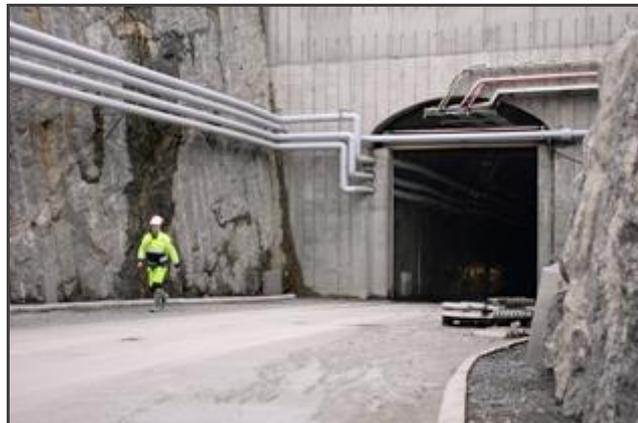


# West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership



## Meeting Report

**From 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011**

At Egremont Market Hall

Document No:	239
Status:	Adopted
Title:	West Cumbria MRWS Partnership Meeting Report, 3 November 2011
Author:	3KQ (see note overleaf)
Notes:	Published on 22 November 2011

**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-memoire for participants and a means of update to non-attendees, rather than a definitive record of every detail.

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

**Contacts:**

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

Telephone 01539 739 435

3KQ Ltd  
93 Serpentine Road  
Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA9 4PD

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

*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).*

*The front cover image is the tunnel entrance to the Posiva Oy Onkalo repository site in Finland. Photographer: Jussi Partanen. See <http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk/page/108/International-experience.htm> for further information about Onkalo and other overseas facilities.*

# Executive Summary

---

**Overview.** The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. 42 people attended with 15 members of the public present to observe the meeting. The main objectives of the meeting were to agree the Partnership's draft consultation materials for use in PSE3, and understand lessons learnt from the visit to the Underground Research Laboratory in France.

**Updates.** Consultants have now been appointed to start the work on brand protection. Early discussions have started with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) regarding a possible engagement package for the next financial year, now that the Partnership's work will not be completed by March 2012. Dates and venues have been confirmed for the community drop-in events in January and February 2012. The Ministry of Defence has recently started a consultation on how and where it should dismantle the nuclear submarine fleet, and at what type of site it should store the resultant waste prior to anticipated disposal in a geological disposal facility (GDF). DECC is arranging a briefing for Steering Group members on the acceleration options for implementation of a GDF. The Chief Nuclear Inspector's report into Fukushima has now been published. The regulators' review of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's generic Disposal System Safety Case will be published in December 2011.

**Consultation materials.** The Partnership discussed the draft consultation materials for use during its consultation in PSE3, including the chapter on the siting process that was redrafted following the last meeting in September. All of the materials were signed off subject to a number of final amendments which were agreed during the meeting. This is, however, subject to receipt of a letter from DECC confirming the outcome of discussions that have been taking place between Cumbria County Council and DECC, and subsequent finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Allerdale Borough, Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councils. The consultation is due to commence on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 and will end on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012.

**PSE3 timetable.** The timetable of planned activities for the consultation period was discussed and confirmed.

**Visit to the Underground Research Laboratory in France.** The Partnership heard a presentation about the visit that took place by a group of Partnership members to the Underground Research Laboratory at Bure in France. It was agreed that the visit had been extremely useful, to appreciate the size of the facility, the scale of operations, and to be able to meet in person with representatives from the local community and the French operating company. Discussions focused on the financial benefits package, including how it was secured and how it is spent, and comparisons with the UK were made with regard to issues such as how the voluntarism process was used in France and the process for site identification.

For future meeting dates and more information please see the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).

# 1. Introduction

---

## 1.1 – Objectives

Specific objectives for the day were to:

- Agree the Partnership's draft consultation materials for use in PSE3, including:
  - Main consultation document with new draft chapter on the siting process.
  - Any late amendments to the consultation document.
  - 8-page summary and DVD (*for information*).
  - PSE3 timetable.
- Understand lessons learnt from the visit to the Underground Research Laboratory in Bure (France).

The full agenda is in Appendix 1.

## 1.2 – Attendance

42 participants<sup>1</sup> attended at Egremont Market Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. A full list of those in attendance is in Appendix 2. The meeting was open for the public to observe and 15 members of the public attended.

# 2. Updates

---

## 2.1 – Brand Protection study

The consultants have now been appointed to start this work. Sedley Place and the Communications Group are working together. Cumbria Tourism is managing the contract and a sub-group will be formed to steer and oversee the work. It is proposed that this sub-group will comprise Cumbria Tourism, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), with evaluation from Wood Holmes.

## 2.2 – Finance discussions with DECC

Early discussions have started with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) regarding a possible engagement package for the next financial year, given that the Partnership's work will not be completed by March 2012.

---

<sup>1</sup> Plus 5 from the facilitation team and secretariat.

### 2.3 – Documents published

Since the last Partnership meeting the following documents have been published in the Documents section of the Partnership website at:

[http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk/all\\_documents.asp](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk/all_documents.asp).

- 237. Response to Professor Smythe's Further Input on Geology (Documents o, n, m below)
- 236. Letter from DECC Regarding Acceleration of Timescales
- 234. Letter from the NDA Regarding Spoil Quantities
- 232. E-Bulletin 14 – October 2011
- 231. Briefing on Property Value Protection from Galson Sciences
- 229. Equality Impact Assessment
- 228. The Partnership's Response to DECC's Consultation on Site Assessment
- 227. DECC's Response to the Community Benefits Principles
- 226. PSE Sub-Group Meeting Notes 21 September 2011
- 225. Legal Advice on Governance of the Partnership Process
- 224. E-Bulletin 13 – September 2011
- 223. Steering Group Minutes 9 September 2011
- 222. Partnership Meeting Report 20 September 2011
- o. Input from Professor Smythe regarding spoil
- n. Letter from Professor Smythe regarding the geological unsuitability of the Eskdale granite
- m. Response from Professor Smythe to FWS Consultants Ltd

### 2.4 – Consultation materials for young people

The consultation document is being written into a format suitable for schools and youth groups to use in classes, off-curriculum sessions and informal get-togethers during PSE3. Connexions will again help deliver these sessions for the Partnership.

### 2.5 – Community events

The following dates and venues have now been confirmed for the community drop-in events during PSE3:

- Wednesday 18 January **Millom** – Network Centre
- Thursday 19 January **Whitehaven** – Civic Hall
- Friday 20 January **Gosforth** – Village Hall
- Monday 23 January **Kendal** – Town Hall
- Tuesday 24 January **Workington** – Carnegie Arts Centre
- Wednesday 25 January **Keswick** – St Herbert's Centre
- Wednesday 1 February **Penrith** – Methodist Church
- Thursday 2 February **Carlisle** – The Courts (County Offices)
- Tuesday 7 February **Barrow** – Dock Museum
- Wednesday 8 February **Wigton** – Market Hall
- Thursday 9 February **Egremont** – Market Hall
- Friday 10 February **Cockermouth** – Kirkgate Centre

Partnership members will be contacted regarding supporting the events most relevant to them.

