

## West Cumbria MRWS Partnership



### Meeting Report

**From 14 May 2009**

at Ennerdale Country House Hotel

Document No:	3
Status:	Final
Title:	Meeting Report from West Cumbria MRWS Partnership, 14 May 2009
Author:	3KQ (see note overleaf)
Notes:	none

## Document Details

**Status:** Version 2, for publication

### Note:

This report is a summary of discussions at the meeting. It is compiled by independent facilitators 3KQ, operating on behalf of all participants. Note that it is meant as an aide memoir for participants and a means of update to non-attendees, rather than a definitive record of every detail.

**Facilitators/Authors:** Richard Harris, Rhuari Bennett

**Contacts :** [rhuari@3kq.co.uk](mailto:rhuari@3kq.co.uk)  
[richard@3kq.co.uk](mailto:richard@3kq.co.uk)

Telephone 01892 506909 (3KQ)

3KQ Ltd  
Pantiles Chambers  
85 High Street  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent TN1 1XP

3KQ Ltd  
93 Serpentine Road  
Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA9 4PD

The meeting was convened by Copeland Borough Council. If you wish to contact them directly then please contact Fergus McMorro on 01946 598325 or [Fergus.McMorrow@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:Fergus.McMorrow@copeland.gov.uk)

*3KQ Ltd is a company that helps organisations engage the public and stakeholders around contentious issues within the environmental sector. For more information see [www.3kq.co.uk](http://www.3kq.co.uk)*

# 1. Introduction

---

**1.1 Objectives.** Specific objectives for the day were to:

- Enable participants to build their understanding of the MRWS context and process
- Initiate the development of draft criteria for taking the decision whether to participate
- Agree objectives of Public and Stakeholder Engagement and key phasing regarding geological screening work
- Agree the focus of the next meeting

The full agenda is in Appendix 1.

**1.2 Attendance.** 30 participants<sup>1</sup> attended at the Ennerdale Country House Hotel on 14 May 2009. A full list of those in attendance is in Appendix 2. The meeting was open to the public and 4 members of public attended.

## 2. Updates

---

**2.1 Membership.** Eden District Council and the Chamber of Commerce have joined the Partnership since the last meeting in March 2009. Carlisle City Council are still considering whether to join. Discussions with Cumbria County Council continue, seeking an agreement around decision-making in the process. The Partnership reiterates their invitation to the County to participate in the current process and welcomes County input to the developing work programme including the emerging plans for public and stakeholder engagement.

**2.2 Budget.** DECC has refunded the costs of the Partnership activity during last financial year. The Steering Group, on behalf of the Partnership, has developed a draft budget for the current 09-10 financial year, and is in the process of submitting it to DECC and seeking agreement for the funds.

**2.3 Risk Management.** As suggested by the last Partnership meeting, the Steering Group has considered a paper on how the Partnership might best assess and manage risks to the process. The Steering Group will progress this work further and report to the Partnership at the 14 July meeting with proposals.

---

<sup>1</sup> Plus 3 from the facilitation team and secretariat  
2

## 3. Learning about MRWS

---

**3.1 Objective.** This session aimed to enable participants to build their understanding of the context around managing radioactive waste and the existing Government process, in order to bring everyone to a more equal level of knowledge. Participants received advance notification of the learning session, together with a copy of the White Paper and associated Website Summary document produced by Government to read (or re-read) before the meeting. Participants were then given the opportunity to ask any questions – basic or advanced - they had. For practical reasons the session was divided into four broad subject areas and participants addressed the subjects in four small groups: each group addressing each subject in turn for 20 minutes. All participants had a chance to discuss all subjects. The next four paragraphs list the main issues covered in the four discussion groups.

### **3.2 - Waste and Radioactivity (session supported by Alun Ellis, NDA)**

Discussion touched on the following areas:

- The difference between storage and disposal and the degrees of reversibility and retrieveability involved
- Inventory: co-location, and whether Pu and Spent Fuel should be disposed of in the GDF at all
- The Community Benefits Package and its importance alongside other factors
- Scope of the GDF project and possibilities to locate associated encapsulation/conditioning/fabrication plants in Cumbria
- Safety. The roles of the operator, regulators and community, and in particular the care needed over tailoring communication appropriately to meet the needs of all three parties: especially the community.

