

**CUMBRIA MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN  
2015-2030**

**CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT  
ON THE FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR**

**RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

**~ POST HEARING SESSIONS ~**

**January 2017**

Where documents have been referenced in the following text, the *Title* is set out in *italics* and the Submission or Evidence Base document reference follows in brackets, e.g. (LD46).

All documents can be accessed via the Core Document List, located on the Examination web page: [http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals\\_waste/MWLP/Examination.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals_waste/MWLP/Examination.asp)

Alternatively, all Submission documents can be accessed on the Submission version web page: [http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals\\_waste/MWLP/submissiondocuments.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals_waste/MWLP/submissiondocuments.asp)

And all Evidence Base documents can be accessed via the Evidence Base web page: [http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals\\_waste/MWLP/EB.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals_waste/MWLP/EB.asp)

## Part A: 13 December 2016

Responses to the technical questions were sought from, and supplied by, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Sellafield Ltd and the Low Level Waste Repository Ltd. Clarification, especially of technical terms, has been added by the County Council.

### Questions

#### Legal Matters

##### *Participants' issues*

1. **Any legal issues that participants wish to raise will be discussed at this stage.**

#### Soundness Matters

##### ***Matter 1: Vision, Objectives and Overall Strategy***

1. **(Qu 11 M&Is). Given that the management of radioactive waste in Cumbria is of particular significance to the County and of national importance, should the overall strategy and objectives not make specific reference to it? Overall strategies should be distinct to a local plan's area and be carried through to more specific policies in the Plan. Accordingly, does this waste stream not merit special mention within the overall strategy/objectives, particularly as it has a full section devoted to it in the Plan?**

Other matters are of particular significance to the county, and of national importance, but it has not been suggested that they should be specifically referenced in the strategy and objectives – for example, high and very high specification aggregates, slate or gypsum.

The long term spatial vision specifically mentions radioactive waste:

"That facilities will have been provided to manage those radioactive wastes that arise in Cumbria, and to make a national contribution to managing ones from elsewhere in the UK that require the county's specialist facilities, but do not have adverse social, economic or environmental impacts".

#### Strategy

In my opinion, following on from the Vision, what do we want to see in the Strategy with regard to radioactive waste by 2030?

- the right type of radioactive waste management facilities are built in the right place at the right time  
**this is set out in the Strategy's third bullet: "the appropriate waste management facilities will have been provided in the right locations and at the right time, as far as practicable near to where it is produced and with options for sustainable transport"**
- the arisings of radioactive waste in the county are minimised  
**this is set out in the Strategy's second bullet: "initiatives will have been successful in changing behaviours in order to meet, or exceed, targets for**

- driving wastes up the waste hierarchy and minimising wastes sent to landfill, in accordance with the national zero waste agenda"
- if practicable and appropriate, radioactive wastes are viewed as a resource  
this is set out in the Strategy's second bullet: "initiatives will have been successful in changing behaviours in order to meet, or exceed, targets for driving wastes up the waste hierarchy and minimising wastes sent to landfill, in accordance with the national zero waste agenda"
- the unnecessary transport of radioactive wastes into the county are minimised  
this is set out in the Strategy's third bullet: "the appropriate waste management facilities will have been provided in the right locations and at the right time, as far as practicable near to where it is produced and with options for sustainable transport"
- the long term storage of higher activity radioactive wastes is delivered safely, until an appropriate disposal route is available  
this is set out in the Strategy's third bullet: "the appropriate waste management facilities will have been provided in the right locations and at the right time, as far as practicable near to where it is produced and with options for sustainable transport"
- the radioactive waste industry is supported, where appropriate, and it contributes to providing a healthy economy in the county  
this is set out in the Strategy's first bullet: "the Local Plan's provisions for waste management facilities and for supplies of minerals will have made a significant contribution to the county's economy and will have aided development and regeneration initiatives"
- the full range of radioactive waste management, movements, facilities, etc., will not have any adverse environmental, social or economic impacts in the county  
this is set out in the Strategy's sixth bullet: "waste management and minerals developments will have secured significant enhancement of Cumbria's environmental assets and local amenity"  
and also the seventh: "prudent and environmentally sensitive use of Cumbria's minerals and waste management resources will have achieved economic, social and environmental gains for Cumbria, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development"

Following discussion at the Hearing session, two new bullets will be inserted at the end of Box 2.2, the overall strategy, which encompass the points above. To provide the context for these bullets, four new paragraphs will be inserted following existing paragraph 2.9; these clarify the relationship between the vision, strategy and objectives, and explain where radioactive waste fits into the process. See Main Modifications MM2 and MM3.

