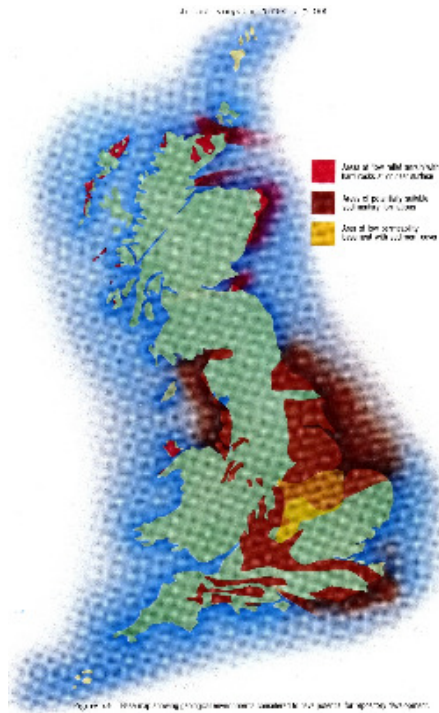




An under-Irish sea radwaste repository (?), Sellafield, Sizewell and relevant Forum developments



Sean Morris
UK & Ireland NFLA Secretary
NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum webinar
September 2020



Agenda

- **What this Forum is for**
- **UK radioactive waste burden and what to do with it**
- **Could part of a repository go under the Irish Sea**
- **Sellafield issues**
- **NDA Strategy 4 and OSPAR commitments**
- **Sizewell C transboundary consultation in Ireland**
- **Conclusions**
- **Join us!**



What this Forum is for

- **NFLA is 40 years old in November**
- **Represent local Councils on reducing public hazards over nuclear power, health and safety & weapons**
- **Advocate local renewable energy alternatives to nuclear power in UK / Europe**
- **Seeks to promote best practice examples on challenging the climate emergency**
- **Calls for increased LA powers in promoting low carbon development**
- **Provides opportunity for engagement with Councils across Ireland and with Scotland, England and Wales**
- **Seeks zero carbon and nuclear free for a sustainable and safer world**