### **3.3 - Preparation for Geological Disposal (session supported by Lewis Mortimer and Bruce Cairns, DECC).**

Discussion touched on the following areas:

- Retrieveability, reversibility, recoverability
- The process for moving from volunteer areas to specific sites
- The benefits available from hosting a facility – not specifically the benefits package but in terms of jobs, construction etc
- Decision Making Bodies and relationships with other democratic bodies – Parishes, Boroughs, County etc
- BGS high level screening: removal of areas that are obviously geologically unsuitable rather than produce areas that are definitely suitable (further technical work will need to be done as the process proceeds).
- Inventory of waste to be consigned to a facility

**3.4 - Environment and Regulation (session supported by Clive Williams and Gavin Thomson, Environment Agency).** Discussion touched on the following areas:

- The need for a layperson's guide to regulation and environmental issues regarding MRWS
- Role of regulators assisting the community deciding whether to participate
- Reversibility, retrieveability and post-closure monitoring
- Regulatory transparency e.g. openness in interactions between EA/NII/NDA
- The regulatory process before closure of a GDF would be allowed
- The nature of regulatory scrutiny of implementer's plans and safety calculations (e.g. whether regulators might perform their own calculations)

**3.5 - Site Selection and Assessment (session supported by Jay Redgrove, NDA)**

Discussion touched on the following areas:

- Definition of a 'host community' and the process by which a town or village might become a 'host community' according to the White Paper
- Process by which different people's views will be weighted or balanced
- Blight, and how it might be handled
- The Government's right to explore different approaches (para 6.5 of the White Paper)

**3.6 Plenary debrief.** Participants welcomed the session, saying they had learned a lot and had a better understanding of the further questions that needed to be answered as the process goes forward.

**3.7 Other Learning Opportunities.** Despite much having been learned, it was recognised that learning is a continual process and so can only be partially addressed in a single session like above. Other suggestions for further learning opportunities included:

- Site visit around Sellafield, specifically plants involved in packaging/conditioning
- CARL meeting on 20-21 October (which includes a site visit on 22 October)
- Standing agenda item for open questions at every Partnership meeting

**3.8 Learning from International Experience.** Some participants asked for information on the learning to derive from other countries' experience of managing nuclear waste, and suggested asking overseas representatives to present to the Partnership (such as SKB's UK team, American or Belgian representatives etc). Whilst everyone acknowledged it was important to learn from overseas experience, there was some discussion on how and when best to assimilate the learning. There was some reluctance to spend too much time at this early stage learning about overseas activity, especially when much of the foreign experience has been documented by NDA and CoRWM and so is in the public domain for those interested to read. Care also needs taking when comparing foreign situations to that of West Cumbria.

**3.9 Planning.** The Partnership wants to understand more about the planning requirements applicable to the MRWS process. It is currently understood that:

- The planning system does not directly affect the process before a DtP
- The first potential interaction with the planning system would be for the relevant Local Development Frameworks to accommodate the role of a GDF
- If a decision to participate was taken, the first planning application required would be for boreholes to conduct surface-based investigations
- The main planning application for the GDF itself, as well as any underground laboratory (if one was required) may be determined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) although this has not yet been decided and would need designating under secondary legislation. If it is not determined by the IPC then this main planning application would be determined by Cumbria County Council – or called in by the Secretary of State. However, such a planning application would only be submitted *after* the Right of Withdrawal ceases.

Everybody agreed the Partnership will need to seek clarity on - and potentially aim to influence – the role of the IPC regarding this process.

## 4. Criteria

---

**4.1 Objective.** The Partnership agreed that they need to identify what factors they will be using when deciding what to recommend to the Decision-Making Bodies regarding whether to participate or not. An initial discussion produced the following list of things that would need to be in place for members to feel comfortable proceeding beyond a DtP. The list is to be redrafted into potential criteria by the Steering Group and discussed at the next meeting on 14 July.