## **2.6 – MoD Submarine Dismantling Project consultation**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has recently started a consultation on how and where it should dismantle the nuclear submarine fleet, and at what type of site it should store the resultant intermediate level wastes (ILW) in the interim, prior to anticipated disposal in a geological disposal facility (GDF). Whilst the ILW is already part of the inventory under consideration by the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership, there may be implications for facility design depending on what the MoD decides as its preferred dismantling option. This will be considered before the Partnership completes its work. The consultation document can be found at:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/ConsultationsandCommunications/PublicConsultations/ConsultationOnTheSubmarineDismantlingProject.htm>.

## **2.7 – DECC acceleration options**

The Partnership has been advised of the Minister of Energy's aspiration to bring forward the repository date from 2040 to 2029. DECC are trying to arrange a briefing on what the acceleration options might be. Steering Group members were asked to contact John Dalton if they are interested in attending this briefing.

## **2.8 – Regulators' review of the NDA's generic Disposal System Safety Case**

The regulators' note to the Partnership on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (see Document 215, Appendix 5) provided their interim views on the generic Disposal System Safety Case (gDSSC). The regulators have confirmed that they have not changed their views since then in any substantial way, and the final report of their review, which is due to be published in December 2011, will clarify the interim position.

The important conclusion with respect to transport, operational and environmental safety is that the regulators consider that the gDSSC provides confidence, to a degree appropriate at this early stage, that a safety case could be made for a GDF, providing a suitable site is available and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA's) Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) continues to work with the regulators to address the issues that they have identified.

The regulators offered to present their final review findings to the Partnership once they are published.

## **2.9 – Fukushima report published**

The Chief Nuclear Inspector's report entitled '*The Japanese earthquake and Tsunami: implications for the UK nuclear industry*' was published on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and is available on the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/>). The report states that 'the basic cause of the accident was thus that the site was not designed with adequate protection against some foreseeable natural hazards' (para 754, p137). The report also states that 'the direct causes of the nuclear accident at Fukushima, a magnitude 9 earthquake and the associated 14m high tsunami, are far beyond the most extreme natural events that the UK could be expected to experience' (page v). Although the report contains a range of recommendations for the Government and the industry, it does not contain information that requires any changes to the PSE3 consultation document.

### **2.10 – NDA issues management process**

The NDA provided an update on the work that they have been carrying out on their issues management process which was initially discussed at the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 Partnership meeting (see Document 165.1, Section 6). The NDA has now published a report describing the process for managing issues and containing a list of all of the issues that have been raised/identified. They are well into assessing the issues, and have found that achieving the balance between getting a manageable process and providing a meaningful response is taking longer than they anticipated. They are due to provide an update to the Geological Disposal Implementation Board (GDIB) in December 2011, and the next full list of issues will be published towards the end of March 2012 which is later than initially indicated.

### **2.11 – IPC seminar**

Copeland Borough Council organised a seminar with the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011, to allow stakeholders across Cumbria to hear more about the development consent process for nationally significant infrastructure projects. The notes will be circulated to all Partnership members.

## 3. PSE3 materials

---

### 3.1 – Background

At the previous Partnership meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the Partnership discussed its draft consultation document for use during the formal consultation in PSE3 (see Document 222 – Partnership meeting report 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Section 3).

There was a reminder that there had been substantive agreement on the majority of the consultation document at the September meeting, however, it had also been agreed that Chapter 10 on the siting process needed to be revisited by the Steering Group to consider the issues that still needed to be addressed before the chapter could be finalised.

A revised version of Chapter 10 has since been redrafted and it was signed off by the Steering Group at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

The revised draft consultation document, including the redrafted version of Chapter 10, was circulated in advance of the meeting, together with a revised version of the 8-page overview document. The main focus for discussion was Chapter 10 and any final amendments to the rest of the consultation document.

The discussions and agreements that were reached are summarised below. All revisions that were agreed will be reflected in the final consultation document.

### 3.2 – Amendments to Chapter 10: The process for siting a repository

#### 3.2.1 – Information about timescales

There was a suggestion that it would be useful to add information about timescales, to provide an indication of how long the process and each stage within it would take. It was noted that reference is already made in Chapter 3 to the overall timescales for development of a GDF, together with the aspirations of the Government to accelerate the process (see also 2.7 above).

It was agreed that bullet points on the indicative timescales for Stages 4 and 5 of the process would be added to Chapter 10.

#### 3.2.2 – Clarifications and assurances from DECC regarding the right of withdrawal

It was noted by the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) that various references are made to assurances and clarifications from DECC with regard to the right of withdrawal (RoW), but that these are not referenced. The Programme Manager advised that the audit trail for these assurances and clarifications is in the Partnership meeting reports, but that there is nothing additional in them to what is already stated in the White Paper.

DECC confirmed that all of the verbal and written assurances they have provided (and additional documents that they could provide) do simply confirm what is in the White Paper. They also gave a reminder that the Partnership had sought reassurance after the elections in 2010 that the new

Government was still committed to the process. A series of ministerial meetings and ministerial statements have since taken place where commitment to the process has continued to be shown.

A number of amendments to the consultation document were agreed including:

- Clearer wording about the nature of the assurances and clarifications that have been sought and given.
- The addition of references to the relevant Partnership meeting reports.
- The addition of a reference to the specific paragraph in the White Paper to go alongside the excerpt about the RoW.

It was also agreed that an amendment needed to be made to reflect the fact that a 'for any reason' approach to the RoW would not apply during Stage 5 of the process, as, once borehole investigations have started, the community partnership in existence at that time would need to agree with DECC the criteria for exercising a RoW.

### **3.2.3 – Legal advice regarding clarity between DMBs and local authorities**

There was a reminder from CALC that the previous version of Chapter 10 had been amended to reflect legal advice to the Partnership that a distinction should be made between decision-making bodies (DMBs) in the MRWS process and local authorities, as the term local authorities includes a wider range of bodies including e.g. parish councils. It was agreed that this would be amended and it was also suggested that a check of the whole of Chapter 10 should be made to ensure that there is no confusion about what is meant at each point.

It was also agreed that, following previous legal advice, the phrase 'guidelines' in relation to organisational arrangement for a future partnership should be changed to 'suggested steps'

## **3.3 – Updates/amendments to the rest of the consultation document**

### **3.3.1 – Navigation around the consultation document**

It was advised that pages will be labelled with the relevant chapter/appendix title, in order to help people navigate around the document.

### **3.3.2 – Addition of reference to the Partnership's Terms of Reference**

It was agreed that the Partnership's Terms of Reference (Document 2) should be added as a supporting document, and that it will be clearly identified as a draft document.

### **3.3.3 – Clarification about the Partnership's role in advising the Councils**

It was confirmed that a number of amendments would be made throughout the document to reflect that the Partnership will not be providing a single recommendation to the Councils about whether they should make a decision to participate in the siting process.

It was noted by some members that the Partnership's Terms of Reference do refer to making a recommendation, and the understanding of some was that the primary responsibility of this Partnership was to make a recommendation to the Councils.

