

NDA NATIONAL  
21-22 OCTOBER 2013  
NOTES

Monday 21<sup>st</sup>

October 21<sup>st</sup>

- SSG representatives at the site.
- SSG chairman's forum was the main point of meeting.
- John Clark, Chief Executive, provided a brief overview of progress at the sites.

DSG(2013)C055

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

October 22<sup>nd</sup>

- NDA update: Steven Clark was at Bradwell in the morning where they were given a tour of the site.
- John Clark was at Bradwell in the morning where they were given a tour of the site.
- Downend: Plans for Downend New Low Level Waste Silo will be a challenge.
- LLWF: extended
- Sellafield: Want to extend Select Committee of the Public Accounts Commission. In November he would also be on the committee.
- Scotland: NDA engaged with Scottish Government in relation to ILW – near Hunterston later this year.
- Plutonium stocks: contract to URS for a further 5 years.
- R&D: NDA engaged with Scottish Government in relation to ILW – near Hunterston later this year.

HOLDER EVENT

13

2013

able plan which is well understood.

contract to URS for a further 5 years.

see better performance extended for a further 5 years.

DA engaged with Scottish Government in relation to ILW – near Hunterston later this year.

MD

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will be meeting Richard Lockhead at Hunterston later this year.

NDA supporting UK Government in relation to ILW – near Hunterston later this year.

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f 21<sup>st</sup> October. See separate note of

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- Supply chain development: Helping SMEs to make sure they are equipped to work regionally, nationally and internationally. Supply chain is being developed and is responding nationally and internationally. Supply chain conference held on 11 November – so far 1 challenge. Supply chain conference to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> November. 300 people registered.
- Skills: Good facilities make sure best use is made down west coast of Cumbria and ETEC in Thurso. Need to think about the future. *NDA intend to revisit skills strategy shortly.*
- Socio Economics: pressure SSGs bring is important and NDA intend to respond appropriately. Some good examples of this over the years.
- Stakeholder and communications: Updating website at moment – comments are invited on website. *plan to launch new site before Christmas.*
- Staffing: Mark Lesing and Jim McLaughlin both leaving NDA.
- Future: Tough times ahead with planning next budget rounds, etc.

#### Questions and Answers (S Henwood)

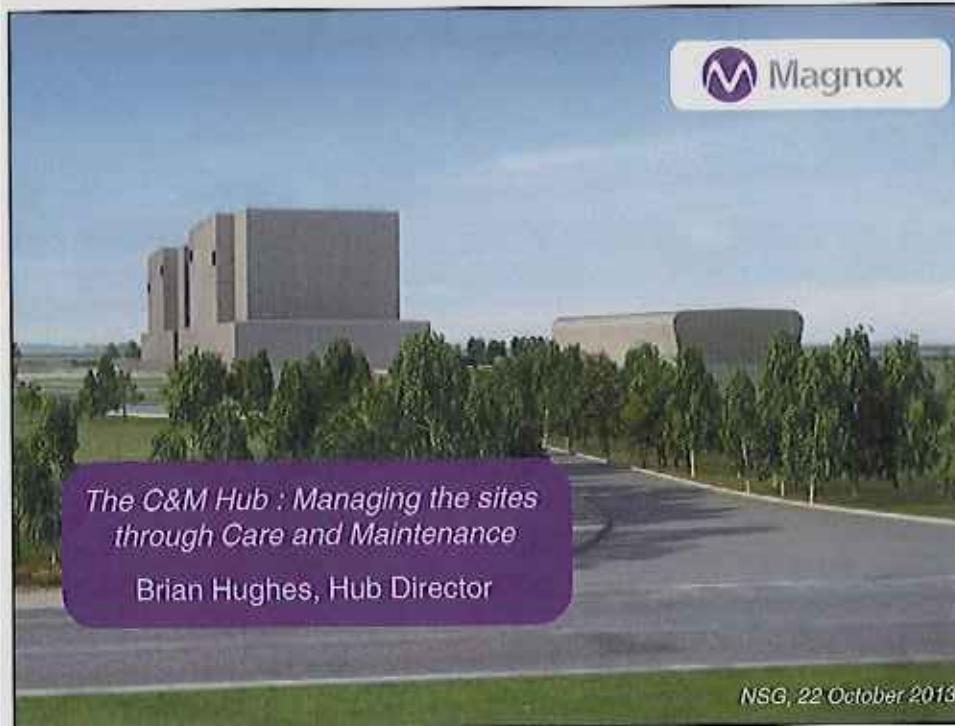
- Councillor from Manchester noted the shocking comparison between Bradwell and Sellafield.
- David Flear welcomed NDA's commitment to the National Nuclear Archives in Caithness. Steven Henwood responded that NDA knew what they needed to support their responsibilities. Question back was what did the community want – there was potential to make a regional archive (as well as holding NDA records) if there was a will and funding was sourced from other places. NDA obligations stop at a certain point and believe the community has an opportunity.
- Neil Baldwin (Magnox Ltd) thanked everyone for positive feedback on site visit. In relation to competition the question he was frequently asked was what it would look like once competition was complete. Steven Henwood suggested to look at Dounreay and how that was complete. There had been an initial concern with reference to handover of the site but it was undertaken very professionally. People took it very seriously and the site was very good. David Batters added terms of professional behaviour handover was very good. improvement in performance that he would like to see, following competition. At Dounreay the plans were mature and clear plans being developed with robust financials. e mature and financials robust.
- National Skills Academy, Nuclear: NDA has concerns around ECITB. NSAN top of the tree as far as NDA is concerned.
- Presentation by Magnox on The C&M Hub: see presentation (appendix 1).
- MRWS update: see presentation (appendix 2).