1. Public and stakeholder confidence in the Partnership itself
2. Understanding and acceptance of the proposed inventory to be managed in the GDF
3. Local community understanding of the implications of being 'in' or 'out' of the process. Also, that all communities in Allerdale and Copeland are theoretically 'in' the process until the BGS work has excluded them, or the Partnership decides not to continue.
4. Local community support
5. Partnership's understanding of the issues
6. Reversibility/retrieveability: want to know this is an option
7. Safety and our/public confidence in it, and the process that manages safety
8. Our confidence in the process of negotiating a community benefit package, as well as any Government 'non-negotiables' regarding a possible package
9. Confidence in the integrity and flexibility of the process moving forward, including planning
10. Establishment of a representative community view, including on mgt of a benefit package
11. Understanding of benefit and blight and the ability to remediate blight
12. Geology: adequate area exists that has not been screened out by BGS work
13. Content with the quality and findings of the BGS report
14. Content that a GDF fits with the strategic direction of the relevant community
15. Clarity on Government's position with other EoIs, and whether there could be other EoIs submitted later

This list will now be redrafted into potential criteria by the Steering Group, to be discussed at the next meeting in July.

## 5. Public and Stakeholder Engagement

---

**5.1 Discussion Paper.** The Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) Sub-Group met on 27 April 2009 to plan the broad approach to engagement that might be required. They agreed a discussion paper that was submitted to the Partnership, and is included in Appendix 3. The meeting addressed each of the embedded questions in turn and made amendments accordingly. To show what was changed as a result of this conversation, the changes are highlighted in yellow in Appendix 3. Subject to the highlighted amendments an Appendix 3, the paper was agreed.

**5.2 Phasing.** Whilst the four main phases of work were agreed, there was discussion as to whether the BGS screening could not be started before the first round of PSE was complete in phase 1. This needs to be carefully considered as many on the Partnership feel the public and stakeholders need to understand what the BGS work entails before it starts. This is weighed against a desire to not incur unnecessary delay. Members felt that as long as the first round of PSE was not too lengthy (say a few months) then the delay was worth it, although of course this is subject to detailed planning. The PSE Sub-Group has been asked to start this more detailed planning and report to the next Partnership meeting on 14 July.

**5.3 Constituency Feedback.** Question 6 in the PSE discussion paper (Appendix 3) raised the issue of how individual Partnership members will keep their constituent organisations updated and feed their views in. Rather than discuss it in detail in the meeting, each member will set out how they intend to do this in future Meeting Reports, together with the contact details of the relevant main contact. This will ensure firstly that all members are transparent about how they are liaising with their constituency, and secondly it will show those not yet involved who can represent their views and how to contact them. This table is included in Appendix 4 and will be continually updated.

**5.4 Communications messages.** It was pointed out that there are many key messages that need developing before any work with the public is undertaken. For example, people will need to be really clear that the BGS screening is a very coarse filter and further geological investigation will be needed, and the steps in the process will need setting out very clearly. The Partnership acknowledges this will require significant effort, and hopes to be able to make maximum use of communication materials already available from organisations like DECC.

**5.5 Parallel PSE activity.** The Partnership noted the importance of planning its PSE activity in relation to other engagement activity in the region where possible. This includes community engagement around new nuclear reactors. It was pointed out that whilst new reactors are procedurally separate from the MRWS process, they are likely to be linked by members of the public, and not always in a helpful way. The Partnership will therefore need to liaise with the relevant utilities to understand their PSE plans around new build and plan accordingly.

**5.6 Database of contacts for PSE.** Given the Partnership exists to bring together wider interests, people agreed that – Data Protection constraints notwithstanding - it seems sensible to pool their contact databases in order to build one Partnership database that can be used for future activity. Further planning will start this compilation process.