In response it was noted that the Terms of Reference refer to recommendations rather than a single recommendation. During Steering Group and Partnership discussions about how the decision-making process might work, it had become clear that the Partnership needed to simply set out what it had done and its conclusions on each criterion, and *not* make a single recommendation about whether to participate in the siting process or not. The three Councils will make that decision based on the information that is presented to them.

It was agreed that this is the common expectation and that the suggested amendments should be made to make it clear that the Partnership will not be making a single recommendation about participation in the siting process.

#### **3.3.4 – Clarification regarding decision-making arrangements within each Council**

Allerdale BC stated that the consultation document should not commit local authorities to a particular way of making the decision about participation. CALC, however, reiterated that they have found that parish councils and others that they have been meeting with want clarification about this issue.

It was agreed that the wording should refer to the relevant body, as currently understood, within each council i.e. Full Council (Copeland Borough Council), the Executive (Allerdale Borough Council) and Cabinet (Cumbria County Council)'. Allerdale BC confirmed that they were happy with this wording as it would reflect the current position that it is an Executive decision, but it does not fetter their right to change that position.

#### **3.3.5 – Geology**

It was confirmed that, following the submission by Professor David Smythe of a number of additional papers on geology, Dr Jeremy Dearlove (one of the Partnership's independent reviewers on geology) has provided a further paper in response which will be referenced in the consultation document. Dr Dearlove has also supplied a revised statement for the chapter on geology.

#### **3.3.6 – Graphics**

The NDA offered to provide an improved graphic of the generic design of a GDF for the chapter on design and engineering.

#### **3.3.7 – Clarification re planning authorities**

A number of clarifications were suggested and agreed regarding the information about planning authorities that would deal with different planning applications during the various stages of the MRWS process.

#### **3.3.8 – Clarity regarding DECC's full response to the Inventory Principles**

It was agreed that it would be useful to provide a more clear reference to

DECC's full response to the Partnership's Inventory Principles.

### **3.3.9 – Inclusion of military waste in the inventory**

It was agreed that there should be a more explicit reference to the fact that the inventory includes military waste.

### **3.3.10 – Reference to source information on size of repository**

It was agreed that there should be a specific reference to the sources of information about the potential footprint for a repository in the Inventory chapter to make it clear who provided the information. The NDA will provide a reference for the source material.

### **3.3.11 – Definition changes**

Amendments to the following definitions were agreed:

- Criterion/criteria
- Indicators of Credibility
- Voluntarism

The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) also confirmed that they will submit an amended definition for CoRWM to reflect their ongoing role of scrutiny.

### **3.3.12 – Addition of Observing member contact details**

It was agreed that the contact details for Observing members should be added to the appendices.

### **3.3.13 – Changes to Chapter 11 & 12**

Following on from the confirmation that the Partnership is not going to make a single recommendation (see 3.3.3 above), it was agreed that the wording in Chapters 11 and 12 should be amended to make sure that this expectation is not implied.

## **3.4 – Update on the Memorandum of Understanding between the three Councils**

A discussion was held about the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been drawn up by the three Councils to clarify how they will take and coordinate their decisions about participation in the siting process.

Cumbria County Council (Cumbria CC) confirmed that there had been concerns within Cumbria CC about the precise nature of the RoW, centering on whether the RoW was a valid decision for them to take as an authority. Cumbria CC and DECC have been discussing this issue, and a letter is expected from DECC in the next few days which should confirm the agreements that have now been reached. Cumbria CC assured the Partnership that they are confident that this written confirmation will fulfil the criteria that they are expecting.

CALC stated that they are seeking confirmation that, for an area to formally enter the siting process, both the Borough and County Council would have to be in agreement. Whilst Cumbria CC advised that they expect the letter from DECC to confirm this, it was agreed that the consultation document could not be finalised until the letter from DECC has been received and the MoU has been agreed to

the satisfaction of Partnership members. Assurance was given that both documents would be referenced in the consultation document.

It was noted that delays to either of these documents could impact on the start date of the consultation.

[Since the Partnership meeting, letters from DECC to each of the three principal authorities were received on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The consultation document has therefore now been finalised. The letters are published on the Partnership website as Document 240.]

### **3.5 – 8-page overview document**

A revised draft of the 8-page overview document was circulated in advance of the meeting. There was a reminder that this document is not intended to be a formal summary of the consultation document; its purpose is to provide an overview of the key issues and inform people about the consultation. It will be included in the consultation pack, delivered to all households in West Cumbria in early January, and circulated widely throughout Cumbria via e.g. libraries, doctors' surgeries, parish councils etc.

Partnership members were asked to discuss any outstanding issues or amendments with Paul Gardner over lunch. All amendments will be incorporated into the final version of the document.

### **3.6 – DVD**

The Partnership watched the DVD that will be included in the consultation pack, and which will also be made available on the Partnership website.

### **3.7 – Agreements and way forward on the consultation materials**

It was agreed that, subject to the amendments outlined above, the consultation materials could be signed off for PSE3. The start date for the consultation will be 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011.

[As outlined in 3.4 above, this was subject to receipt of the expected letter from DECC which was received by the principal authorities on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 – see Document 240.]

## 4. PSE3 consultation timetable

### 4.1 – Background and overview

The Programme Manager presented the schedule of activities that are planned for the PSE3 consultation period.

The presentation slides are provided below.

## PSE3 Reminder

**Objectives:**

- Raise awareness
- Understand reasons for support/opposition
- Assess extent of support/opposition

**Key Question:**

*“To what extent do you agree with the Partnership’s initial opinions on [criterion], and why?”*

westcumbria:mrws

## Timetable

	Nov			Dec			Jan-12				Feb-12			Mar-12			Apr-12			May-12											
	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21			
Partnership Meetings				8								31		21											?						?
Consultation starts	Consultation period:																														
Advertorials	21 Nov - 23 Mar																														
Briefings																															
Newsletter																															
Advertising																															
Info in libraries etc																															
Community Events																															
Webinar																															
Reporting from PSE3																															

westcumbria:mrws

## Additional activity

- Publications
  - Website
  - Social media: facebook, twitter
  - Youth/schools engagement
  - Parish Councils, via CALC
- ✓ Reporting: lead by 3KQ, with PSE sub-gp and TRG support

westcumbria:mrws

The discussions that followed the presentation are summarised below.

### **4.2 – CALC conference**

CALC are holding a conference for all Cumbrian parishes on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The aims of the conference are to familiarise parish council representatives with the consultation document, develop understanding of the issues, and consider effective ways to engage with other parish councillors and the community.

### **4.3 – Engagement through other organisations/groups**

A discussion was held about how information would be given out to areas that are not covered by parish councils, particularly e.g. for Whitehaven. It was suggested that it would be useful to engage through the locality groups. It was agreed that Copeland BC and all other members should provide a list of any other organisations/groups that should be considered.

### **4.4 – Showing the DVD at neighbourhood forums**

It was suggested that it would be useful to show the DVD at neighbourhood forum meetings and have somebody from the Partnership in attendance to answer questions. It was confirmed that the PSE Sub-Group is already in contact with the Copeland and Allerdale area teams regarding how to include and promote the consultation through neighbourhood forums, and that this option would be discussed with them.

