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Please respond to:

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To: CNSRP Programme Manager

#### **FUSION - STEP**

The **Downreay Stakeholder Group (DSG)** is represented by over 20 organisations and therefore this response is one that is generally agreed by most organisations. It should be noted that while the majority of members (representing various organisations) are supportive, for the interest of transparency one member (who does not represent an organisation) is not. Therefore this response is provided with the majority view in mind.

We believe that this is a once in a generation opportunity that could provide decades of much needed long-term, high-quality employment similar to that of Downreay and Vulcan. While recognising that the skills set for Downreay decommissioning has changed from that of its operational days we believe that by working with the North Highland College and other CNSRP partners we would be in a good position to transition existing site skills to the Fusion project. We also believe there is a good fit with the timelines for decommissioning and the Fusion delivery project. Caithness and North Sutherland has a proud history of pioneering research and development into fast reactor technology and it would be fitting to see further research into new forms of energy being pioneered again.

DSG's role is to scrutinise and promote site activities and socio economic matters/issues relating to the site. We appreciate that the submission for hosting such a facility is at an early stage and obviously we would look to get actively involved if indeed that submission takes you through to further competitive rounds. If successful our role would then be to ensure that topics such as environmental, economic, social and cultural were explored in full to ensure there is a balance in the considerations of the four pillars of sustainability.

At this stage, we would like to offer our support to CNSRP to continue pursue this as a potential project.

Yours sincerely  
*Sent electronically without signature*  
**Struan Mackie**  
DSG Chair

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