

Review of the third draft of the BGS Report:

**Geological Subsurface Screening Report for the West Cumbria MRWS
Partnership**

New title of the BGS Report:

**Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: Initial Geological Unsuitability
Screening of west Cumbria**

Commissioned Report CR/10/072

My comments on the first draft of the British Geological Survey Report (the BGS Report) were given in writing 20 August 2010, on the second draft 21 September, and on the third draft 20 October.

While reviewing the third draft (20 October), I mentioned that some proposed changes had not been implemented in the way suggested by the two BGS documents "Summary of substantive amendments from Draft 2 to Draft 3 (final)". In the corrected third and final version of the BGS Report, which I received today, all my comments from 20 October have been taken into account. Thus, I am here commenting on the final version of the BGS Report, received 21 October.

Most of the changes in the present final third version aim at improving the presentation so as to make the BGS Report more understandable and readable for the general reader. I think that the present final version of the report is much better, as regards style, quality of the illustrations, and general presentation, than the first version.

It should be emphasised that the exclusion criteria proposed by Defra and followed in BGS Report focuses on only two geological aspects: (1) natural resources such as gas, oil, and coal, and (2) aquifers (of ground water) that are currently in use. In any future development of this work, other geological exclusion criteria must be considered as well. This is as is also mentioned in the present BGS Report.

Within the framework of the present exclusion criteria, I find that the third and final version of the BGS Report is a detailed and clear presentation of the topics discussed and can be used by the Partnership for an initial screening out of geologically unsuitable formations/rock volumes at this stage in the development of the work.

Egham 21.10.2010



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