**5.7 County Council involvement.** There was discussion as to how far the Partnership should proceed before the County Council are on board. Although discussion was limited, the feeling was that Copeland BC and Allerdale BC should continue best efforts to find an agreement with the County to work together, but in parallel the Partnership should continue work in case an agreement is not found. Attendees agreed that the County Council had much to contribute regarding PSE plans in Cumbria, and that their input to the PSE Sub-Group meeting on 8 June would be very welcome, either remotely or in person.

**5.8 Recommendations and Way Forward.** The recommendations as set out in Appendix 3, section 9, were accepted. This means that:

- The Partnership have agreed the principles implied in the PSE paper, the main work programme phases, the stakeholder categories and their 'wants' regarding engagement, the objectives for three rounds of PSE, and a high-level PSE plan
- Members will be approached individually to share their databases for Partnership use, within Data Protection Act constraints
- The PSE Sub-Group will meet on 8 June to develop a detailed plan for PSE Round 1, and outline plan for Rounds 2 and 3, and a recommended approach to evaluating the PSE
- If time allows, these components to be available for discussion at 14 July's meeting

## 6. CoRWM

---

**6.1 CoRWM's Draft Report.** The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management has completed its draft report (ref 2550) to Government. The report is, at the time of writing, out for consultation until 22 May 2009.

**6.2 Consultation Submission.** The Steering Group had considered whether it was appropriate for the Partnership to submit a joint submission to CoRWM's consultation but given the time constraints the Group decided this would be impractical. Copeland BC made their brief submission available at the Partnership meeting for others to see, both for information and potential ideas if other organisations were intending on drafting their own submissions. All organisations were encouraged to read CoRWM's draft report and consider submitting their comments before 22 May. It was noted that CoRWM were holding a consultation meeting the following day (15 May 2009) in Workington.

## 7. Way Forward and Actions

**7.1 Steering Group agenda.** In addition to the 'way forward' agreed for the PSE work (para 5.8), various topics were listed that the Steering Group could usefully address on 28 May:

- Criteria: further develop the criteria for 14 July Partnership meeting
- Risk management: consider work from officer group
- External communications from C/ABC
- Membership: participation of regulators
- Progression without County Council: risks, rate of progression
- Plan objectives and agenda for 14 July Partnership meeting
- Review wording of PSE paper para 3.2
- Work programme: update as required
- Consider involvement of those not attending

**7.2 Dates.** The forward programme of dates is provided below as a reminder. Members of the public are welcome to observe the Partnership meetings (right hand column): please contact the secretariat for details and registration.

Steering Gp meetings:	Partnership meetings:
28 May	14 July
28 July	4 Sept
16 Sept	14 Oct
28 Oct	24 Nov
9 Dec	13 Jan 2010
27 Jan 2010	23 Feb 2010
10 Mar 2010	

**7.3 Actions.** The following actions were agreed:

1	Circulate draft report for comment	3KQ	21 May
2	Comment on draft report	All	27 May
3	Amend report, and circulate Final Version	3KQ	4 June
4	Upload report to website	CBC	4 June
5	Update Copeland journalists, and invite editors to attend	CBC	15 May
6	Update Allerdale journalists, and invite editors to attend	ABC	15 May
7	Draft a summary of lessons learned from the American site selection process	Alun Ellis	14 July
8	Check whether Partnership members can attend the CARL event on 20-22 October	Fergus McMorrow	14 July
9	Invite DCLG to discuss role of the IPC in the MRWS process	3KQ	20 May
10	Put contact details of members in Meeting Report (Appendix 4)	3KQ	21 May
11	Invite all members to list their constituency feedback mechanisms in Meeting Report (Appendix 4)	3KQ	4 June
12	Meet utility companies to understand their plans for engagement	CBC	14 July
13	Meet on 8 June to develop detailed PSE plan	PSE SubGp	8 Jun
14	Send out any external communications to the Partnership before it goes live, so they are updated and prepared for calls	Steering Gp	Ongoing

