

WM2013 Session 102: The Future of Consent Based Siting SNF/HLW Disposal Siting and Discussion of the Alternatives

UK Situation February 2013

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Government Policy- Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)

- Published June 2008
- Government's framework for managing higher activity radioactive waste through geological disposal
- Geological disposal policy doesn't cover Scotland
- NDA as implementing body committed to:
 - Programme of R&D
 - Development of RWMD into delivery organisation
 - Preparation and planning for geological disposal



Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS)

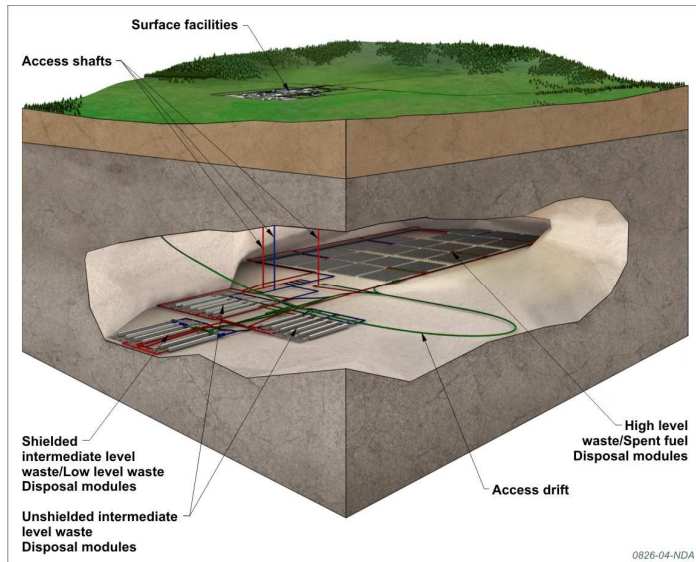
| Work | Timing |
|--|--------------|
| The MRWS consultation process, consideration of responses, planning for stage 2 | 2001-02 |
| Establishment of Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) Research and public debate, led by CoRWM, involving option evaluation, using best public and stakeholder engagement and the best available scientific knowledge Government decision on the option(s) to implement | 2002-06 |
| Consultation on the Government's framework for implementing its preferred option(s) | 2007 |
| Implementation of preferred option(s) | 2008 onwards |

Long list of options considered

The options on CoRWM's long list were:

1. interim or indefinite storage on or below the surface
2. near surface disposal, a few metres or tens of metres down
3. deep disposal, with the surrounding geology providing a further barrier
4. phased deep disposal, with storage and monitoring for a period
5. direct injection of liquid wastes into rock strata
6. disposal at sea
7. sub-seabed disposal
8. disposal in ice sheets
9. disposal in subduction zones
10. disposal in space, into high orbit, or propelled into the Sun
11. dilution and dispersal of radioactivity in the environment
12. partitioning of wastes and transmutation of radionuclides
13. burning of plutonium and uranium in reactors
14. incineration to reduce waste volumes
15. melting of metals in furnaces to reduce waste volumes

Selected option



Geological disposal* is the best available approach for the long-term management of ... waste ...when compared with the risks associated with other methods of management.

*“Disposal” ... means the burial underground (200 – 1000m) of radioactive waste in a purpose built facility with no intention to retrieve the waste once the facility is closed.

Geological disposal policy doesn't cover Scotland:

The Scottish Government Policy is that the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste should be in near-surface facilities. Facilities should be located as near to the site where the waste is produced as possible.

Who is involved ?