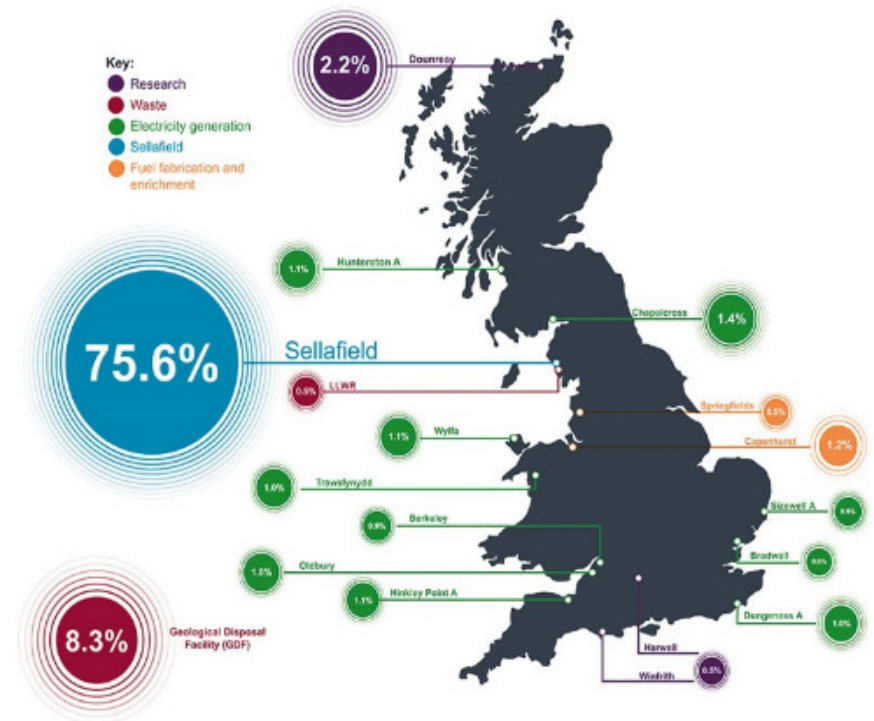


UK Radioactive Waste – a heavy burden



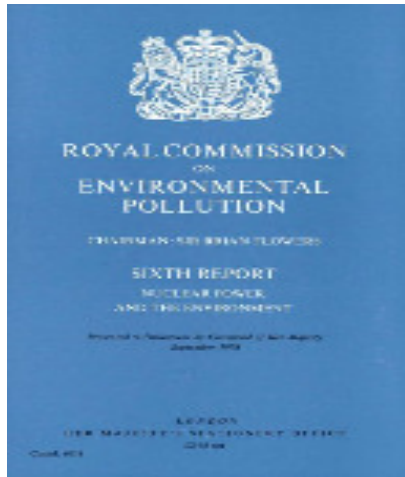
Type	Volume (m3)
VLLW	2,720,000
LLW	1,600,000
ILW	449,000
HLW	1,500
TOTAL	4,770,000

2020 TOTAL COST OF 120 YR DECOMMISSIONING & WASTE MANAGEMENT: £124 BILLION (£99 BN - £232BN) (NDA)





5 failed attempts over 40 years



- **UK Royal Commission 1976: “There should be no commitment to a large programme of nuclear fission until it has been demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that a method exists to ensure the safe containment of long-lived, highly radioactive waste for the indefinite future”**
- **7 attempts to find a site for long-term storage / disposal – 1981, 1986, 1987, 1997 and 2013 – all failed either due to huge, local public opposition or Council rejection**
- **2013 failed as Cumbria County Council concerned over geology, lack of a future veto and socio-economic concerns**
- **But Copeland and Allerdale Councils (next to Sellafield) did say yes**
- **2017 new process began – still volunteerism, but no County Council veto**



The radioactive waste conundrum

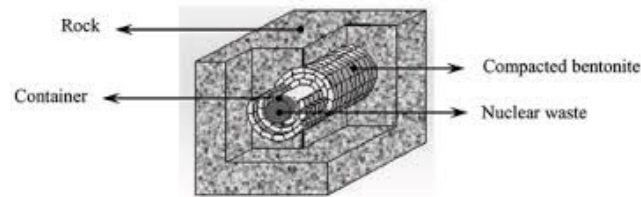


Fig. 1 - Scheme of the engineered barrier.



OR CAN BARRIERS BE PUT IN PLACE?

MOST OF THE WASTE WILL BE IN SELLAFIELD, CUMBRIA



HOW DO YOU CONVINC THE PUBLIC?



BUT SO IS THE LAKE DISTRICT WITH TOURISM £'s

IS IT ABOUT THE RIGHT GEOLOGY?