## 8. Acronyms

---

ABC / AllerdaleBC	Allerdale Borough Council
BGS	British Geological Survey
CBC / CopelandBC	Copeland Borough Council
CCC / CumbriaCC	Cumbria County Council
CALC	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DtP	Decision to Participate
EoI	Expression of Interest
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
LLW	Low Level Waste
MRWS	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NuLeAF	Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum
PSE	Public and Stakeholder Engagement
RoW	Right of Withdrawal
ToRs	Terms of Reference
WCSSG	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

## Appendix 1 – Agenda for the 14 May 2009 workshop

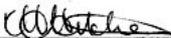
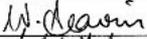
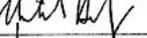
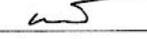
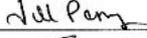
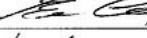
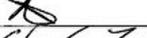
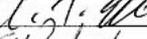
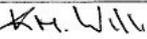
Objectives of the workshop are to:

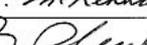
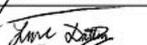
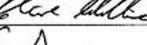
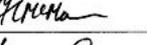
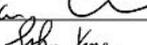
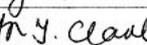
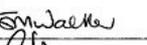
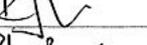
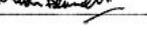
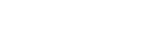
- Enable participants to build their understanding of the MRWS context and process
- Initiate the development of draft criteria for taking the decision whether to participate
- Agree objectives of PSE and key phasing regarding BGS work
- Agree the focus of the next meeting

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
0900	Arrivals and Registration	
0930	Welcome, Agenda setting	Elaine Woodburn, Leader CBC Richard Harris, independent facilitator 3KQ
	Updates <i>Fergus McMorrow, CBC</i>	
	Your Questions on the What, Why and How of MRWS	A key opportunity to prepare yourself to work effectively in the Partnership. *
	Criteria for Deciding whether to Participate	A preliminary discussion on what factors need to be considered when deciding whether to participate
1230	LUNCH	(approx. timing)
	Public and Stakeholder Engagement	Discuss, amend and agree key objectives of a PSE plan, enabling the next stage of detail to be developed. *
	CoRWM draft report	If timing allows, a brief discussion on CoRWM's draft report and the consultation ending on 22 May
	Way Forward	Agree focus for next meeting Actions
1600	Close	