### ***Matter 3 – Radioactive Waste Strategy***

*SP4 Transparent decision making*

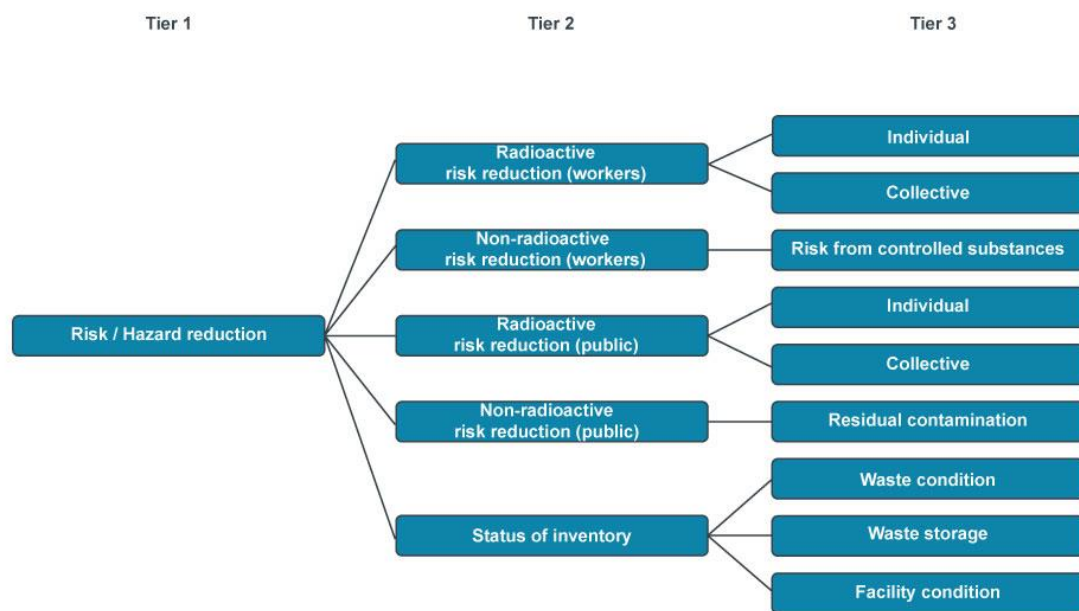
*SP5 Development criteria for low level radioactive waste sites*

*SP6 Higher activity radioactive wastes treatment, management and storage*

2. **Please explain how optioneering works in practice and the interaction between the Council and other regulators.**

Optioneering is the process of a logical comparison of alternatives based on consideration of a range of factors, with the aim of identifying a single preferred option within the context and constraints of the project, programme or activity. Within the NDA, this process is managed under the NDA value framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nda-value-framework-how-we-make-decisions>

This process ensures transparency when comparing and assessing options, recognising that value comes in many forms, such as: an improved environment, risk or hazard reduction, ensuring health and safety, provision of social amenities, money or employment. These values are gathered together within the value framework, which supports the NDA’s aim to deliver safe and sustainable solutions to the challenge of nuclear clean-up and waste management.



Example: Value Framework tiered approach for risk/hazard reduction factors

Site Licence Companies<sup>1</sup> are required to demonstrate to the regulators that their processes follow the ALARA principles; these require the operator to keep all exposures to the public As Low As Reasonably Achievable, having regard to relevant factors, such as protection of the environment and other social and economic impacts. They are also required to demonstrate Best Available Technique (BAT); this means, with regard to the latest stage of development of processes, facilities or methods of operation, the available techniques that are the most practicable and suitable to limit waste arisings and disposals. ‘Techniques’ include both the technology used and the way the installation is designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned.

A key part of optioneering is stakeholder engagement, which will help to define the issues that the optioneering will need to address, and will inform decision-

<sup>1</sup> The NDA do not have a hands-on role in cleaning up their facilities, this is delivered through Site Licence Companies. An SLC holds the nuclear site licence, granted by ONR, to operate the nuclear site(s). There are currently 6 SLCs: Sellafield Ltd, LLWR Ltd, Magnox Ltd, Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd, Springfield Fuels Ltd, Capenhurst Nuclear Services.

making against a range of attributes. Depending on the project, there will be a broad range of stakeholders, including central and local government, Environment Agencies, ONR, waste producers, SLCs, NGO's and the public.

