

MRWS Partnership



Disposal will happen - in Cumbria!

- There is a general suspicion that disposal in Cumbria is a 'done deal'
- Issue already determined to facilitate new build – not because of legacy concerns
- Discussions by MRWS partnership pre-emptive e.g. regarding actual. operation of a GDF



Facts and figures

- Amount of waste for disposal - estimated between 631,000 cubic metres to 1,160,000 cubic metres of nuclear waste equal to between 6-11 times the volume of the Albert Hall.. Several thousands tonnes of spent fuel – legacy and new build
- The wastes would be buried between a depth of 200-300m (height of the Eiffel Tower) down to 1,000m (height of Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain).
- The area underground - is estimated to range from 6 km² to 25km² e.h. three times the size of Cockermouth to an area not much smaller than York.
- New reactor wastes could have a significant role in the size of the footprint as the high levels of radioactivity (and heat generation) would require more spacing.

Some key issues

- Right of withdrawal – who and when – too much power in hands of pro nuclear councils – next stage local communities could be included against their express wish
- Above ground operations not fully addressed e.g. Central spent fuel store. Or timescale for operations – possibly in excess of 150 years.
- OND of DECC overseeing and paying for the process – too closely linked in Government to new build – issue taken off Defra three years ago
- Funded Decommissioning Programme negotiations - public and local authorities locked out of final discussions – only industry and Govt involved

Who has the final say?

To date – voluntarism as the basis of involvement

‘Decision to participate’ in hands of Cumbria and local councils

Same at the end of the next stage – not local communities

Changes being proposed – National Policy Statement and MIPU process – SOS might finally get to decide!