Government

- Policy lead
- Siting decision

Regulators

- Independent check that proposals are safe, secure and protect the environment

CoRWM

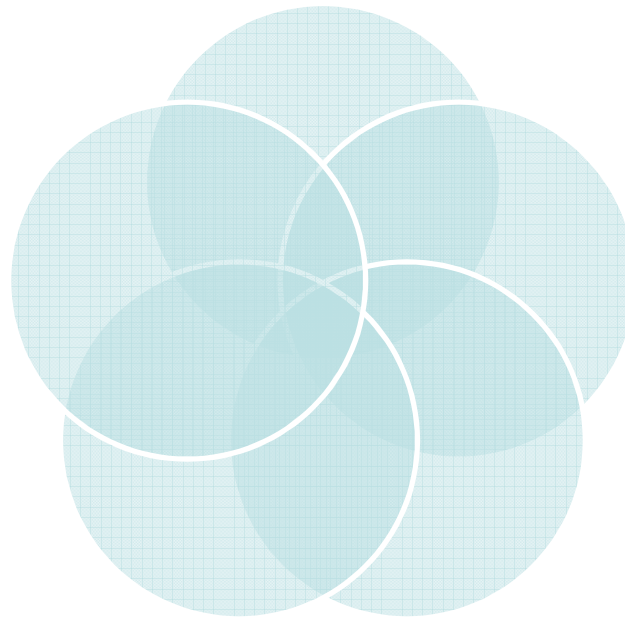
- Scrutiny of MRWS programme

Communities

- Decision to participate
- Right of Withdrawal

NDA

- Implementing body



Four pillars of implementation

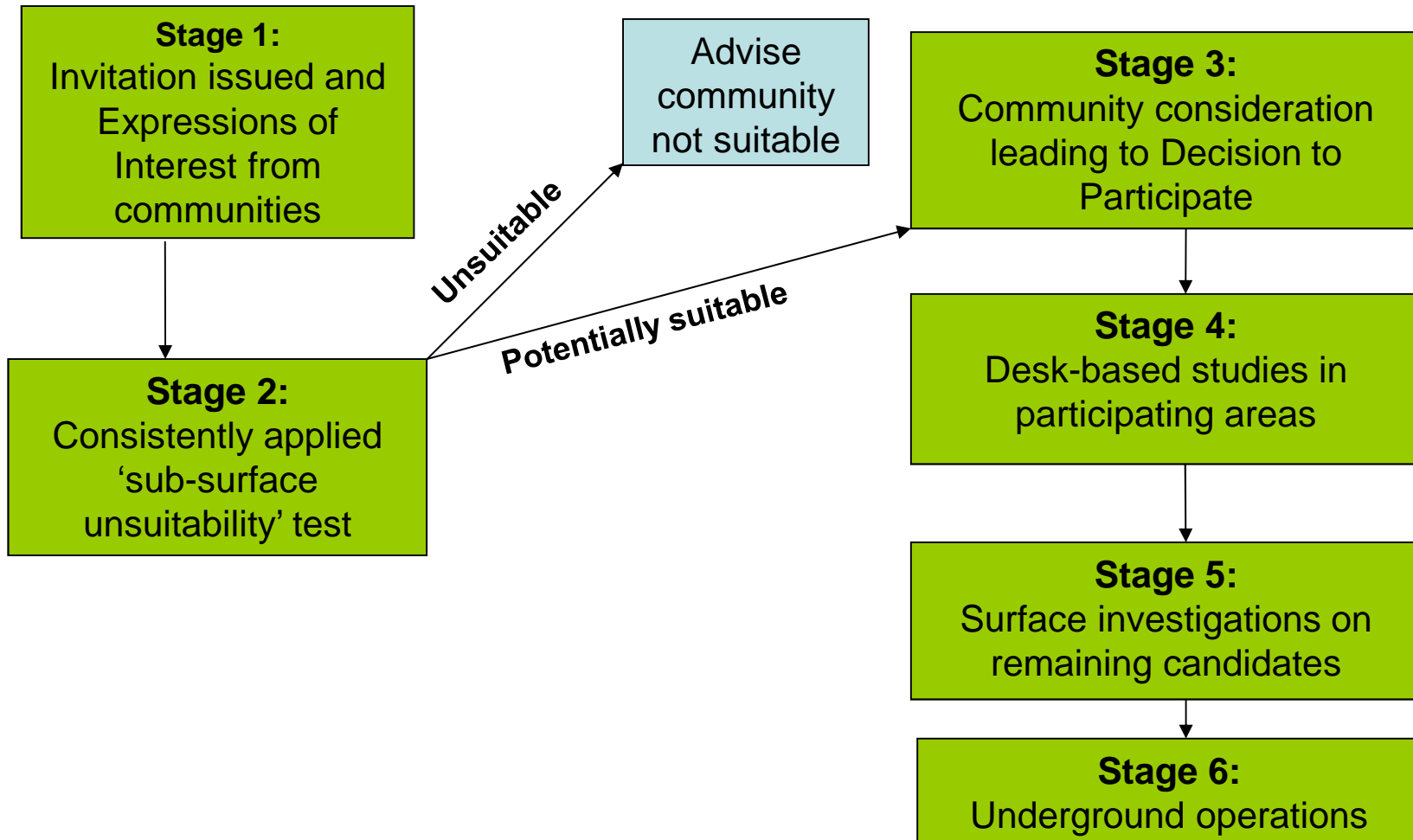
Partnership
with host
community

Implementation
by the NDA

Strong
independent
regulation

Independent
scrutiny by
CoRWM

Overview of the Siting Process



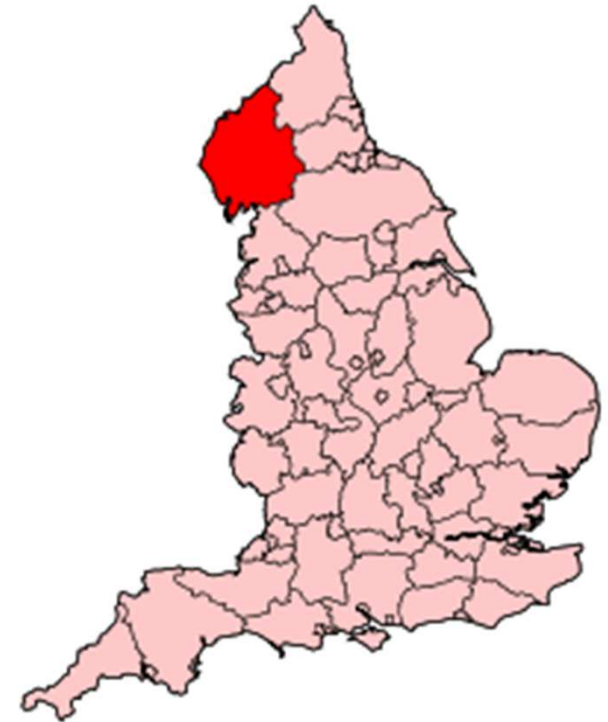
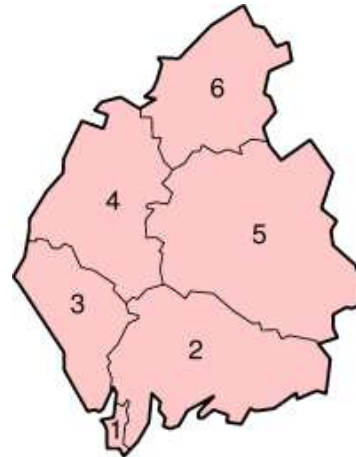
Progress with identifying a potential host community

- **2008 – Call for volunteers**
- **3 Expressions of Interest (for 2 areas)**
- **Establishment of west Cumbria MRWS Partnership (Local Authorities, trade unions, tourism, chamber of commerce, National Farmer's Union, National Park)**
- **British Geological Survey initial 'sub surface unsuitability test'**
- **Local engagement on issues including**
 - Safety
 - Community benefits
 - Siting/Planning
 - Tourism impacts
 - Inventory

West Cumbria participation

- **Two Borough Councils (Allerdale and Copeland) and one County Council (Cumbria) formally expressed an interest**
- **A local partnership was formed**
- **Memorandum of Agreement signed**

1. **Barrow in Furness**
2. **South Lakeland**
3. **Copeland**
4. **Allerdale**
5. **Eden**
6. **Carlisle**



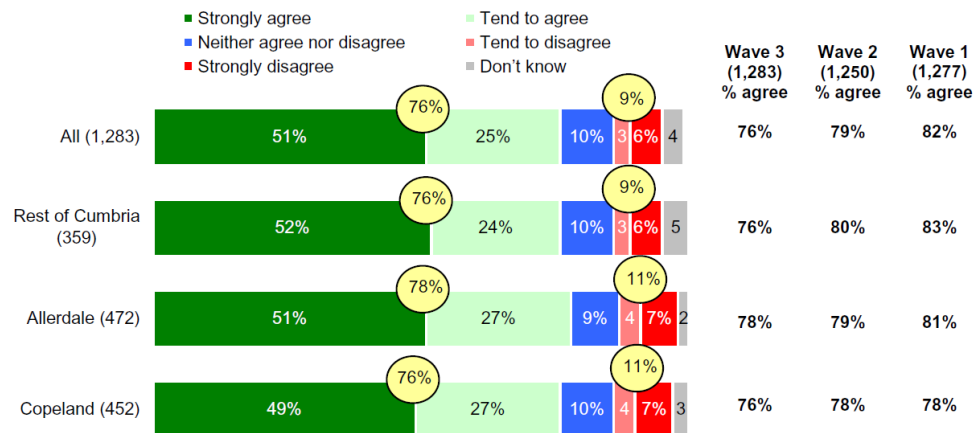
Partnership work areas

7 key areas of work: informing the recommendation whether or not West Cumbria should participate in the next stage:

- 1. Safety, security, environment and planning**
- 2. Geology**