- Overview of waste management (Adrian's paper copies (have been requested). Of note: information provided but no simpler – present note: question and answer session raised at qu is to safety and security (on). Currently policyt Sellafield. clear material a with DECC in 2011. DECC started working w disposal and/or re-use. RC safe, secure d because Mox fuel is pe-al re-use possible alternatives – PRISM factoring at credible aith to better understand Working with bot utility led. It ended up could have been options do not start ur ed at options. All ult. NDA have been until reactors being bnsability, operability ical maturity, licen the end it will be DECC commercial structure. Is forward. Current who will take thi round 2016 and taken will take place a
- Update on plutonium (following question 140 tonnes of separated plutonium. Current policy is to store with consolidation of specific nuclear materials. NDA wanted to see an end point. State published policy – current policy is for use was preferred option. Commercial use of new build programme. NDA is looking at new reactor (Hitachi) and Cando Reactor. These options. Plutonium disposition being technically led. NDA have looked around 2030. Take advantage of new technology. Assessing these options against technical issues, costs, disposability and commercial viability. NDA will merely inform DECC. Current thinking looks like market engagement forward around 2018.

Questions/answers re waste management overview:

- HAW: Taking policy and working it all out. Mature this year so that these can be implemented. Exotics (being transferred to Sellafield – re-use) security point of view. Exotics likely to start next 18 months.
- Dalgetty Bay: NDA could not comment. Scottish Government working with MOD on this. Scottish Government noted that SEPA were re-
- Consultation on consolidation on waste storage. NDA felt that engagement on this was (and continues to be) robust. However SSG chair's view was criticised. (continued to be) robust.

Dounreay Stakeholder Group  
27<sup>th</sup> October 2013




*The C&M Hub : Managing the sites through Care and Maintenance*  
Brian Hughes, Hub Director

### What does C&M look like?

- 10 sites into a state of passive safety as far as reasonably practicable with an optimised organisation to manage the sites during the C&M phase.
- The definition of C&M for each site is via a 'box model' with all sites consisting of a number of 'boxes', including: Safestores, Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) Store or Interim Storage Facility (ISF), plus any additional buildings e.g. ponds

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## Safety & contingency response



- All sites managed by the C&M Hub will
  - ✓ Be safe
  - ✓ Be secure
  - ✓ Comply with regulatory legislation and requirements - the C&M Hub will develop arrangements to comply with each of the 36 site licence conditions, environmental permit requirements and Radioactive Substances Act (193).



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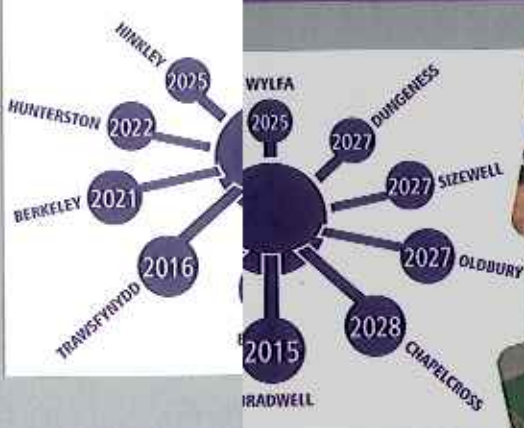
## What will happen at the sites?



