

[managing radioactive waste safely]

Dr Ruth Balogh  
[Address removed]

27th June 2011

Dear Ruth

## **West Cumbria MRWS Partnership**

Thank you for the letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 from Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and CORE.

We have alerted Wood Holmes to the inaccuracy you identify in Document 158, and have asked that they be in touch with you directly about their response.

Regarding the number of places available for NGOs on the Partnership, I might be able to shed some light on the discussions in mid-late 2009. You are correct that the initial invitation was for Greenpeace, FoE and CORE to agree between themselves one representative to sit on the Partnership if they wished. This was declined for various reasons, one of which was that the NGO representative might feel isolated and that the offer of one place appeared tokenistic. At the facilitators' suggestion following their discussions with you on the phone and via email, the Steering Group discussed this on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009 (Document 16, para 2.6) and agreed that a viable option if NGOs wanted to participate was to offer 2 places, to be flexible and accommodate the concern raised. This, and other options for engagement such as giving a presentation, were then emailed to yourself by the facilitators on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009, and later reiterated in the letter you mention of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

You ask what the position would be if many NGOs wanted to join the process. All the NGOs that we are aware of in the area that might be interested have received invitations to learn more about the Partnership and join the PSE process. If there are some we may have missed then we would gladly add them to our list. However, if your question refers to joining the Partnership itself then we can confirm that we would ask you to nominate two representatives. This is consistent with the approach taken with some Partnership members already such as the unions, where for example GMB and Unite were asked to agree one representative between them. However, at this late stage we are unsure of how this could be workable given the decision-making process has begun in the Partnership, as suggested in my letter of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Woodburn  
Chair of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

*Note: Letter also sent to Jean McSorley (Greenpeace) and Martin Forwood (CORE)*