3. **Turning to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) representation (Rep 028) on Plan paragraph 4.39. Where it says "*Cumbria County Council's preferred approach is that decommissioning waste should be managed on the site where they arise unless a rigorous assessment demonstrates that this is not practicable. Should there be more information on what is considered a "rigorous" assessment in order that developers properly understand what is required of them? Will this include the details of the optioneering process? What else might it include?***

See response to Q2. Rigorous assessment would typically include: following the value framework, BAT assessment, business case, etc. Thus, it would be expected that there would be demonstration of how any development would, where appropriate, comply with the principles set out in Policy SP4.

To provide clarity on the County Council's definition of rigorous assessment, text will be inserted into existing paragraph 4.39 – see Main Modification MM25.

4. **Plan paragraph 14.6 refers to SP5 and SP6 and states that "*No additional development control policies specific to these wastes are considered necessary, but if a proposal came forward on a nuclear site, all relevant development control policies would be used to determine the application.*" Might this sentence cause confusion? Could the first part be interpreted as meaning that only SP5 or SP6 need be complied with? Would it be better to remove the first part of the sentence?**

Agreed. For clarity, the beginning of the second sentence will be deleted – see Main Modification MM47.

5. **Does Policy SP5 apply to VLLW as well as LLW and if so, should this be made clear in the Policy?**

As defined within the 2007 national LLW Policy document<sup>2</sup>, and set out in paragraph 4.3 of the Local Plan, VLLW is a sub-category of LLW, so would be covered by any reference to LLW.

*Radioactive materials not currently classified as waste*

6. **With reference to points raised by Friends of the Earth in their representations (Rep 029 & Rep 032), the NDA Strategy (ND151) states that after fuel reprocessing has been completed in around 2020, Sellafield will retain the capability to continue to manage Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR) spent fuel from EDF Energy and other spent oxide fuels, and that this will go into interim storage. Assuming this material will be classified as waste, what grade is it likely to be in terms of HLW/ILW/LLW? On what scale is it likely to be generated and**

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<sup>2</sup> Policy for the long term management of solid low level radioactive waste in the UK, DEFRA, March 2007 (LD42)

**over what time scale? Should the MWLP address the management of this radioactive waste?**

Spent fuels will **not** be classified as radioactive waste once fuel reprocessing is completed. Placing spent fuel in interim storage will not foreclose future options for its management, including the options to dispose of it in a geological disposal facility (GDF) or to reprocess. Should the spent fuel be declared as waste at some point in the future, it would be classified in line with the waste definitions in place at that time.

EDF Energy (EDFE) has publicly declared its intention to operate its AGR stations for as long as it is safe and economic to do so, and to seek significant life extensions for its AGR reactors. The NDA must maintain the capability at Sellafield to receive and manage AGR spent fuel from EDFE, in line with contractual commitments. It is not currently possible to estimate the volume and timescale of the EDFE arisings.

Further details on spent oxide fuel can be found in section 4.2 of *NDA Strategy III* (ND151).

It is not considered necessary for the Local Plan to address the management of these spent oxide fuel arisings, as they are not currently identified as radioactive waste. If this were to change within the Plan period, this could constitute a trigger to review all or part of the Plan.

7. **The NDA Strategy also refers to the consolidation of all “exotic” waste at Sellafield. What is this likely to consist of and what grade is it likely to be in terms of HLW/ILW/LLW? On what scale is it likely to be generated and over what time scale? Should the MWLP address the management of this radioactive waste?**

The approach to spent exotic fuels is the same as that set out in response to Q6, i.e. they will be consolidated at Sellafield for interim storage, pending the development of alternative management options. Exotic fuels have a smaller inventory than spent oxide fuels, but it is still not currently possible to estimate the volume of arisings. Further details on spent exotic fuel can be found in section 4.3 of *NDA Strategy III* (ND151).

It is not considered necessary for the Local Plan to address the management of these spent exotic fuel arisings, as they are not currently identified as radioactive waste. If this were to change within the Plan period, this could constitute a trigger to review all or part of the Plan.

8. **The NDA’s document *An Overview of NDA Higher Activity Waste, November 2015* (attached to the Council’s replies to M&Is) states on page 4 “Some radioactive materials that are not currently classified as waste would need to be managed as waste if it was decided at some future time they had no further use. These materials include spent nuclear fuel, uranium and plutonium.” It goes on the say on page 8 that these materials are included in the UK government’s policy for the long-term management of Higher Activity Waste through geological disposal.**

9. **Is it possible that any uranium and/or plutonium, that might require management at Sellafield, could be classified as waste during the lifetime of the Plan? From where is it likely to originate? What grade of waste is it likely to be in terms of HLW/ILW/LLW? On what scale is such waste likely to be generated as opposed to material for re-use and over what time scale? Should the MWLP address the management of this radioactive waste?**

Q8 does not actually appear to ask a question, so the response to Q9 takes into account the statement set out as Q8.

The UK Government will decide when and how to progress and select a long term option for the management of both plutonium and uranium. To support this, the NDA will continue to work with technology suppliers, developers and the UK Government, to establish how options for re-use and/or immobilisation could be developed and implemented. See section 5.2 of *NDA Strategy III* (ND151) for further details.

Plutonium is produced as a by-product from the use of uranium fuel in nuclear reactors. In the UK, the plutonium has been separated out from the used fuel and is stored in powder form in steel and aluminium cans, kept in reinforced concrete buildings above ground at Sellafield. By 2014, the UK had accumulated a total civil separated plutonium stockpile of 126 tonnes; of this, 23 tonnes is overseas-owned. This stockpile is expected to reach 140 tonnes by 2020, after which UK plutonium extraction is due to cease.

The UK has been amassing its plutonium stockpile since the 1950s and is yet to make a decision on its long term management. Government has stated that a decision will not be taken quickly, because they need time to build confidence in the ability to implement any chosen option.

Four options for plutonium management are outlined by Government: indefinite storage at Sellafield; re-use as fuel in UK nuclear power plants; combining the plutonium with natural or depleted uranium to form Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel to send overseas; and disposal of the plutonium in a solid form. All options ultimately end in disposal, with re-used fuel being disposed of after use. Around 5% of the stockpile is not suitable for re-use (because it would need considerable treatment) and is recommended for disposal by the NDA.

If plutonium were to be classified as waste, the NDA's proposed process of disposal involves treatment (immobilisation) of the plutonium (in glass or ceramics), and then storage until disposal in a geological disposal facility (GDF) becomes available.

Uranium stocks have the potential to be re-used in nuclear fuel for generating electricity. Accordingly, the NDAs uranium stocks are held in storage pending the development of disposition options. If it were decided that some of these materials have no future use, they may need to be managed as waste.

Uranics are materials containing uranium, which have been produced since the 1950s, from fuel cycle operations such as enrichment, fuel fabrication and reprocessing. The NDA manage significant stocks of uranium that are held safely and securely at several locations; the majority of the uranium materials are



owned by the NDA, while the remainder is owned by others, including the Ministry of Defence, EDF Energy and overseas utilities.

The NDA-owned inventory comprises the following groups:

- Magnox Depleted Uranium, a product of spent Magnox fuel reprocessing
- Uranium Hexafluoride tails, a by-product of legacy uranium enrichment
- THORP Product Uranium, a product of spent oxide fuel reprocessing
- Highly Enriched Uranium from research reactor fuel development/production
- low-enriched, natural and depleted unused uranium in a variety of forms, as recovered materials from fuel manufacturing processes.

The uranics inventory changes as spent fuels continue to be reprocessed, as uranic materials are sold, and as returns are made to customers. Owing to the diverse nature of the uranics inventory, there is no single preferred management option for it as a whole; the preferred option will need to be determined on a group-by-group basis. The management options are:

- continued safe and secure storage;
- sale to a third party for recycling and re-use;
- conditioning to an appropriate form for disposal.

It is not considered necessary for the Local Plan to address the management of plutonium or uranium, as they are not currently identified as radioactive waste. However, if at some point in the future these materials were to be declared as waste, they would fall into the ILW/HLW classification (depending on any heat generation) and be managed by an appropriate waste management route.

**10. When is spent fuel from the new Moorside reactors likely to start to be created and is it likely that any of it would be within a timeframe that the MWLP should consider?**

The final investment decision on Moorside is due to be taken at the end of 2018. If the decision is to go ahead, construction will begin shortly afterwards, with a scheduled completion of 2025/2026 for the first reactor (of 3). Following that, there will be phased fuel loading, testing and starting of operations until 2029; there is no information in the NuGen documentation on dates for spent fuel arising, but it is likely to be circa 18 months after first use (see quote below from NuGen Stage 2 consultation).

“No reprocessing of spent fuel from the Moorside NNP will be undertaken, instead following appropriate storage and packaging and encapsulation, it will be disposed of within the proposed GDF. The Generic Design Assessment specifies that spent fuel should be removed from the reactor every 18 months. Spent fuel will be removed from the reactor and transferred to the cooling pond within each reactor unit and after some time it will then be moved to a central dry store on site pending off site disposal.”

If the decision is taken to go ahead with Moorside, and then the schedule is adhered to, the earliest that it is expected spent fuel to arise will be 2030. This will be stored pending the decision on whether or not it is a waste, but if it is classified as higher activity waste, a GDF (if that is still the most suitable disposal route at that time) will not be available for its disposal until at least 2040. Therefore, it is not considered that spent fuel will arise within a timeframe that needs to be considered by the Local Plan. If circumstances change, this could be a trigger for review of all or part of the Plan.

**11. Please explain what the “Derived Inventory” is and its significance.**

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), through Radioactive Waste Management<sup>3</sup> (RWM), is responsible for implementing UK Government policy for long-term management of higher activity radioactive wastes. The UK Government’s framework for “Implementing Geological Disposal” defines the inventory for disposal in a geological disposal facility (GDF) in terms of types of higher activity radioactive wastes (and nuclear material that could be declared as waste). RWM has developed a more detailed description of this inventory (a ‘Derived Inventory’) for use in generic GDF design and assessment work, to support the implementation process.

The quantities of waste and nuclear materials are subject to change, due to a number of factors that include improved estimates from planned operations and decommissioning programmes. The Derived Inventory is, therefore, updated periodically to take into account new information, in particular from the latest edition of the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory (currently 2013).

**12. Should the MWLP contain a specific strategic policy for dealing with future spent fuel/uranium/plutonium?**

It is unlikely that there would be any benefit in having a specific strategic policy for future spent fuel/uranium/plutonium. If at some point in the future one or more of these materials were to be declared as waste, they would fall into the ILW/HLW classification (depending on any heat generation) and be managed by an appropriate waste management route at that time.

*Other*

**13. With reference to Friends of the Earth’s representations (Rep 029 & Rep 032) about the waste hierarchy set out in Plan Figure 3.1 on page 13, could “re-use” and “recycling” in the context of radioactive waste be interpreted as including reprocessing? If so, is it intended that reprocessing comes within the hierarchy as set out or should the hierarchy be caveated to address reprocessing differently? Should the radioactive waste strategy address this issue?**

The waste hierarchy is applied to the management of radioactive wastes, where it is practicable to do so. Reprocessing in this context is specific to spent nuclear fuel, which as discussed above, is not waste and, therefore, the waste hierarchy would not apply to reprocessing.

**14. The NDA Strategy (ND151) on page 62 indicates that for some Higher Activity Waste it may not be possible to apply the waste hierarchy due to the levels of radioactivity and/or the condition of the materials to be managed or the facilities within which they are held. Does this need to be recognised in the Plan?**

As stated in the response to Q13, the hierarchy is applied where it is practicable to do so, and this will take into account BAT/ALARA issues and, in some cases,

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<sup>3</sup> RWM is a wholly owned subsidiary of the NDA; their mission is to deliver a geological disposal facility and provide radioactive waste management solutions

it will be impossible/impracticable to avoid/minimise/recycle, etc., so disposal may be the only option. There is no specific need to recognise this in the Plan.

**15. With reference to certain points made in the Copeland Borough Council representation (Rep 037):**

**- Should the Plan address how Intermediate Level Waste is planned to be dealt with at Moorside?**

The NuGen documentation says: "The main site will be equipped with a centralised ILW store, shared by the three reactor units, although each reactor unit will include an area for treatment of ILW generated within it. Treated ILW will be stored onsite in the ILW store, prior to eventual transfer offsite to the GDF or other suitable disposal site. Some ILW will be packaged and stored so that over time, radioactive decay will allow it to be treated as LLW at the point of disposal."

ILW will, therefore, arise from the three reactors, be treated in close proximity to the reactor of arising, then be stored on site centrally until a GDF (or other suitable disposal site/route) is available, or until it has decayed to LLW level.

As with spent fuel, set out in response to Q10, the earliest that it is expected ILW to arise will be 2030; therefore, it is not considered that this is within the timeframe that needs to be considered by the Local Plan. If circumstances change, this could be a trigger for review of all or part of the Plan.

