

[managing radioactive waste safely]

Jean McSorley  
Greenpeace  
[Address removed]

Dear Jean

20th October 2010

## **West Cumbria MRWS Partnership – request to meet**

In the forthcoming weeks the Government is due to publish their initial geological screening study of West Cumbria as part of their Managing Radioactive Waste Safely process. This study will indicate which areas of West Cumbria are clearly unsuitable on geological grounds for the underground part of a geological disposal facility for higher activity radioactive waste.

The study will be considered by community representatives on the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership. The results will then be communicated to the wider community via various means, alongside key topics of the Partnership's work for public comment. The community Partnership, in order to inform residents and better understand their views on key issues, will undertake an extensive round of Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE). Between potentially November and February, this will include:

- Community Drop-In Events across Cumbria
- Discussion Pack for community groups, schools etc
- Stakeholder Workshop for organisations
- Newspaper advertorials, articles, publications, newsletter to households
- Website with comment facility, as well as freephone, email and post

To date Greenpeace has not taken up the Partnership's invitations to take up one of two places for environmental NGOs on the Partnership. The Partnership has worked to reduce the cited barriers to engagement, including agreeing a policy that allows the appropriate and transparent funding of stakeholders to participate, including NGOs.

Community representatives on the Partnership would still like to see a greater reflection of an environmental perspective on the group, and reiterate their invitation for Greenpeace to join the Partnership's deliberations. It acknowledges that individuals from both Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth attend meetings occasionally to observe and ask questions, but this is in the capacity of members of the public, not to represent their organisations' views. Whilst we of course respect your choice not to take a seat at the Partnership, it is unfortunate that your organisation's views are not represented in ongoing discussions.

Following from your presentation on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010, the NDA has now completed their overview of overseas mechanisms for engaging NGOs in

programmes of radioactive waste management. The Partnership would like to meet with Greenpeace to discuss the output of the report and other issues being consulted upon during its second round of PSE. These issues are namely the siting process and community involvement, impacts and community benefits, and how to use public opinion in the Partnership's deliberations. We would welcome discussing any other issues related to MRWS that you wish to raise.

We would be happy to discuss the format, attendance and timing of this meeting to ensure it is as productive as possible. We would encourage you to consider specifically whether you'd prefer to:

- Meet with just the independent facilitators, or some Partnership members as well.
- Meet individually, or with Friends of the Earth and/or CORE as well (this invitation is going to them in parallel).
- Involve other senior or national staff from Greenpeace.

I would ask that you liaise with the Partnership's independent facilitators to decide practicalities but of course I would be happy to discuss. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Tim Knowles  
Chair of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership