


Strategic position paper on management of waste graphite

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The NDA has today published a strategic position paper on the management of waste graphite along with two supporting strategic options papers. The publication of these papers is consistent with the NDA's Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Strategy. The position paper summarises a number of pieces of work that have been undertaken to better understand the challenges of managing radioactive graphite. The position paper outlines a number of key findings and sets out the NDAs position on this issue.

 **Strategic position paper on the management of waste graphite** (200Kb)

 **The long-term management of reactor core graphite credible options (Gate A)** (200Kb)

 **Operational graphite management strategy credible and preferred options (Gate A and B)** (200Kb)

For operational graphite waste, we have determined a preferred option that the waste will be managed as follows:

- Berkeley Site – to manage all the graphite waste as Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) for interim storage (in resilient, self-shielding containers) and un-encapsulated disposal to a GDF.
- Hunterston A Site – to manage all the graphite waste as ILW for interim storage (in stainless steel containers) and encapsulation at final site closure prior to management in accordance with Scottish Government Policy.
- Sellafield Site – to manage all the graphite waste as ILW for interim storage (in mild or stainless steel drums) and encapsulation prior to disposal to a GDF.

Each site may implement a variation on this preferred option driven by site specific challenges, for example, at the Hunterston site the intention is to encapsulate the waste in the near term, rather than at final site clearance.

For reactor core graphite, we have not determined a case for changing the baseline strategy at the current time. Our work has demonstrated, through the identification of a number of alternative options, that the management of graphite waste by geological disposal provides a robust baseline strategy suitable for planning purposes. The extended period of quiescence that reactors are scheduled to be in means that there is sufficient time for alternative options to develop such that any future decisions on the management of radioactive graphite waste will be appropriately informed.