

National Nuclear Laboratory

Question	Agree	Response
1 – Geology	Yes	<p>We agree with the partnership's view on geology.</p> <p>We recognise the British Geological Survey as having the expertise necessary to carry out the screening and agree that there is no reason to doubt the conclusions.</p> <p>The area of land that has not been ruled out far exceeds the area that is likely to be necessary for the construction of a geological disposal facility. Whilst some of the remaining area may subsequently be shown to be unsuitable there is no valid reason not to carry out further investigations.</p>
2 – Safety, security, environment and planning	Yes	<p>Regulatory and Planning Process</p> <p>We believe that the UK has strong independent regulators and that the responsibilities for regulating issues relating to waste disposal are very clear. The regulator has a sound basis for regulation and has described how they will engage with communities. In any event there will be time to amend the procedure, before an application needs to be made.</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>The evidence presented shows that NDA RWMD has suitable processes and capability. We are also aware that they have a research programme and that it will be possible to change the scope and content of that programme to address any concerns.</p> <p>CoRWM have been set up to scrutinise the plans for the management of higher activity radioactive waste. The members of CoRWM are independent of Government and have the expertise required to comment on the adequacy of the RWMD research programme.</p> <p>The safety cases prepared by RWMD will be subject to a substantial degree of independent scrutiny and planning approval would only be granted if these are shown to be adequate.</p>
3 – Impacts	Yes	<p>We agree with the Partnership's opinions on the impacts of a repository in West Cumbria.</p> <p>We agree that it should be possible to put in place a process to assess and mitigate any potential direct environmental, social or economic impacts of a repository. In the event that this does not prove possible the option of withdrawing from the process will remain open for some time to come.</p> <p>We also agree that the development of a repository offers the prospect of both significant new job-creating opportunities and</p>

		attractive economic development. These could arise through either direct through the programme for the development of a repository, or through other opportunities that may be linked more broadly to development of the nuclear component of the economy.
4 – Community benefits	Yes	We agree that the Government's acceptance of the 12 Community Benefits Principles set out in the consultation document should provide sufficient confidence to proceed to the next stage of the process.
5 – Design and engineering	Yes	Worldwide a substantial amount of effort has been invested in the development of generic design concepts. There is sufficient consensus that designs can be developed for a wide range of geologies. There is no reason to believe that issues relating to design should prevent entering the next stage of the process. It will be important to understand the requirements for retrievability, but this issue can be addressed in the future, whilst withdrawal remains an option.
6 – Inventory	Yes	There remains significant uncertainty in the actual inventory of waste that may require disposal. However the upper inventory provides a reasonable estimate of the type and quantity of material that could be consigned for disposal. There remains the opportunity to reduce the uncertainty before any final commitment is required.
7 – Siting process	Yes	We recognise that the proposed process is a stepwise process and offers several opportunities for withdrawal. We agree that the Partnership Principles for Community Involvement provide an appropriate basis for engagement.
8 – Overall views on participation		We believe that participation in the search for an appropriate site for a geological disposal facility is compatible with the economic ambitions of West Cumbria. The proposed process offers sufficient opportunity for engagement with the community and there will be several opportunities to withdraw in the future, should this be necessary. We believe that it would be in the interests of West Cumbria to engage with the search and that there is no reason why Allerdale and Copeland should not take part in the search.