### **4.5 – Newsletters to households**

There was a reminder that every household in Copeland and Allerdale will have two newsletters delivered during the consultation period, the first of which will be the 8-page overview document in early January 2012.

# 5. Visit to the Underground Rock Laboratory in Bure, France

---

## 5.1 – Background and overview

At the Partnership meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (see Partnership Meeting Report, Document 127, Section 7) the Partnership discussed the potential learning that could be gained from visiting international facilities. It was agreed at this meeting that a ‘virtual’ visit should be arranged for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico (see Document 156 for the report from this virtual visit), and it was later agreed that a visit to the Underground Research Laboratory (URL) at Bure in France should be organised.

This visit took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011, and the Partnership heard a presentation about the visit and the learning that took place.

The presentation slides are provided below.



## Itinerary

**3 October** – travel from Cumbria

**4 October** – meetings with ANDRA\*,  
visit to URL\* and meeting with the CLIS\*

**5 October** – visit to Aube disposal  
Facilities and meeting with GIP\*

**6 October** – travel to Cumbria

\*Focus of presentation

westcumbria:mrws

## ANDRA (Agence Nationale pour la gestion des Dechets Radioactifs)

ANDRA is the French Waste Management Organisation and reports to three government ministries – Energy, Environment and Research – but is completely separate from the waste producers (e.g. EDF and AREVA).

ANDRA is responsible for all radioactive waste in France.

westcumbria:mrws

## ANDRA

- The 1991 Waste Act established ANDRA as a public body and entrusted it with the mandate to conduct studies on the deep disposal of high level and intermediate level long-lived waste.
- The 2006 Planning Act empowered ANDRA to design and implement a deep repository and imposed that disposal be reversible for at least 100 years.
- The next law (scheduled for 2016) will include details of all applicable reversibility conditions

westcumbria:mrws

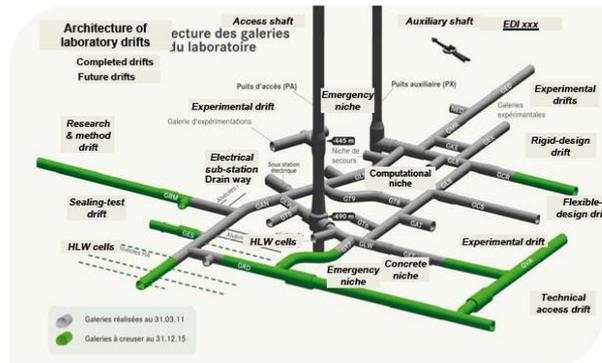
## The Underground Research Laboratory

The URL consists of two shafts (one of 5m and one of 4m in diameter) sunk down to a depth of 500m; one 41m long experimental tunnel at a depth of 445m for observation and measurement purposes; and a network of more than 750m of tunnels at a depth of 490m for experimental purposes.

westcumbria:mrws



## 2006 Planning Act: Technological tests and laboratory experiments (2006-2016)



Renewal of the Laboratory Creation and Implementation Decree (2012-2030)

36

D.T.R.A.M.I.C.100014

© Andra - AGENCE NATIONALE POUR LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS RADIOACTIFS

06/05/2011

westcumbria:mrws

## URL

The URL is only for scientific and technical studies and does not contain any radioactive waste. In accordance with its licensing conditions, the URL shall never serve as a disposal facility.

westcumbria:mrws

## URL Experimental Programme

In terms of numbers, the URL experimental programme has to date included:

- 44 deep boreholes drilled from the surface
- 220 boreholes drilled from underground tunnels
- 2150 sensors installed in the rock
- 32250 rock samples taken

westcumbria:mrws

## Key Dates

**2013** – Public debate, followed by the selection of the implementation site by the government

**2015** – application for repository licence

**2016** – adoption of new law

**2017** – construction of repository begins

**2025** – start of repository operations

westcumbria:mrws

## CLIS (Comité Local d'Information et de Suivi or local information and oversight committee)

CLIS is made up of 91 voting members including elected representatives from all levels of government, doctors, trade unions, NGOs and geologists. It has a budget of around €300K pa and this is roughly 50% from central government and 50% from the waste producers. The secretariat is independent and is made up of one fulltime and two part-time employees.

westcumbria:mrws

## CLIS

The CLIS mission is to allow its members to:

- Obtain information on research in the area of radioactive waste management and, particularly, its disposal, from the relevant institutional organisations as well as from external experts;
- Follow up, with expert help, the development of knowledge in the radioactive waste management field;
- Bring the information in an accessible form to the public;
- Gather the maximum of data (environmental, epidemiological etc...) that can serve as reference points in the future; and
- Ensure dialogue and debate.

westcumbria:mrws

## A message from the CLIS

When asked if there was any advice for the Partnership, the CLIS representatives replied that we should *“take as long as you need, only go forward one step at a time, make sure there are no compromises on safety and, if possible, make sure there is more than one URL”*.

westcumbria:mrws

## GIP (Groupements d’Intérêt Public or public interest group)

The two areas (departements) affected by the URL – Meuse and Haute Marne - each have a GIP to manage the €30m of community benefit funding they receive each year. This funding is additional money and not used instead of “normal” funding from central government.

westcumbria:mrws

## GIP

The GIP has relative freedom to agree its own priorities for the funding and it is used for economic development in the widest sense, including: tourism, transport and communications, environment, and urban development.

westcumbria:mrws

## GIP

- There is a special allowance paid directly to the villages closest to the site;
- The law requires the GIP to be totally open and transparent and they publish an annual report on their website;
- The GIP cannot contribute more than 80% of the total budget of a project.

westcumbria:mrws

## Observations/Conclusions

- The experience of actually travelling down to the URL and observing first-hand the testing that is going on was invaluable;
- The full and frank discussions we had with members of the CLIS and the GIP helped us to understand their experience of hosting the URL, as well as how they are managing the community benefits that are linked to the project;
- While there are differences between the approach in France and in the UK, there are also similarities, including voluntarism. At the end of the day, both countries are relying on local communities agreeing to provide a service to the whole nation.

westcumbria:mrws

## And finally

The report from the visit is just being finalised and we hope to have it on the website early next week

Any questions?

westcumbria:mrws

**The discussions and questions that followed are summarised in 5.2 – 5.15 below**

### **5.2 – Other learning**

Others from the group who took part in the visit emphasised that it had been particularly useful to see the facility in person to be able to appreciate the size/scale of it, as well as to see the technology and hear about the research that

is happening. The ability to have direct conversations with the local community including the Mayor and the local MP was also of great value. This had led to changes in members' views on how to advise and inform the wider population if the process moves forward in West Cumbria.

Group members also noted that they had been very impressed with a number of aspects of the operations including:

- The professionalism and approach of the French operating company (ANDRA).
- The involvement of the Government and the quality of personnel.
- The level of engagement with the community.
- The standards of the low level waste (LLW) facility.

It was noted that there is a very open and transparent regime in France. For example, anybody can visit the research facilities and more than 10,000 people did so last year. Of these around 2,000 actually went down into the laboratory itself.