**- Should the difference between absorbed, equivalent, committed and effective dose be made in footnote 45?**

It is considered that explanation of the dose types is too detailed for the Plan. In line with the response by the NDA to the Regulation 19 consultation on the Publication version of the Local Plan in 2016, an amendment to footnote 45 has already been put forward to the Inspector, by the County Council – see Minor Modification Min6.

**- In Plan paragraphs 4.23 and 4.24 should reference be made to considering the key principles of other regulators and, for Higher Activity Waste, the recommendations from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management?**

By inference these principles are covered, e.g. CoRWM recommendations are embedded in the references (47 to 53) in existing paragraph 4.24.

**- Should it be made clear that application of the proximity principle in Policy SP4 is subject to national strategies for disposal of radioactive waste taking account of consolidation of wastes and economic efficiencies?**

In the response by the NDA to the Regulation 19 consultation on the Publication version of the Local Plan in 2016, it was suggested either to remove Policy SP4 or to add wording as additional text in paragraph 4.27, to acknowledge and clarify the statutory position with regard to the proximity principle and the management of radioactive waste (and to align with the principles of the

National Planning Policy for Waste). The Council chose to add a new sentence at the beginning of existing paragraph 4.28. Furthermore, a new bullet will be added to Policy SP4 – see Main Modifications MM22 and MM23.

**- Should there be more recognition of the economic benefits of the nuclear industry within the Plan?**

Chapter 2 of the Local Plan recognises the economic benefits of the wider nuclear industry (not just the radioactive waste industry) and also discusses the LEPs Strategic Economic Plan, which sets out their framework and objectives with regard to the nuclear industry in Cumbria. Chapter 7 explains the significance of the minerals and waste industries to Cumbria's economy and paragraph 7.7 specifies the economic importance of the nuclear industry from the work undertaken by the LEP to facilitate investment in key projects, such as building on nuclear industry strengths.

Other strategies that consider the socio-economic impacts of the radioactive waste industry activities, on those communities living close to nuclear licensed sites, are also referenced in the Plan; for example, the *NDA Strategy III* (ND151) – section 7.8 covers socio-economics.

**- Should there be any further policy direction or reference within the Plan to the potential implementation of Geological Disposal Facilities within the UK?**

The GDF is an NSIP project, which has yet to enter into the community volunteerism stage. Once it does, it is expected that a further 15 to 20 years for site investigations, designing and planning will follow. There is no guarantee that the GDF will be constructed in Cumbria; if construction occurs out of county, there will be implications for the transport of the higher activity wastes that are currently stored in Cumbria. Either way, the project timescale is outside the Local Plan period; therefore, it is not appropriate to include any further policy direction in this Local Plan. This situation will be kept under review, and if circumstances change, this could be a trigger for a full or partial review of the Plan.

**16. Any other strategic matters that participants wish to raise will be discussed at this stage.**

## **Part B: 14 December 2016**

### ***Matter 6: Development Management Policies***

17. **Any development management matters that participants wish to raise will be discussed at this stage.**

### ***Matter 7: Allocations Policies***

#### *Copeland sites*

18. **A discussion of CO32 Land adjacent to Sellafield will take place, having regard to Copeland Borough Council's representation (Rep 037).**

A detailed discussion on the need for, and purpose of, this allocation is in paragraphs 18.17 to 18.21 of the MWLP. This particular allocation was identified in 2009, primarily in response to Sellafield Ltd putting forward this NDA-owned land for a waste park in 2007, which would attract commercial enterprises to develop new and innovative waste treatment technologies. Although this proposal was subsequently dropped, more recent discussions with Sellafield Ltd have led to identification of the land for potential storage of construction and demolition waste arising from Sellafield's decommissioning, which cannot be accommodated on the space-constrained site. This is in addition to the potential for the NDA-owned land to be able to host the successor to the CLESA (termed CLESA-2) once that landfill is full, around 2025. A feasibility study was carried out by Sellafield Ltd in 2013, to investigate this potential. The allocation of site CO32 and the range of uses for which it could be considered, is in accord with Sellafield Ltd's and the NDA's decommissioning strategies.

**- Why has such a large site (56ha, equal to 20% of Sellafield site) been proposed? What is the evidence for a site of this size? Would all of the proposed site be needed?**

As set out in the Site Assessments document, CO32 has been identified from the land owned by the NDA, which has then been refined by consideration of known environmental assets and other constraints. Any development would use only part of the site allocated, dependent on any further constraints identified at the more detailed planning application stage.