Copeland puts its name forward

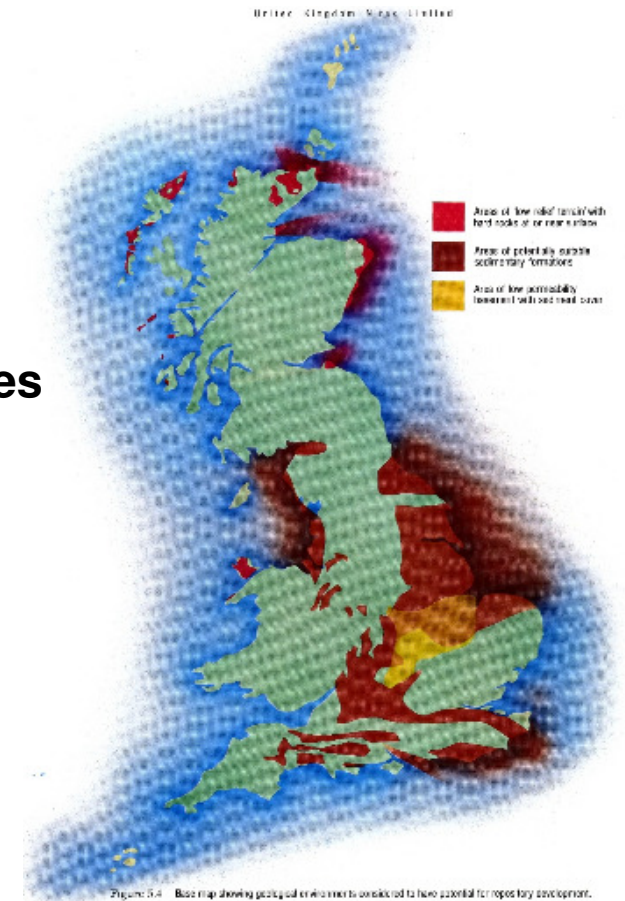


- All Councils in England, Wales and N Ireland were asked for interest in hosting a deep underground repository (GDF)
- Sharply negative response in Wales & N Ireland
- Copeland expressed interest in July 2020
- NFLA see little other interest – possibly Folkestone & Hythe site of Dungeness in Kent
- Copeland up for initial discussion –
Lake District a ‘red line’ and cannot be considered for sites
Inshore area up to 22kms (12 miles) off the coast “is in scope for exploration”



Impacts on the island of Ireland

- A partially offshore underground repository under the Irish Sea has to be of interest to Isle of Man Govt, Irish Govt & NI Executive & ALL Councils on the island
- A GDF does NOT include retrievability – it will be sealed up and needs to last hundreds of thousands of years
- NFLA asks CORWM if a partially offshore site internationalizes the issue and they said it could
- The Irish Sea has had decades of radioactive discharges
- NFLA remain unconvinced of science & technology for GDF will protect the environment for the longer-term
- Swedish legal case over robustness of copper canisters
- What happens if it leaks?
- We will represent these concerns on our members behalf



Sellafield incidents and progress

- **Sellafield's reprocessing work will end mid 2021 (Covid delay)**
- **Is treating all HLW and much ILW in the UK & Magnox fuel**
- **Over 140 tonnes of weapons usable plutonium**
- **Remains one of the highest hazard sites in the world**
- **Nov 19 – leak find in Storage Silo, only just fixed**
- **August – Bomb Squad called out to dispose of explosive chemicals on site**
- **Internal regulators suggest the site needs to more fully appreciate chemical laws**
- **Older facilities remain as 'an intolerable risk' due to state of high hazard storage**
- **Slow improvement is happening but much still needs to be done**
- **Newry, Mourne & Down councillors visited in February 2020, after BBC Panorama documentary, and remain concerned**



NDA Strategy 4 & OSPAR

- **Outlines NDA plans 2021 – 25 and future costs of decommissioning**
- **NFLA has a core set of environmental principles on waste management**
- **Concern NDA does too much ‘diluting and dispersing’ types of waste**
- **Will take till 2046 before all legacy waste is retrieved**
- **Take another 105 years to fully decommission & remediate (without new nuclear)**
- **By end of 2020 reprocessing was to end and discharges into Irish Sea to be ‘near to zero’ – now delayed by Covid-19 into mid 2021**
- **NFLA talking to KIMO about UK’s OSPAR commitments**
- **A detailed NFLA submission will be published in October**



Sizewell C transboundary consultation

- **Sizewell C is now at the final DCO inquiry stage of approval**
- **Major concern over impact on local environmental sites**
- **Ireland being consulted on transboundary effects**
- **NFLA argue a serious accident could affect Ireland depending on wind direction**
- **Provided model resolutions for Regional Assemblies**
- **Preparing a joint response with the IEN for Councils**
- **Continue to challenge new nuclear on safety, waste, environmental and health impacts**





Conclusions

- **Irish Govt / NI Executive should remain concerned over UK nuclear developments**
- **So should Irish Councils, particularly coastal**
- **A deep waste repository remains a highly controversial project**
- **An offshore section to it has impact for Ireland / Isle of Man, coastal communities**
- **Sellafield remains of concern and much NFLA monitoring**
- **Sizewell C – Irish Councils should make their views known**

Conclusions?



Join us!

- **NFLA All Ireland Forum is only as effective as the amount of members in it**
- **Provide strong advocacy on energy and nuclear policy**
- **Detailed support on best practice in LAs and sustainable energy**
- **We can learn from each other and lobby Government for more powers / money**
- **We are low cost and high quality in our research**
- **This decade is absolutely critical for climate crisis**
- **2020s are the decade of renewables – and decentralised energy should be a core part of that**
- **Questions / comments?**