- 3. Community Benefits and impacts**
- 4. Design and Engineering and inventory**
- 5. Siting Process**
- 6. Public and Stakeholder views (cross-cutting)**
- 7. Other activities (e.g. Ethics & Evaluation)**

Local community engagement in west Cumbria

- 6-weekly Partnership meetings, open to the public
- Three rounds of public and stakeholder engagement completed
- West Cumbria MRWS Partnership completed report July 2012



Base: All respondents (Wave 3: 1,283; Wave 2: 1,250; Wave 1: 1,277)

Source: Ipsos MORI



Current situation

- **July 2012 Partnership provided recommendations to councils**
- **January 2013 – Allerdale and Copeland voted to continue in the process, Cumbria decided not to continue**
- **Support was needed at Borough and County level to proceed**
- **Therefore, the current process has come to an end in west Cumbria**
- **Government are going to look at lessons learned, review the MRWS process and encourage new participants**
- **Invitation for communities to participate is still open**

Process Review

- **Decision Making Roles**
- **Decision points in the siting process**
- **Right of Withdrawal**
- **Approach to planning**
- **Safety and the role of regulators**
- **Legislative approach**

Process Review cont/

- **Contingency planning**
- **Organisation structures / roles**
- **Community benefits**
- **Geological screening**
- **Advocacy / communications**
- **On-going mechanisms for engagement / feedback**

Summary

- **Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process continues**
- **Government committed to GDF**
- **Twin track approach proceeds**
 - Process review
 - Attract new communities
- **Outline timetable leading to review complete by 2014**