Overall, it was emphasised that there is great value in being able to see practices in other places, to avoid the danger of being too insular and missing out on what could be being done here.

### **5.3 – ANDRA's status as a waste operator only**

It was noted that ANDRA are purely waste operators, and they are not involved in the spectrum of nuclear activity as the NDA are. It was further noted that CoRWM had recommended that there should be a separate waste implementer rather than an operator that is operating at both ends of the spectrum. Cumbria CC noted that they had always had difficulty with the situation in the UK.

### **5.4 – Involvement of anti-nuclear groups**

It was noted that France had managed to involve anti-nuclear groups in the process more successfully than in the UK.

### **5.5 – Scale of financial benefits package**

A discussion was held about the scale of the financial benefits package. It was noted that, in addition to any direct and indirect employment benefits, each of the two '*departements*' receive €30m per year and will continue to do so as long as the facility is there (currently this is until at least 2030). This money comes from central government, but if and when a repository is built, the money would come via a tax on the waste producers.

A question was asked about how the amount of €30m was negotiated and whether the people receiving it were involved in the discussions. The visiting group were told that there had been a lot of lobbying in advance of France's 2006 Planning Act to get commitment to this amount, which is equivalent to the amount received by a community that has a nuclear power station. Local MPs were also involved in these negotiations. It was clarified that the figure of €400 per person in the presentation was based on a per capita division of the total amount of €30m, and was not a payment made to individual people.

There was also a reminder that the area does not actually have nuclear waste, as the URL is purely a research facility that will never receive radioactive waste, but it still receives this scale of benefits.

### **5.6 – How the financial benefits package is spent**

A discussion was held about who 'holds' the money and questions were asked about the process that is used to determine how the funds are spent. It was confirmed that the GIP (see slides above) distributes funding on an annual basis but there is public input to the setting of priorities. An amount of funding is allocated to all villages in a 'proximity zone' (as defined in the 2006 Planning Act) and not just to Bure. Greater weighting is given to funding applications for projects in the proximity zone.

It was noted that when the visiting group spoke more informally with the community, some of the feedback on the GIP was that they had not seen the benefits as much as they would have liked. The group had asked about the appeals process but were told that there had never been an appeal.

### **5.7 – Policy on overseas waste**

It was confirmed that France currently has a policy of just taking French waste, however, the visiting group were told that there had been a recent EU debate that may pave the way for countries to accept waste from overseas. The Partnership noted that the impact of this EU debate on the UK needs to be monitored.

### **5.8 – Voluntarism and the right of withdrawal**

A question was asked about whether France has any policies in place that are equivalent to voluntarism and the RoW. It was confirmed that there is no equivalent of the RoW, however, both ANDRA and the French Government recognise that the process would be very difficult without community support.

A voluntarism process was adopted and five communities put themselves forward. The original plan was that each volunteer community would have an underground laboratory, but in the end only one had been built.

With regard to policy and legislation, it was noted that the 2006 Planning Act was continuously referred to by ANDRA in terms of what they need to do as operators and when the money will come. The next piece of legislation is due in 2016.

### **5.9 – Comparisons with the UK**

It was acknowledged that it is very difficult to make direct comparisons between France and the UK as there are many differences in, for example, the way nuclear policy is set and implemented, the role of the respective waste management organisations and the fact that, unlike in the UK, substantial upfront funding is being provided in France. In addition, while there is clearly opposition to the nuclear industry in France, there seems to be more public acceptance of the need to transport nuclear waste and the proximity principle<sup>2</sup> is not applied.

---

<sup>2</sup> *The proximity principle states that waste should be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate installations. This limits the environmental impact of transporting waste long distances and helps to ensure that communities take responsibility for their own waste.*

Despite these differences, it was agreed that there are still a lot of lessons that can be learnt from such discussions as, at the end of the day, both countries are relying on local communities agreeing to provide a service to the whole nation.

#### **5.10 – Identification of potential sites**

A question was asked about why the area expressed an interest in the first place, and how was it known that the geology was suitable.

The visiting group's understanding is that some initial analysis of geology was carried out, and that the benefits were then clarified for interested communities.

The clay in this area of France was identified as being ideal geologically, and the group speculated that this, together with the clear indication that there were large up front financial benefits for the community, led to the area putting itself forward. It was also noted that the community had no history of nuclear power.

#### **5.11 – Impacts on the Champagne region**

It was noted that the area is only about 30 miles from the Champagne producing region, and a question was asked about how the Champagne producers, who rely on a clean image, dealt with the impact of this. Reference had been made during the visit to legal action taken by the Champagne producers which ANDRA had won, however this was in relation to the LLW facility not the URL.

#### **5.12 – Approach to impacts generally**

Whilst France is in many ways ahead of the UK, it was acknowledged that there are some aspects that they are more 'naive' about in comparison to the UK, or that they approach differently. For example, they appear to be very driven by the financial benefits, but a lot of other issues are not high on their radar e.g. there is nothing specifically built in to offset any negative image impacts that would occur as a result of a repository, and they are only just starting to think about opinion surveys.

#### **5.13 – Nature of the facility**

It was suggested that, as this was only ever going to be a research facility and would never therefore actually be a repository for radioactive waste, the local people would not have been looking at what was going to happen in 100 years.

It was noted that the geology of the area around the URL (some 250km<sup>2</sup>) is a massive and consistent expanse of clay. So, whilst the URL itself will not be turned into the repository, there was absolute confidence that the final repository site, which will be within a 40km<sup>2</sup> zone, will have similar, if not identical geology. The French Government will decide the precise location of the repository after a public debate on the issues, currently scheduled for 2013.

#### **5.14 – Benefits and additionality**

Reference was made to the funding that is going towards hospital provision, and a question was asked about how this fits with the Partnership's concept of additionality. In response it was confirmed that this funding is for specific research, and is not for the provision of what should be received anyway.

### **5.15 – Agreements and way forward**

A report from the visit will be published on the Partnership website shortly [now published as Document 238].

## 6. Way Forward and Actions

---

### 6.1 – Confirmation of consultation materials

The consultation materials have been signed off and the consultation will now commence on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011. This is, however, subject to receipt of the expected letter from DECC, and potentially any subsequent amendments to the MoU between the three Councils being finalised to the satisfaction of the Councils and CALC. If there are any significant delays to the receipt/finalisation of these documents there will be a subsequent delay to the start of the consultation. This will not affect the consultation end date of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012.

[As outlined in Section 3 above, the letter from DECC was received by the principal authorities on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011.]

### 6.2 – Future meeting dates

It was noted that future Partnership meeting dates need to be revisited now that the timescales for PSE3 have been confirmed. The Steering Group will consider planned and potential agenda items during PSE3, and the PSE Sub-Group will consider the schedule for and timing of future meetings. All Partnership members were asked to hold all meeting dates until these discussions have taken place, and to notify the Programme Manager if there are any specific items they would like to be included.

The *current* forward programme of meeting dates is provided below. Any changes will be notified to the Partnership and details will also be available at <http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk/meetings.asp>.

Members of the public are welcome to observe Partnership meetings (right hand column). Please contact the Secretariat for details and registration on 0800 048 8912.

