

**WEST CUMBRIA & NORTH LAKES FRIENDS OF THE EARTH****Statement (1)****ED30****EXAMINATION OF THE CUMBRIA MINERALS & WASTE LOCAL PLAN****November 2016****Inspector's Draft Matters & Issues**

**Issue: Whether the identified Vision and Objectives are the most appropriate for the Plan area**

**Soundness: Matter 1 Vision & Objectives**

**11. Is there sufficient inclusion of radio-active waste matters? Should there be a strategic objective relating to radio-active waste?**

The scope of this Plan, from 2016 – 2030, coincides with a period of plans for new nuclear development in England & Wales, and decommissioning of the nation's earlier generation of nuclear reactors.

The management of waste from this previous generation of reactors has been neglectful in the extreme, and the only coherent national plan for it – the 2008 White Paper Managing Radioactive Waste Safely [1] – has yet to have its strategy realised for finding a suitable host for a Deep Geological Disposal Facility.

The amounts of radwaste in the UK that will need to be managed during the period of this Plan will escalate as power stations and other facilities are decommissioned, and plans will be needed for the handling of radwaste from the new generation of reactors.

Cumbria is the only place in the UK which handles and stores radwaste from outside its borders. This Plan therefore should be capable of guiding decisionmakers in what is in effect a national enterprise that has come to exist *de facto* within the County, and should not be allowed to do so any longer without a clear Framework. There is an EU Directive for radioactive waste and UK government has responded to the EU Directive which requires member states to have a National Plan and sets out the areas that all member states need to address to have such a Plan [2] but falls short of creating such a Plan. These alone indicate the importance of the matter.

In the light of this, we submit that Radioactive Waste is a sufficiently significant matter to merit a strategic objective of its own within this Local Plan. However, it will need to reflect both international and national policy, both of which – out of necessity – are rapidly developing at the present time. Therefore we submit that a review should be built in to this strategic objective.

Our previous experience of the Cumbria MWDF Hearings when a review was agreed but contained no specified circumstances and never occurred, despite the arrival of the MRWS process in Cumbria, we submit that a review should be triggered for specific circumstances. The formal expression of an interest in volunteering to host a GDF in Cumbria would be one such circumstance.

1. Managing Radioactive Waste Safely 2008

2. UK National Report on Compliance with European Council Directive 2011/70

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/457893/UK\\_National\\_Report\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457893/UK_National_Report_-_final.pdf)

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