

Keswick Tourism Association

Question	Response
Letter	<p>As Chairman of Keswick Tourism Association I recently attended a meeting organised by CALC (Cumbria association of local councils) in which Professor David Smythe gave a talk on the possible site for a high level nuclear waste repository in West Cumbria.</p> <p>Professory Smythe, a geologist who worked for the British Geological Survey BGS (the natural environment research council) gave a two hour presentation on the unsuitability of the local geology for a repository of this nature.</p> <p>He together with a colleague from Edinburgh University explained that the proposed areas are totally unsuitable, as the geology is very complex. Borrowdale volcanics was given as one example of being highly fractured with many faults.</p> <p>Diagrams were presented showing how hydraulic pressures could push the waste to the surface; abroad similar disposal sites are away from mountains, high rainfall and have geological simplicity.</p> <p>His claim was worst case scenario there could be leakage within a few hundred years.</p> <p>Without going into all the detail at the presentation it was of concern that, although CALC had invited BGS and other government departments to the meeting, none were willing to present a counter argument.</p> <p>Whilst we fully understand the need to find long and short term solutions to secure power supplies for our country, and whilst we are not anti-nuclear, we do have serious concerns about the stability of the geology based on Prof. Smythes figures.</p> <p>We would welcome an assurance that any proposed site for High Level Nuclear Waste will based on sound geological suitability and not political expediency.</p>