<b>Steering Group meetings 2011:</b>	<b>Partnership meetings 2011:</b>
24 November	8 December (Copeland Centre, Whitehaven)
<b>2012 dates:</b>	<b>2012 dates:</b>
11 January	31 January (Braithwaite Village Hall)
7 February	21 February (The Oval Centre, Salterbeck)

**6.3 – Actions.** The following actions were agreed:

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By when</b>
1	Contact John Dalton at DECC regarding attending the briefing on acceleration options.	Steering Group members	4 Nov
2	Send copy of IPC seminar notes to all Partnership members.	Steve	4 Nov
3	Incorporate all drafting changes agreed in this meeting into the consultation document and overview document.	Jane/Rhuari/ Paul	7 Nov
4	Consider agenda items for Partnership meetings during PSE3.	Steering Group	24 Nov
5	Advise Programme Manager of topics for consideration at meetings during PSE3.	All	12 Nov
6	Advise Programme Manager of any additional groups/organisations that should be contacted regarding taking part in the consultation.	CBC/All	12 Nov
7	Discuss use of DVD at West Cumbrian neighbourhood forums with the area teams.	Jane/Jenny	11 Nov
8	Circulate draft meeting report to Partnership attendees.	Jane	14 Nov
9	Comment on draft meeting report.	All attendees	21 Nov
10	Circulate final draft of meeting report and publish on website.	Jane	28 Nov

## 7. Public Questions/Comments

---

### 7.1– Statement regarding publication of documents

There was a statement that all papers, including the IPC seminar notes, the letter from DECC and the MoU, should be published on the Partnership website unless there is a very good reason not to, and not just circulated between members.

#### Partnership response

Copeland BC advised that the IPC seminar was not specifically about the MRWS process and that the notes were prepared by the IPC, however they were more than happy to share the notes with all Partnership members and for them to be published if there was an appropriate place to do so.

### 7.2– Question regarding what will happen after the consultation

A question was asked about what will happen after the consultation, including who will read all of the consultation responses, how they will be assessed, and whether each body on the Partnership has a formal process for how they will come to decisions on key points. It was also noted that it would be useful to see a timeline for how each body on the Partnership will assess and respond to the consultation.

#### Partnership response

The Programme Manager confirmed that the reporting will primarily be carried out by 3KQ, but that it will be done in such a way that Partnership members can have access to the full responses as well as the summary report. With regards to decision-making processes it was noted that this would be similar to the previous rounds of PSE. It was also noted that the decision to be taken by the DMBs about participation in the siting process would happen beyond the life of this Partnership.

#### Questioner's response

The questioner reiterated that there should be a formal process for sign off in member organisations.

### 7.3– Written question

The following question was submitted in writing before the meeting by Dr Ruth Balogh, West Cumbria & North Lakes nuclear issues campaigner, and read out at the meeting by Jean McSorley.

*'At the last meeting's discussion about the Consultation document, it finally became evident to the Partnership that the 'Right of Withdrawal at any Time' has some serious caveats that required amendment to the document.*

*Yet these caveats have always been present, from the June 2008 White Paper onwards. Not only is the Right is limited to the Decision-Making Bodies, but the White Paper advises parties in a Community Siting Partnership to work together to avoid exercising it.*

*This 'Right of Withdrawal' has been an important element in reassuring the public and stakeholders. Great stress has been placed on it in Partnership documentation and discussion within the PSE programme. However, it has not been made clear what it actually entails. Participants in the PSE programme may well have got the mistaken impression that decisions taken now can be rescinded later by a 'host community.'*

*Two questions follow:*

- 1. Why has the Partnership not paid more attention over the past two years to stating exactly the nature of this Right to Withdrawal ?*
- 2. What is the Partnership going to do to remedy any misapprehension that those who have taken part in the PSE programme may have gathered?*

*I request a written answer to this question and for both question and answer to be posted on the MRWS website.'*

### **Partnership response**

Cumbria CC acknowledged that, whilst the RoW has been discussed, it has not been discussed in these explicit terms. There was a reminder that there has been a great deal of dialogue about the issue of the RoW and that a conclusion has now been reached. There was also a reminder of the formal documentation that is expected from DECC (see section 3.4 above).

See Appendix 3 for a copy of the written response that followed.

### **7.4 – Question regarding the ongoing role of CoRWM in later stages of the process**

With regard to the chapter on the siting process and the transition between Stages 4 and 5 of the MRWS process, reference was made to the White Paper (para 7.17) which states 'The stage 4 assessment will be reviewed by the independent regulators and subject to independent scrutiny by CoRWM' and that, on the basis of these reviews, the Government will decide which areas to take forward to Stage 5.

It was noted that it is important for the community to know that CoRWM has performed some kind of scrutiny before reaching that stage, and a question was asked about where this is picked up in the consultation document.

### **CoRWM response**

CoRWM noted that they have asked for a specific addition to be made to the definition of their role in an earlier chapter of the document, which will make specific reference to their continuing role of independent scrutiny. They also noted that this role of scrutiny would be as applicable during Stage 4 as at all other stages.

### **Partnership response**

A discussion was held about whether it would be useful to add a specific reference to this in the siting chapter. Whilst some felt that it would be useful if this was made more clear, CoRWM felt that it should not be included at specific points in the document as there would be a danger that it could look like CoRWM are not playing a scrutiny role at other times.

### **Regulators response**

The regulators reiterated that the White Paper also makes reference to the role of the regulators, and noted that if CoRWM are mentioned, the regulators should be too. They had, however, not felt the need to pick up on this point as they felt that their role should be viewed as ongoing throughout the process.

### **Agreement**

It was agreed that the suggested addition to the CoRWM definition of their ongoing role of scrutiny would be acceptable.

### **7.5 – Question re DECC's role**

Clarification was sought as to whether DECC is performing the Government's role referred to in para 7.17 of the White Paper.

### **DECC response**

DECC stated that yes, it is DECC that performs the Government's role in 7.17 of the White Paper.

### **7.6 – Observation on the 8-page summary document**

A comment was made about the suitability of an NDA image in the current draft of the 8-page document. It was agreed that the NDA would review this image with the Communications Adviser.

### **7.7 – Comment and questions regarding geology and criteria setting**

Reference was made to the Partnership's initial opinions in the chapter on geology "where it says there has been no significant criticism" (*sic*). It was noted that there have been a number of "criticisers" including Dr Helen Wallace, Professor Smythe and the Nirex Inspector. Reference was also made to the two new panels writing the new criteria "to make unsuitable geology suitable", and it was stated that these criteria had ruled back in two areas that were previously identified as unsuitable. The Partnership was advised that the MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale is also asking questions about how these two panels were selected.

Reference was also made to a petition with 1500 signatures that has been sent to the Partnership, and the councils were asked whether they would do what residents are asking them to do and withdraw from the process while they still can.

A specific question was asked about whether new panels are being drawn up with no criteria for geology.

### **DECC response**

DECC stated that the Criteria Proposals Group and the Criteria Review Groups did not have a remit to make any geology suitable, and confirmed that the role of these panels was to come up with a set of high-level criteria that could be applied anywhere in the country. DECC agreed that there are a number of other important factors, but noted that these can only be looked at when there is specific geology. They reiterated that the two panels were doing a very narrow technical job, and there was a reminder that the results of their work were reviewed and put out to consultation.

