

Intermediary Group – North East Copeland Cluster Group

Question	Agree	Response
Overview		5 people took part in a group discussion facilitated by ACT.
1 – Geology	Not Sure/ Partly	The BGS survey and the independent experts reports are not available to read so it is difficult to make a decision on hearsay evidence, no first hand information. What about the impacts of generations of mining, how will that information be available to the public. Has the Nirex study been ignored as it is not shaded out on the map. Lack of enough information at this stage to say yes but accepting that these are experts, but we are not in a position to be sure.
2 – Safety, security, environment and planning	Not Sure/ Partly	There is no real change to the present position, we are living with the waste now being stored above ground at Sellafield, we have to accept that the safety and security elements are satisfactory. With high level waste it generates a lot of heat, how will that heat be managed when underground. Whilst we are currently living with nuclear waste 10 miles down the road we would hope that technology improvements will no doubt improve to make any site safe. A lot will depend on what is going in the repository, 100 years is nothing when you look at highly refined waste, but accepting that it has to go somewhere. How realistic is withdrawal in the future. Would agree that it is the best that could be expected in relation to safety and security but not so sure about the environmental and planning aspects as evidence shows that these decisions are often made despite opposition by communities, often stated that it is in the national interest.
3 – Impacts	Yes	Improved infrastructure would create jobs, there could be the potential for a lot of local jobs, but jobs should be within the communities affected not brought in from elsewhere. Emphasis should be on local communities, training quality staff could be an issue with many skills having been lost due to business closing. Should avoid short termism. Tourism could be affected, tourism versus repository. Where will the spoil be going, could it be used in other infrastructure projects, could this be seen as a positive impact. People's perceptions, negativity, the rest of the country that hasn't expressed an interest have already shown their negativity, we are only interested because the waste is already here, where does it all fit with the energy coast masterplan, windfarms and national grid issues.
4 – Community benefits	No	Community benefits are a good thing but can anyone be trusted, with the current economic climate and not knowing what the future will look like how can one say what community benefits could be available, is it likely that when we get there it will be government cannot afford it. Evidence of past promises broken, what about the Nuclear blue print, can governments of the future be trusted. Not specific enough to make any firm decision.

5 – Design and engineering	Not Sure/ Partly	Knowing that the designs are safe at this stage is fair, how can anything be 100% safe. The design and technology will be safe with the knowledge of today. Retrievability should be built into any design at this stage, not left for the future, setting up a potential time bomb by not having the option to retrieve. Technology of the future could mean that it could have future use. Would have said yes to this one had retrieveability been built in to design.
6 – Inventory	Not Sure/ Partly	If this is a national store then anything could go in it including nuclear weapons. No inventory change without public consultation. Will this be just for home produced waste or waste from other countries. Wouldn't be comfortable with any changes to the inventory without being consulted. The emphasis should be on local communities having the final say on any inventory changes.
7 – Siting process	Not Sure/ Partly	Wait and see, the ambiguity is underestimated. How can we decide on whether anyone will stick to a commitment in the future, a number of authorities have shown themselves to be untrustworthy. Once you loose the confidence in the process it will be hardwork. I think the process is underestimated.
8 – Overall views on participation		What about withdrawl, what about the ammount of money that has been spent, the decision about withdrawl in the future should be set in stone. Final decison making, why not a referendum as oppossed to an opinion survey. Is it a for gone conclusion, will we be informed of how the decision will be made, will that be published, its all about trust in the process, decisions should not be made behind closed doors.
9 – Additional comments		The decision making process should be more transparent at every stage.