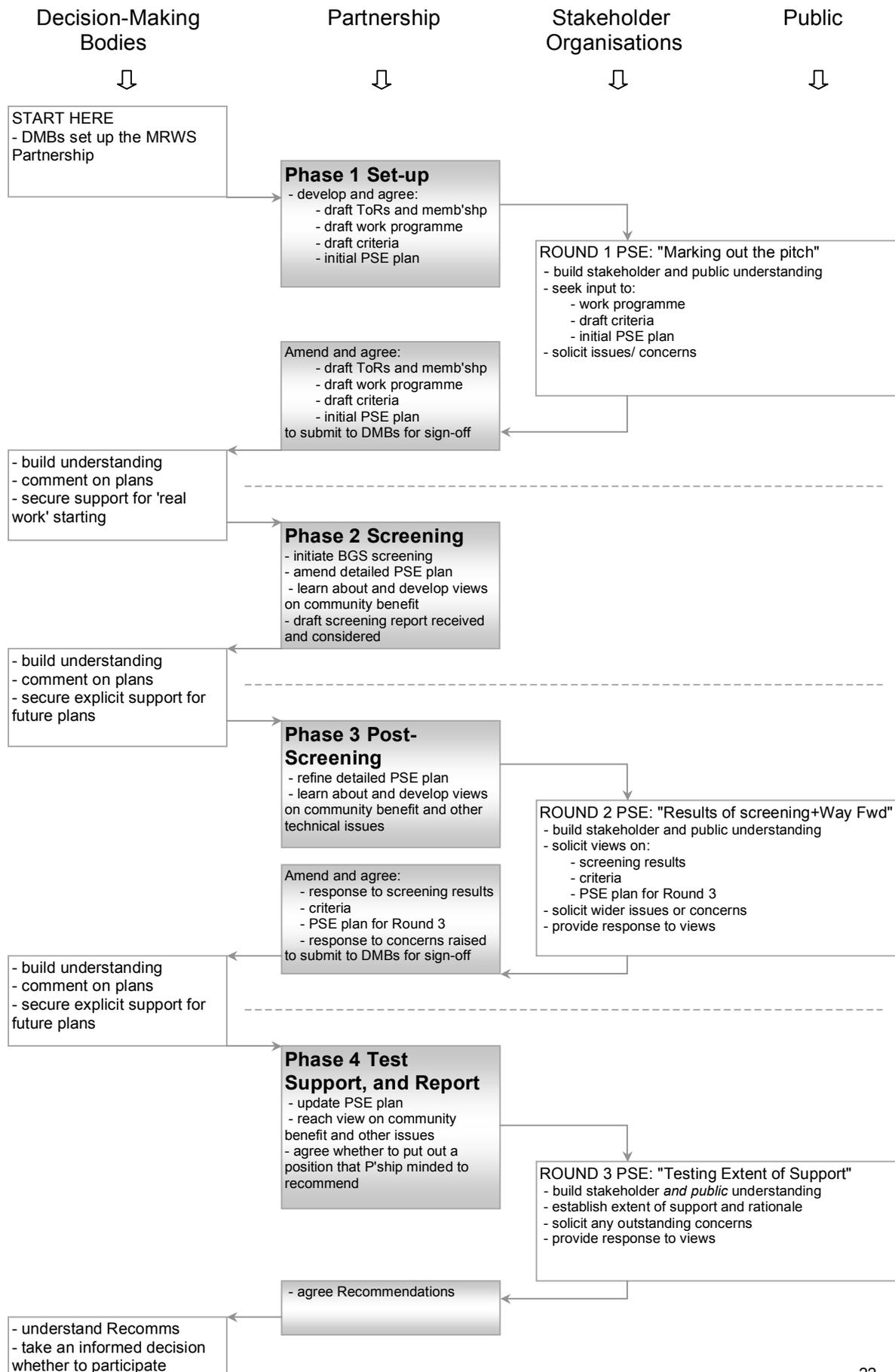
**\* We will assume you have read the 'discussion' papers in advance. Please contact us asap if you do not have paper copies of them.**

## Appendix 2 – Attendees on 14 May 2009

Copeland CALC, Chris Shaw	
Copeland CALC, Keith Hitchen	
NuLeAF, Julian Swainson	APOLOGIES
West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group, David Moore	
West Cumbria Partnership, Willie Slavin	
West Cumbria Partnership, Michael Heaslip	
Allerdale BC, Charles Holmes	
Allerdale BC, Councillor Sam Standage	
Allerdale BC, Councillor Mike Davidson	
National Farmers Union, Robert Morris-Eyton	
West Cumbria Friends of the Earth, Jill Perry (Observer)	
DECC, Bruce Cairns	
DECC, Lewis Mortimer	
NDA, Jay Redgrove	
NDA, Alun Ellis	
CALC, Guy Richardson	
Allerdale CALC, Alan Smith	
Barrow BC, Councillor Ken Williams	

Barrow BC, Phil Huck	
GMB Union, Peter Kane	
Isle of Man Government, Paul McKenna	
CoRWM, Brian Clark	
CoRWM, Mark Dutton	
Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Robert Johnston	
Environment Agency, Clive Williams	
Environment Agency, Gavin Thomson	
CBC Leader, Elaine Woodburn	
CBC Deputy Leader, Allan Holliday	
CBC Officer, Fergus McMorrow	
CBC Officer, Ian Curwen	
Councillor John Kane, Copeland Borough Council	
Councillor Yvonne Clarkson, Copeland Borough Council Secretariat, Sharon Walker	
Facilitator, Richard Harris	
Facilitator, Rhuari Bennett	

## High-Level PSE Plan: illustrating integration of PSE into Partnership work



## 9 – Recommendations for 14 May

---

The PSE Sub-Group invites the Partnership to:

9.1 Review, amend and then adopt:

- the principles implied in the broad approach
- the phasing
- the stakeholder categories and the 'wants' regarding engagement
- the objectives and draft key questions for PSE1, 2 and 3
- and the high-level plan

9.2 Consider which stakeholder organisations should be engaged by Round 1 of the PSE (before initial geological screening). Willing to share members' databases of organisations to form a single database? Yes

9.3 Ask the PSE Sub-Group to meet again to work up:

- a detailed plan for Round 1 PSE
- an outline plan for PSE Rounds 2 and 3
- a recommended approach to evaluating the PSE

These components to be available for discussion at 14 July's meeting.