Reference was made to the range of views that have been expressed about the geology of West Cumbria, and there was a reminder from earlier in the meeting about the new statement from Dr Dearlove (see 3.3.5 above) that Professor Smythe's opinions on the suitability of the geology of West Cumbria, are "not the opinion of the wider geological community".

With regard to the Nirex Inspector, it was noted that the Nirex Inquiry was a planning inquiry and not a detailed inspection of geology.

### **7.8 – Clarification regarding community benefits in France**

A question was asked about whether the community benefits in France are intended to balance the detrimental impacts of a facility, or whether they are intended for some other purpose.

### **Partnership response**

One of the Partnership members who took part in the visit to France advised that their interpretation was that the French Government appears to 'pay' communities in return for a national service, and that the benefits are therefore not regarded in the same sense as community benefits in the UK.

## 8. Acronyms/Abbreviations

---

ABC/Allerdale BC	Allerdale Borough Council
BGS	British Geological Survey
CALC	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
CBC/Copeland BC	Copeland Borough Council
CCC/Cumbria CC	Cumbria County Council
CoRWM	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
CSP	Community Siting Partnership
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DfT	Department for Transport
DMB	Decision Making Body
DSSC	Disposal System Safety Case
DtP	Decision to Participate
EA	Environment Agency
EoI	Expression of Interest
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FoE	Friends of the Earth
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
GDIB	Geological Disposal Implementation Board
HSE	Health & Safety Executive
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
ISOLUS	Interim Storage of Laid-Up Submarines
LDNPA	Lake District National Park Authority
LGA	Local Government Association
LLW	Low Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
MIPU	Major Infrastructure Planning Unit
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRWS	Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
ND	Nuclear Directorate (a department of the HSE)
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NII	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (of the HSE)
NNPS	Nuclear National Policy Statement
NWAA	Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates
NWDA	North West Development Agency
NuLeAF	Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum
NWAT	Nuclear Waste Assessment Team (of the EA)
OCNS	Office for Civil Nuclear Security
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation
PSE	Public and Stakeholder Engagement
RoW	Right of Withdrawal
RWMD	Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (of the NDA)

SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SDP	Submarine Dismantling Project
SLC	Site Licence Company
ToRs	Terms of Reference
TRG	Technical Review Group
UKSO	UK Safeguards Office
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
URL	Underground Research Laboratory
WCSF	West Cumbrian Strategic Forum
WCSP	West Cumbria Strategic Partnership
WCSSG	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group

## Appendix 1 – Agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 meeting

---

**Objectives** of the meeting are to:

1. Understand lessons learnt from the visit to the Underground Research Laboratory in Bure (France).
2. Agree the Partnership's draft consultation materials for use in PSE3, including:
  - Main consultation document with new draft chapter on the siting process.
  - Any late amendments to the consultation document.
  - 8-page summary and DVD (*for information*).
  - PSE3 timetable.

Time	Item	Agenda Notes
09.00	Arrivals/registration	
09.30	<b>Welcome Updates and actions</b>	Richard Harris, 3KQ
	<b>PSE3 consultation materials</b>	Discuss/agree consultation documents, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siting process (Chapter 10).</li> <li>• Late information, inclusions and amendments.</li> <li>• 8-page overview document.</li> <li>• View DVD.</li> <li>• PSE3 timetable and main activity.</li> </ul>
	<b>Public questions</b>	
12.30	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b>Visit to Bure, France</b>	Key learning points, followed by Q&A.
	<b>Public questions</b>	
15.15	<b>Close</b>	

## Appendix 2 – Attendees on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011

---

Richard Griffin	Allerdale Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Charles Holmes	Allerdale Borough Council	
Michael Heaslip	Allerdale Borough Council	
Carni McCarron-Holmes	Allerdale Borough Council	
Alan Smith	Allerdale Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Ken Williams	Barrow Borough Council	
Guy Richardson	CALC	
Geoff Smith	Allerdale CALC	
Chris Shaw	Allerdale/Copeland CALC	(Steering Group member)
Keith Hitchen	Copeland CALC	(Steering Group member)
Peter Mason	Carlisle City Council	
Revd Dr Lindsay Gray	Churches Together in Cumbria	
Yvonne Clarkson	Copeland Borough Council	
Ian Curwen	Copeland Borough Council	
Allan Holliday	Copeland Borough Council	
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Mike Morris	Cumbria Chamber of Commerce	
David Haughian	Cumbria County Council	
Gerald Humes	Cumbria County Council	
Paul Feehily	Cumbria County Council	
Tim Knowles	Cumbria County Council	(Steering Group member)
David Southward	Cumbria County Council	
Richard Greenwood	Cumbria Tourism	
Mike Tonkin	Eden District Council	
Peter Kane	GMB/Unite Unions	
Robert Allison	Lake District National Park Authority	
Judith Cooke	Lake District National Park Authority	
Robert Morris-Eyton	National Farmers Union	
Marcus Swift	Prospect Union	
Simon Rowley	South Lakeland District Council	
<b>Observing Members</b>		
Bruce Cairns	DECC	
John Dalton	DECC	
Neil Hornby	DECC	
Brian Clark	CoRWM	
Mark Dutton	CoRWM	
Gavin Thomson	Environment Agency	
Elizabeth Atherton	NDA RWMD	
Alun Ellis	NDA RWMD	
Mick Bacon	ONR	

## **Apologies**

Harry Dyke	Allerdale Borough Council	
Paul Walker	Copeland Borough Council	(Steering Group member)
Stewart Kemp	Cumbria County Council	(Steering Group member)
Paul McKenna	Isle of Man Government	
Stephen Ratcliffe	Lake District National Park Authority	
Fred Barker	NuLeAF	
Ian McPherson	South Lakeland District Council	

## **Facilitators, Secretariat and Presenters**

Rhuari Bennett	3KQ (Programme Manager)
Richard Harris	3KQ (Facilitator)
Jane Dalton	3KQ (Meeting Report & Consultation Document Writer)
Cath Little	Copeland Borough Council (Secretariat)

## **Other**

Paul Gardner	Osprey Communications (Communications Adviser)
Stuart Smith	Wood Holmes (Partnership Evaluators)
Jenny Willis	3KQ
Tom Nutt	The Communications Group (Brand protection consultants)
Fluid Productions	DVD producers
Border TV	

## **Members of the Public/Stakeholders** who attended for all or part of the meeting

Fergus McMorrow  
David Wood  
Jean McSorley  
Alan Tyson  
Barry Watkins  
Marianne Birkby  
Jim Furness  
Jay Redgrove  
Fiona Jane Cummings  
Les Netherton  
Catherine Ivinson  
Andrew Crowder  
Joe Murdoch  
John Tier  
Edwin Dinsdale

NDA RWMD  
NDA RWMD  
CoRWM

## **Other members who were not in attendance**

David Moore	West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group
-------------	--------------------------------------

### Appendix 3 – Response to the written question from Dr Ruth Balogh

---

The following response was written by Tim Knowles, Cumbria County Council, in response to the written question submitted by Ruth Balogh and read out at the meeting on her behalf by Jean McSorley (see 7.3 above).