- Remote management through a small off-site central C&M Hub team
- Remote monitoring and response with no continuous on-site presence
- Minimal site access with planned regular maintenance and inspection regimes



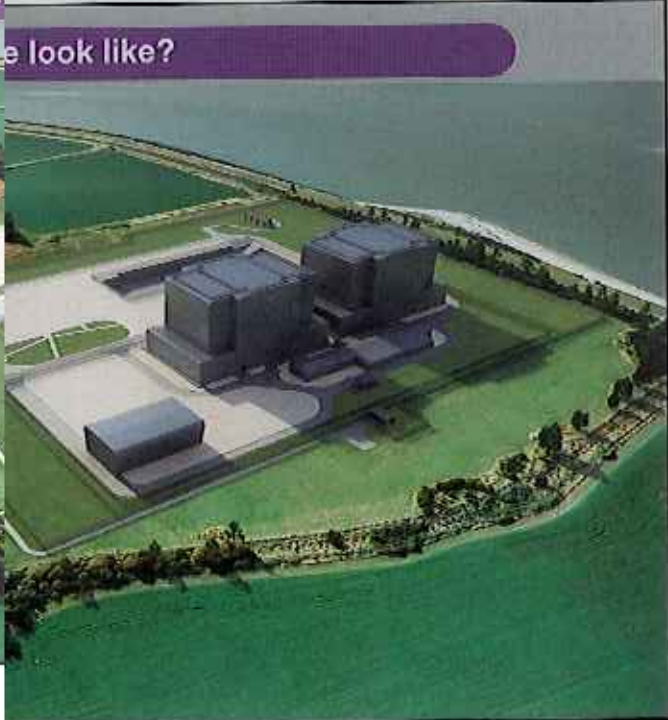
### When



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### What may a site

### look like?

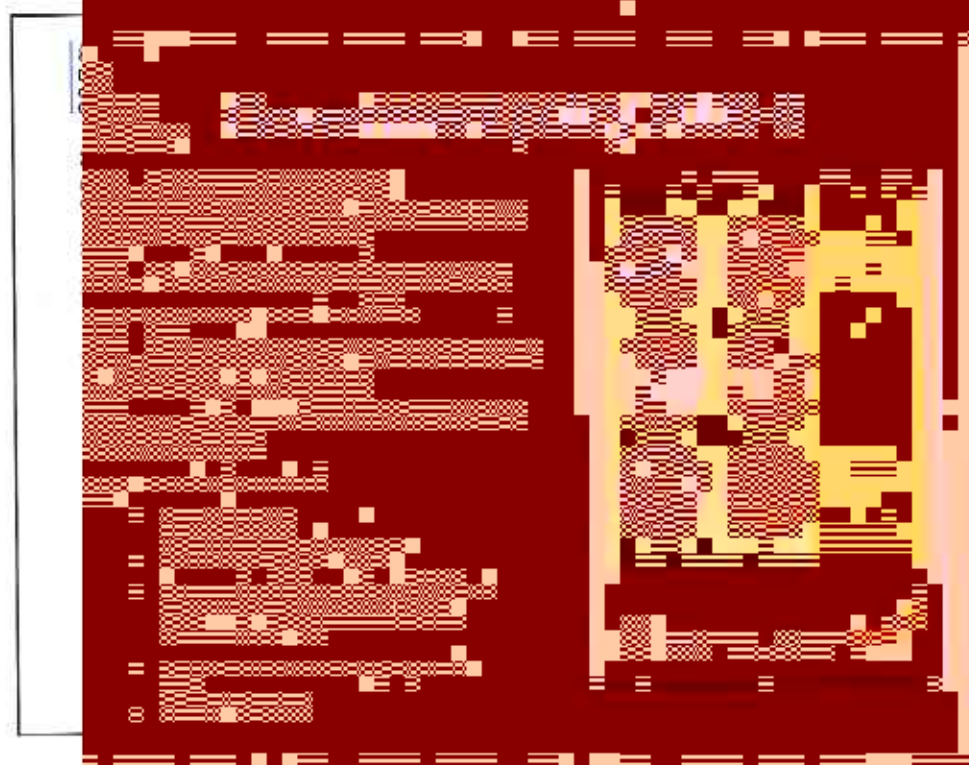
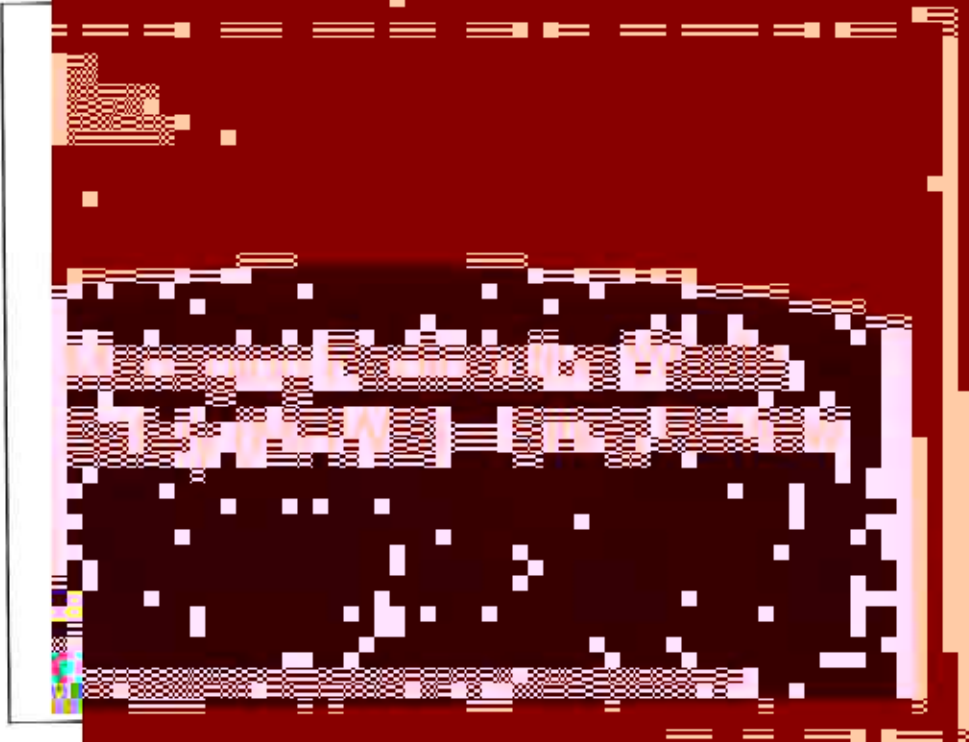