**- The site has a strong slope towards the river Calder**

This constraint would be considered at the more detailed planning application stage.

**- Development would result in a loss of a large amount of relatively good agricultural land in Copeland**

Any development would use only part of the site allocated, dependent on any further constraints identified at the more detailed planning application stage.

**- The cumulative effects of this development, which would be seen as a large extension to Sellafield site, together with the Sellafield complex and Moorside to the north will be unacceptable**

This constraint would be considered at the more detailed planning application stage.

**- The land is poorly connected by rail and road**

It is assumed that the existing internal rail and/or road systems at Sellafield could be extended into CO32. If a stand-alone waste park were to be developed (subject to planning permission), a new rail spur could be built in a similar manner as that proposed for Moorside.

Following discussion at the Hearing session, modifications will be made to reflect the points made above, and to better outline the intended policy approach to site CO32 in the Plan. It should not be considered the default option for either CLESA-2 or the long term storage of inert CD&E materials; however, the site would be appropriate in terms of sustainability (especially for the transport of waste or materials), and would aid the overall strategy to limit the proliferation of radioactive waste-related sites across the county. It is understood, that even if CO32 were to host CLESA-2, this would not extend the nuclear licensed site boundary.

See Main Modifications MM24, MM73, MM74 and MM75.

**19. Have any alternatives been assessed/considered and, if so, with what outcome?**

No other sites for these purposes have been put forward for consideration, but the 2013 Feasibility Study undertaken for Sellafield Ltd, assessed on site and off site locations for CLESA-2. For the one on site, consideration has already been undertaken under allocation CO36 Sellafield site. For the off site locations, one fell within CO32; this is located in the Lady Wood/Longrigg Wood area. The other two, Seascale Hall/Moss Wood area and west of Sellafield, are outwith CO32.

It is understood that further work is to be carried out by Sellafield Ltd.

*Review of Potential Suitability for Disposal of LLW/VLLW on or near to the Sellafield Site - Feasibility Study (LD214)*

**20. With respect to site CO32 what, if any, significant cumulative impacts might there be from waste generated and will there be sufficient scope for adequate mitigation?**

Without knowing what proposals will be put forward, it is difficult to assess cumulative impacts. At the time of a proposal being submitted, all constraints and assessments (such as Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment) would be undertaken, in order to consider cumulative impacts and mitigation, as necessary.

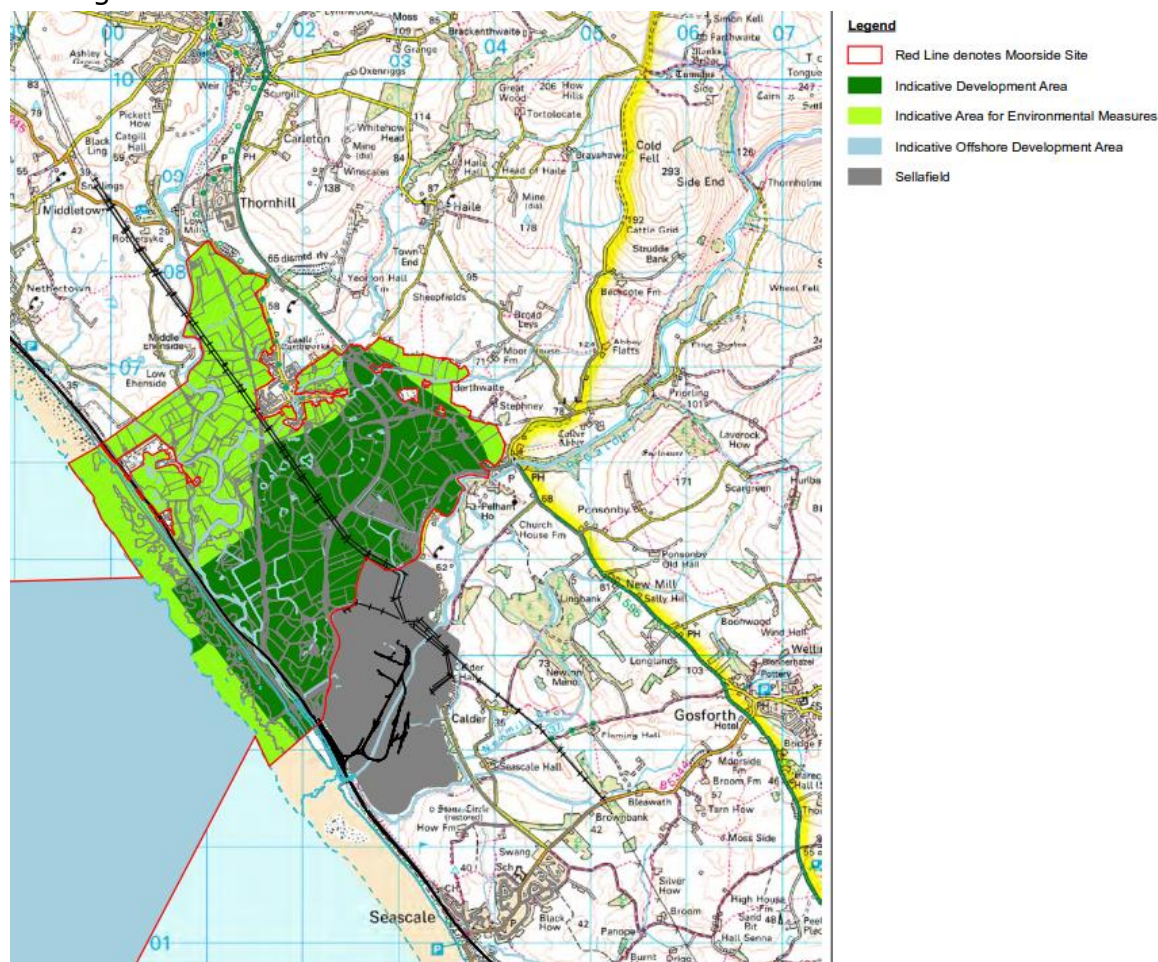
**21. What is the current position with respect to the anticipated Moorside nuclear power station application and when is it expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for determination? In what general area is it likely to be sited?**

