

**The University of Manchester - Dalton Cumbrian Facility**

Question	Agree	Response
<b>1 – Geology</b>	Yes	<p>I believe the Partnership is correct to conclude that there is sufficient reason to proceed with further investigation of the suitability of the geology of West Cumbria. It is also correct, in my opinion, to recognise there remain uncertainties that can only be resolved by detailed geological research and investigation.</p> <p>It will be important such investigations are carried out in an open and transparent manner and that, as far as reasonably practicable, they are carried out in West Cumbria. It would be beneficial to the process if local communities had reasonable access to view research activities to provide assurance in both the process and subsequent conclusions and recommendations.</p>
<b>2 – Safety, security, environment and planning</b>	Yes	<p>I believe adequate steps have been taken by the Partnership to ensure that, as far as is reasonable at this stage of the process, the required safety, security, environment and planning processes and controls are, or can be expected to be, in place.</p> <p>It is important the NDA's R&amp;D programme is continually reviewed and commented on by suitably qualified and respected independent persons to ensure validity at all stages of the process. It is also important that adequate resources are provided by Government to allow delivery of the relevant R&amp;D projects and that the completion of projects specific to the potential location of a deep geological disposal facility is not detrimental to other areas of the NDA's mission.</p> <p>If, as indicated, the development of a repository, were to be included in the scope of the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit, it will be important to gain an early understanding of if and how this would impact the process in terms of volunteerism. If the scope of MIPU incorporates the siting of projects within its remit where they are deemed to be most suitable in terms of the national interest will this affect the GDF process and impact or override the wishes of local communities.</p>
<b>3 – Impacts</b>	Yes	<p>I believe sufficient initial consideration has been given by the Partnership on the impacts of a repository in West Cumbria. However, it is important to carry out early detailed research and assessment of the potential social and economic impacts throughout the process. Impacts, both positive and negative, may emerge at greatly different times and to greatly different degrees, than may be initially expected. It will also be important to maintain review of the actual impact against forecast impact throughout the process.</p> <p>I believe it important that the social and economic impacts be subject to the same rigorous research and assessment programme as the technical aspects of a repository. In many ways this research can be expected to be as challenging and important as the detailed scientific and engineering research.</p> <p>The University of Manchester has opened a new research base in West Cumbria and investments such as this provide an opportunity to develop a strong independent academic community based in the area that is capable of delivering the research and development necessary to underpin decisions made throughout the GDF process. It will be important that wherever possible research is within and by the local community to engender the necessary trust, engagement and communication. Independent research &amp; development activities should include exhibition space, public viewing areas and a vibrant outreach programme into local schools and community based organisations.</p>
<b>4 – Community benefits</b>	Yes	<p>I believe it is important that any community benefits associated with the process to develop a geological disposal facility are</p>

		<p>developed with Government in an open and transparent manner. It will also be beneficial to engage with other countries such as Finland, Sweden &amp; France where the GDF programmes are more advanced to learn lessons from other local communities and governments.</p> <p>The UK Government also needs to recognise the need for early and clear engagement on this topic and the potential for impacts to affect local communities at all stages of the GDF process.</p>
<b>5 – Design and engineering</b>	Yes	No additional comments.
<b>6 – Inventory</b>	Yes	I believe at this stage in the process the Partnership has sought the correct information and assurances from Government in understanding what may, and may not, form the inventory of a geological disposal facility. Strategic decisions on the disposition of Plutonium stocks and management of spent fuel arising from new nuclear power stations will clearly impact the GDF process and it is important to gain an early baseline understanding of the proposed inventory that can then be amended as further information becomes available and decisions made.
<b>7 – Siting process</b>	Yes	I believe the Partnership have adopted a pragmatic approach to the siting process and sought the necessary assurances from Government that can realistically be expected at this stage.
<b>8 – Overall views on participation</b>		<p>I believe there is sufficient reason to take part, without commitment, in the process to site a geological disposal facility. At this stage in the process it is my opinion that the Partnership have considered the relevant issues and, where necessary, sought the required assurances from Government.</p> <p>I strongly believe that wherever possible independent and respected research communities are utilised or established within West Cumbria such that detailed research, both technical and non-technical, designed to underpin decisions is delivered by the community for the community. It is also important that the facilities, such as The University of Manchester's Dalton Cumbrian Facility, where this research can be delivered are developed to incorporate open access for communities to build the necessary levels of trust and direct engagement. Extensive outreach programmes into the local community will also be vital to provide information and gain feedback.</p> <p>I also believe it is vital that the Government recognises that communities who decide to engage with the process to site a repository may be subject to direct and indirect impacts, both positive and negative, from the very earliest stages.</p>
<b>9 – Additional comments</b>		No additional comments.