What may a site look like?

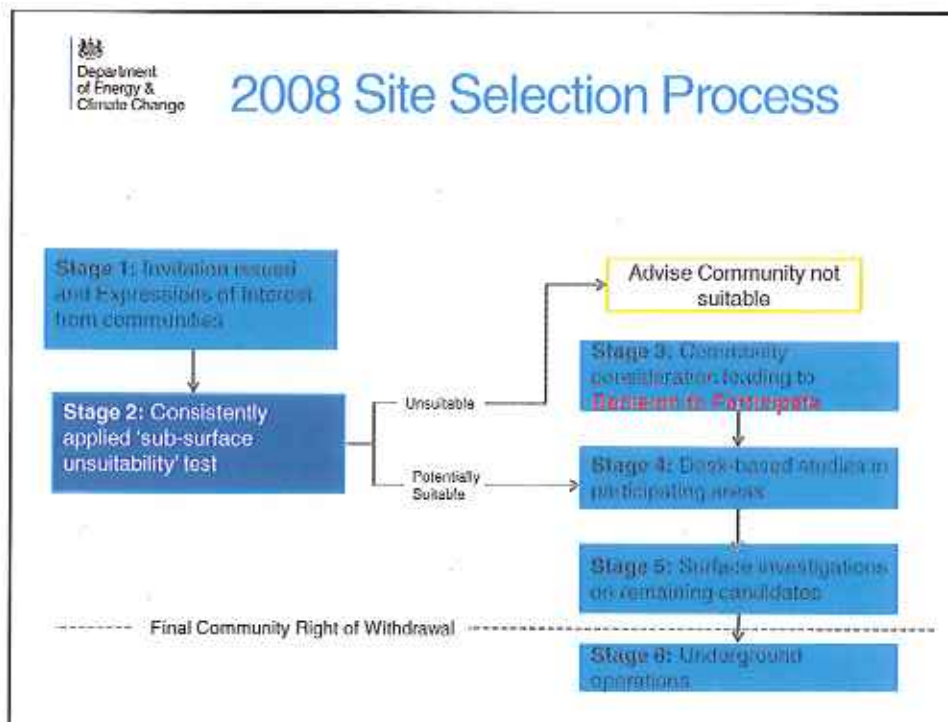
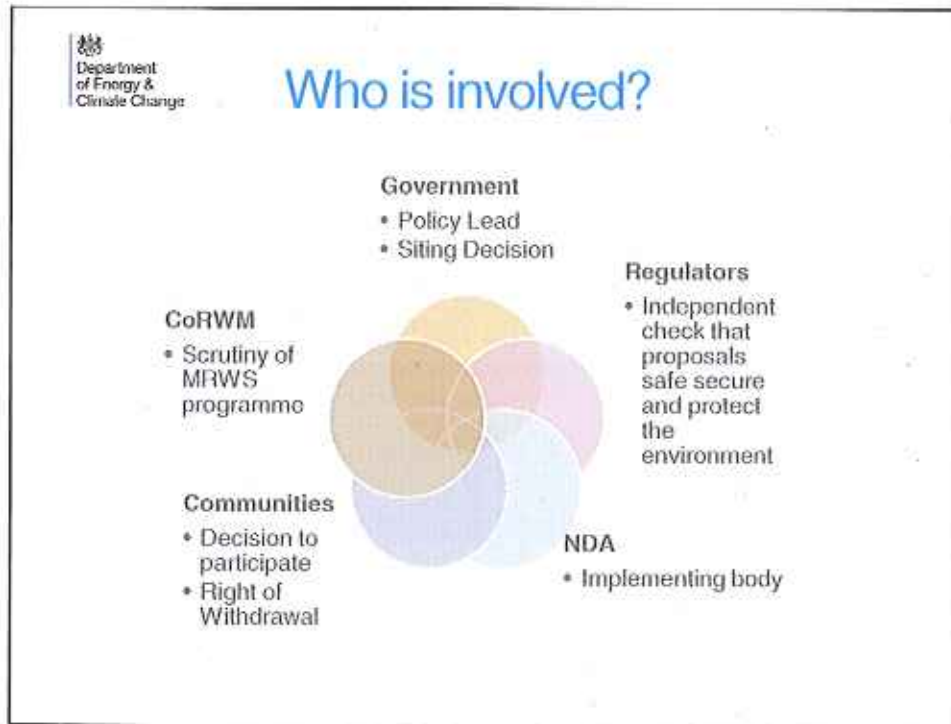


