consultation question

<b>6</b>	<b>Are there any additional criteria that could realistically be considered at this stage in the process to assess potential candidate sites?</b>
<b>Response</b>	As stated above, we expect additional criteria could emerge locally, subject to continued engagement with the MRWS process in West Cumbria.

#### Consultation question

<b>7</b>	<b>Do you have any comments on the way we propose to use MCDA to assist in structured, evidence based decision making?</b>
<b>Response</b>	We consider that there should be agreement locally on how MCDA is to be applied. We agree that an MCDA process does not actually make a decision but is used as a decision aiding tool (para 2.6) and that to inform the expert 'scoring process' the NDA should work with any Body or Bodies established locally to lead MRWS work, to gather information relevant to each criteria (para 6.28). We agree that a decision making body (e.g. Cumbria County Council) or other relevant local bodies are likely to be good

	<p>sources of much of this information and local input will be important (para 6.29).</p> <p>We agree that any Body or Bodies established locally to lead MRWS work, and the decision making local authorities, are likely to want to consider a range of evidence in addition to the output from the MCDA before deciding on engagement in further stages of MRWS.</p>
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Please select the category below which best describes who you are responding on behalf of.

- ☐ Business representative organisation/trade body
- ☐ Central Government
- ☐ Charity or social enterprise
- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Large business ( over 250 staff)
- ☐ Legal representative
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ Medium business (50 to 250 staff)
- ☐ Small business (10 to 49 staff)
- ☐ Micro business (up to 9 staff)
- ☐ Trade union or staff association
- ☐ Other (please describe):

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views.

The Government does not intend to acknowledge receipt of individual responses unless you tick the box. ☒