NuGen carried out its Stage 2 consultation for the Moorside project from 14 May to 30 July 2016, and is currently assessing the consultation responses. It is likely that another consultation will take place once further project detail

has been decided by NuGen. NuGen are scheduled to submit the application for a Development Consent Order in Quarter 2, 2017.

If it goes ahead, Moorside Power Station would be located to the west of the existing Sellafield nuclear licensed site. Plans showing the general area for Moorside are available on the following link: <https://nugenconsultation.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Plans-and-Drawings.pdf>

The figure below is an extract from Plan 3 of the document link.



*Other allocation matters*

22. **With respect to Electricity North West’s representation (Rep 003) have their identified assets been added to the relevant radioactive waste allocations in the Site Assessments document and has this made any difference to the site assessments?**

Yes, the *Table of Proposed Modifications to the Site Assessments Document* (SD49) includes the comments provided by Electricity North West (ENW) on their assets. The inclusion of ENW assets has made no difference to the site assessments for waste allocations. The information provided within ENW’s representation (Rep 003) will be used as an informative for applicants, should a planning application come forward.

*Participants' issues*

- 23. Any other allocation matters that participants wish to raise will be discussed at this stage.**

***Other Matters***

***Implementation and monitoring***

- 24. Is the implementation and monitoring framework in chapter 17 of the Plan appropriate for radioactive waste? Should there be more specific reference to radioactive waste?**

In order to ensure that Chapter 17 adequately covers radioactive waste, a new bullet will be inserted into paragraph 17.4, new text into existing paragraph 17.7, and new text into Table 17.1, which summarises the organisations involved in the implementation of the Plan. See Main Modifications MM63, MM64 and MM65.

- 25. Should the MWLP plan for a review upon the happening of any specific events/circumstances within the Plan period? If so, what should these events be?**

Yes. Several instances of review triggers have been noted in the responses to questions above:

- investment decision on Moorside/construction phase of Moorside – clarity on projected date of radioactive waste arisings
- decisions on GDF – location, construction, availability dates
- decision that spent oxide or exotic fuels are to be classified as wastes
- decision that plutonium and/or uranium are to be classified as wastes

This is a non-exhaustive list, and other, unforeseen triggers may arise in the Plan period.

To clarify the monitoring and implementation process, new text will be inserted into existing Paragraphs 17.9, 17.10, 17.11. Furthermore, a new table will be inserted following existing paragraph 17.11, which will provide context on the range of non-policy triggers for a full or partial review of the Local Plan. See Main Modifications MM66 and MM67.

***Other***

- 26. Any other matters that participants wish to raise will be discussed at this stage.**

**Any closing housekeeping matters**