*Any questions?*









## MITWVS Siting Process



January 2013: the Cambrian Vets





## What happened next: Policy Implications

- MRWS programme continues
- Government remains committed to geological disposal
- Confident that MRWS is sound and NNB can continue
- Overseas programmes have taken time to overcome obstacles
- Reflected on experience of site selection process to date
- 13 May – 10 June 2013: Call for Evidence
- Consultation on updated proposals launched 12 September



## Key messages from Call for Evidence

Ran from 13 May to 10 June 2013; ~200 respondents

### Ten main themes:

Geology: more information about potential suitability, and sooner

Community benefits: more information on scale, nature, timing

Right of withdrawal: how would it operate, what guarantees?

Technical information: independent peer review and ratification

Socio-economic / local impacts: more information on practicalities, sooner

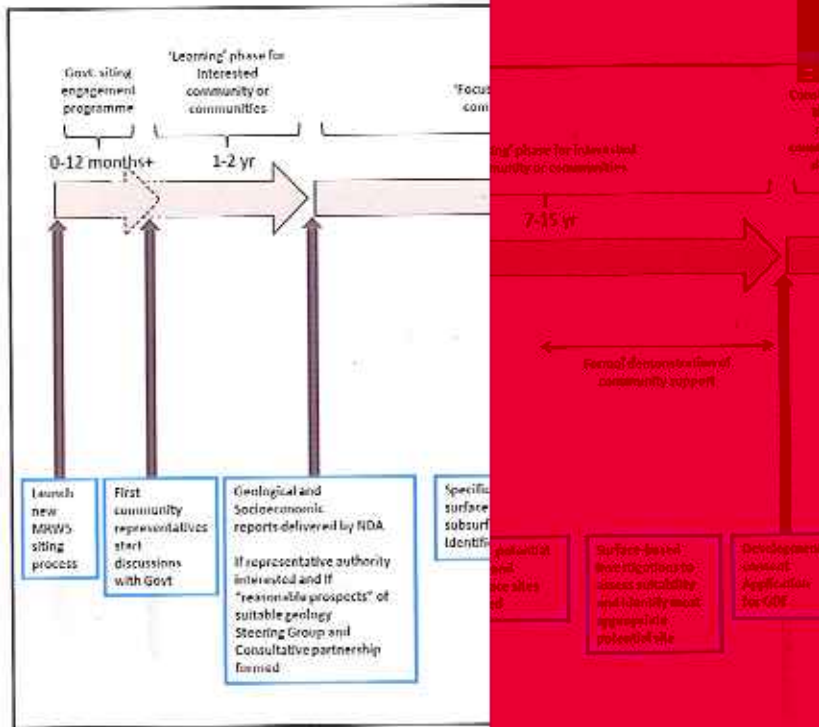
Trust: building more trust in the process and in the key players involved


Decision-making: clarity needed on who, when, what about?