*Q9. Is the Partnership content to accept these recommendations from the PSE Sub-Group?*

Note: the PSE Sub-Group has provisionally booked in a meeting on 8 June, to accommodate the Partnership if it does decide to proceed along the lines above.

End

## Appendix 4 – How Members Represent their Organisations on the Partnership

All Partnership members recognise the need to update the organisations that they represent and proactively feed their views in. This is essential to prevent Partnership members becoming 'detached' from their organisation in terms of understanding, as well as maintaining the credibility of the representative role that members commit to fulfilling. The table below sets out how each organisation undertakes to do this.

*Note the gaps will be filled as reporting mechanisms are clarified.*

Organisation	Nominated Representatives and preferred contact details	Mechanisms Used
Allerdale BC	Sam Standage Mike Davidson Charles Holmes <a href="mailto:charles.holmes@allerdale.gov.uk">charles.holmes@allerdale.gov.uk</a>	Verbal progress report provided to the following meetings: - Corporate Management Team/ Heads of Service - Regeneration Portfolio Holders - Regeneration Managers Group (for further cascade) - Partnerships and Communities Directorate  Formal report for endorsement, or decision, would be via: - Nuclear Issues Task Group - Executive Committee Council
Barrow BC	Ken Williams Phil Huck	
CALC (Allerdale)	Alan Smith <a href="mailto:alan.smith@allerdale.gov.uk">alan.smith@allerdale.gov.uk</a>	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Allerdale Association meetings
CALC (Copeland)	Chris Shaw <a href="mailto:chris.shaw@calc.org.uk">chris.shaw@calc.org.uk</a> Keith Hitchen <a href="mailto:keith.hitchen@btinternet.com">keith.hitchen@btinternet.com</a>	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Copeland Association meetings
CALC	Guy Richardson <a href="mailto:calc@cumbriacc.gov.uk">calc@cumbriacc.gov.uk</a>	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Executive Committee meetings
Chamber of Commerce (Cumbria)	Robert Johnston	
Copeland BC	Elaine Woodburn Allan Holliday John Kane Yvonne Clarkson Fergus McMorrow Ian Curwen	
Eden District Council	Attending next meeting	
GMB Union	Peter Kane	
Lake District National Park Authority	Stephen Ratcliffe	
National Farmers Union	Robert Morris-Eyton	
NuLeAF	Fred Barker	
Prospect Union	Peter Clements	
South Lakes District Council	Simon Rowley	
WCSSG	David Moore	

West Cumbria Partnership	Willie Slavin Michael Heaslip	
<b>Observing Members:</b>		
CoRWM	Brian Clark Mark Dutton	
DECC	Bruce Cairns 020 7215 0273 <a href="mailto:bruce.cairns@decc.gsi.gov.uk">bruce.cairns@decc.gsi.gov.uk</a>	Report to various meetings and colleagues with an interest in the process
FoE WCumbria	Jill Perry / Ruth Balog	
Isle of Man Government	Paul McKenna <a href="mailto:Paul.McKenna@gov.im">Paul.McKenna@gov.im</a>	Presentation on geological disposal planned for Council of Ministers in mid-June 09
NDA	Alun Ellis <a href="mailto:alun.ellis@nda.gov.uk">alun.ellis@nda.gov.uk</a> 01925 802717 Jay Redgrove <a href="mailto:jay.redgrove@nda.gov.uk">jay.redgrove@nda.gov.uk</a> 01925 802453 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.atherton@nda.gov.uk">Elizabeth.atherton@nda.gov.uk</a> 01925 802826	Monthly reporting to RWMD and central communications staff