Interim storage: explaining better plans for storage before GDF

Inventory: what exactly goes into the GDF, control over changes?

Voluntarism: generally agreed to be the best way forward




Decision making

**MRWS siting process**

A number of specified 'decision points' before each of the six stages can commence

'Expressions of interest' sought from the launch of the siting process

Level of local decision making not specified – to be determined by each participating area – which led to conflict and confusion

No requirements on a local decision making body to consult with its community before committing to host a GDF

A more continuous process of phases, with an ongoing Right of Withdrawal  
 A period of national public awareness raising and engagement before seeking volunteers  
 Specify that it is the District Council that will exercise the Right of Withdrawal during the siting process  
 A possible requirement for a demonstration of community support before a community commits to hosting

## Roles in the siting process

MRWS siting process	PROPOSAL for consultation
Government and RWMD's role largely passive and reactive	Government and RWMD to carry out national public awareness and engagement programme. RWMD, as the developer, to form part of 'Steering Group' with local councils
Lack of clarity over the role of locally-elected bodies	District Council to be specified as the local decision making body. 'Consultative Partnership' to provide a role for Counties and Parishes.
No formal means of independent verification or peer review	Government to explore using CoRWM, a pool of professional peer reviewers and / or a new independent advisory body

## Geological settings

MRWS siting process	PROPOSAL for consultation
Insufficient geological information provided to councils at an early stage	Government to publish information on regional geology in advance of any call for volunteers  Government to move quickly to provide detailed, independent geological report for areas engaged in the 'Learning' phase

## Planning and assessments

MRWS siting process	PROPOSAL for consultation
Government 'minded' to apply the nationally significant infrastructure planning regime to the construction of the GDF	Government to commit to applying this regime and bring forward necessary amendments to Planning Act 2008
Government took no view on how to consent intrusive investigations (i.e. boreholes)	Government to bring intrusive investigations within definition of nationally significant infrastructure as well
Government intended to carry out a site specific Strategic Environmental Assessment, and site specific Environmental Impact Assessments, in the latter stages of the siting process	Government to publish a generic National Policy Statement, specifically for a GDF, early in the siting process which would be subject to an Appraisal of Sustainability

## Inventory

MRWS siting process	PROPOSAL for consultation
Estimated inventory for disposal expressed in terms of waste volumes (m <sup>3</sup> )	Inventory for disposal to be communicated to potential communities with a focus on waste and material types and the safety case (volume figures still available)
Inclusion of new build waste 'will be taken forward in discussion with host communities as the programme proceeds'	Be clear on inclusion of new nuclear waste, of a specified maximum size

## Community Benefits

MRWS siting process	PROPOSAL for consultation
Government not clear on the amount of community benefits that would be available	Government to make clear a revised siting process, potential scale of community benefits
No significant payment of community benefits until a community commits to hosting a GDF	Start paying limited benefits to a potential host community during the 'Focusing' phase
Mechanism for delivering long-term community benefits unspecified	Government create a community fund – only able to retrieve funds if a GDF was not constructed in the community

## Lessons and Challenges

- Need to satisfy volunteer community aspirations and deliver a complete solution for UK waste inventory
- Project management needed to deliver something on this scale needs to be balanced with flexibility to accommodate volunteer communities needs in order to make continued progress together
- Need to match technical requirements for a safe, environmentally sound site with the volunteer process
- Constant threat of challenge from anti-nuclear lobby as GDF is seen as a prerequisite for new nuclear build despite the need to deal with the existing legacy now rather than leave the problem for future generations
- Very long timescales (even in site investigation and construction) are beyond what most people are used to
- Need to continue through many instances of political change (local and national)
- Need to secure long-term funding for facility development and delivery of community benefits commitments
- Sheer scale!!

  
Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/geological-disposal-facility-siting-process-review>

[radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:radioactivewaste@decc.gsi.gov.uk)