7 November 2011

I refer to the questions put to the MRWS Partnership and asked on your behalf by Jean McSorley at the partnership meeting on 3rd November at Egremont. You will see the verbal response I gave summarised in the formal meeting notes from that event.

As you have requested a formal written response I would repeat the comments I made yesterday by agreeing with you that the issue of Right of Withdrawal is a significant one, not just for the Decision Making Bodies, but, as you suggest, for the communities in West Cumbria too. As Decision Making Bodies we have been keen to establish precisely with Government a common understanding of how this principle would operate in the context of the MRWS White Paper. As I said at the meeting of the Partnership on 3rd November, I believe we now have obtained that clarity following my meeting with the Department of Energy and Climate Change last week and I expect the letter we are waiting for from DECC will give us the written reassurance we have been looking for in respect of how the Right of Withdrawal applies at this first stage of the process. Once the letter has arrived, which I expect will be in the next few days, and assuming it covers satisfactorily all the points of agreement reached in my meeting with the Minister, it will be posted on the MRWS website. I expect it to show that for the MRWS process to continue in an area the District, County and Government all need to be in agreement. Any one party not wishing to progress after all options to find consensus have been exhausted would result in the process terminating.

Looking ahead, were there to be a decision to participate in the following stages made by the Decision Making Bodies, then the formation of a Community Siting Partnership would need to take place. Chapter 10 of the consultation document agreed at the 3rd November Partnership meeting, explains the purpose of a CSP and how, and up to what point, the right of withdrawal can be exercised by the DMBs, taking into account and balancing the views expressed by local communities.

I hope this response is of some assistance but I would urge you to also look in more detail at the consultation document when it is published.

Yours sincerely



**Tim Knowles**  
**Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

## 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.

Organisation	Nominated Representatives and preferred contact details	Mechanisms Used
Allerdale BC	Alan Smith (councillor) <a href="mailto:alan.smith@alldale.gov.uk">alan.smith@alldale.gov.uk</a> Tim Heslop (councillor) <a href="mailto:tim.heslop@alldale.gov.uk">tim.heslop@alldale.gov.uk</a> Carni McCarron-Holmes (councillor) <a href="mailto:carni.mccarron-holmes@alldale.gov.uk">carni.mccarron-holmes@alldale.gov.uk</a> Michael Heaslip (councillor) <a href="mailto:michael.heaslip@alldale.gov.uk">michael.heaslip@alldale.gov.uk</a> Charles Holmes <a href="mailto:charles.holmes@alldale.gov.uk">charles.holmes@alldale.gov.uk</a> Richard Griffin <a href="mailto:richard.griffin@alldale.gov.uk">richard.griffin@alldale.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 (councillor) <a href="mailto:kenwilliams@barrowbc.gov.uk">kenwilliams@barrowbc.gov.uk</a> Phil Huck <a href="mailto:philhuck@barrowbc.gov.uk">philhuck@barrowbc.gov.uk</a>	Verbal update given to Leader after each Partnership meeting.
CALC (Allerdale)	Chris Shaw <a href="mailto:chris.shaw@calc.org.uk">chris.shaw@calc.org.uk</a> Geoff Smith (councillor) <a href="mailto:geoffandhelen@tesco.net">geoffandhelen@tesco.net</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 (councillor) <a href="mailto:keith.hitchen@btinternet.com">keith.hitchen@btinternet.com</a>	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Copeland Association meetings.
CALC (Cumbria)	Guy Richardson <a href="mailto:guy.richardson@calc.org.uk">guy.richardson@calc.org.uk</a>	Regular written and verbal report to CALC's Executive Committee meetings.
Carlisle City Council	Jason Gooding <a href="mailto:jasong@carlisle.gov.uk">jasong@carlisle.gov.uk</a>	
Chamber of Commerce (Cumbria)	Robert Johnston <a href="mailto:rob@cumbriachamber.co.uk">rob@cumbriachamber.co.uk</a>	
Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC)	Revd Dr Lindsay Gray <a href="mailto:lgray782@btinternet.com">lgray782@btinternet.com</a>	

Copeland BC	<p>Elaine Woodburn (councillor)  <a href="mailto:ewoodburn@copelandbc.gov.uk">ewoodburn@copelandbc.gov.uk</a>  Allan Holliday (councillor)  <a href="mailto:allan.holliday@copeland.gov.uk">allan.holliday@copeland.gov.uk</a>  John Kane (councillor)  <a href="mailto:john.kane@copeland.gov.uk">john.kane@copeland.gov.uk</a>  Yvonne Clarkson (councillor)  <a href="mailto:yvonne.clarkson@copeland.gov.uk">yvonne.clarkson@copeland.gov.uk</a>  Paul Walker  <a href="mailto:paul.walker@copeland.gov.uk">paul.walker@copeland.gov.uk</a>  Steve Smith  <a href="mailto:steve.smith@copeland.gov.uk">steve.smith@copeland.gov.uk</a>  Ian Curwen  <a href="mailto:ian.curwen@copeland.gov.uk">ian.curwen@copeland.gov.uk</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leader's update to full Council.</li> <li>- Update to Nuclear Working Group.</li> <li>- Update to Executive at key milestones.</li> <li>- Update to MRWS Task Group when needed.</li> </ul>
Cumbria County Council	<p>Tim Knowles (councillor)  <a href="mailto:timothy.knowles@cumbriacc.gov.uk">timothy.knowles@cumbriacc.gov.uk</a>  Tony Markley (councillor)  <a href="mailto:anthony.markley@cumbriacc.gov.uk">anthony.markley@cumbriacc.gov.uk</a>  David Southward (councillor)  <a href="mailto:david.southward@virgin.net">david.southward@virgin.net</a>  Gerald Humes (councillor)  <a href="mailto:gerald.humes@cumbriacc.gov.uk">gerald.humes@cumbriacc.gov.uk</a>  Paul Feehily  <a href="mailto:paul.feehily@cumbriacc.gov.uk">paul.feehily@cumbriacc.gov.uk</a>  Stewart Kemp  <a href="mailto:stewart.kemp@cumbriacc.gov.uk">stewart.kemp@cumbriacc.gov.uk</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6-weekly written report to Nuclear Issues Working Group (NIWG).</li> <li>- Quarterly report to Cabinet.</li> <li>- Monthly report to Nuclear Issues Programme Board.</li> <li>- Possible insert in weekly briefing to all staff.</li> <li>- Link to Partnership website.</li> <li>- Attending Allerdale and Copeland Local Area Committees on request.</li> </ul>
Cumbria Tourism	<p>Richard Greenwood  <a href="mailto:rgreenwood@cumbriatourism.org">rgreenwood@cumbriatourism.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep the rest of the organisation and the wider membership of CT informed.</li> <li>- Updates to Senior Management Team (as and when relevant).</li> <li>- Reports to the Executive Board and, where necessary, formal endorsement of CT's position on any decisions which need to be taken.</li> <li>- Email and Viewpoint (quarterly magazine to all members).</li> <li>- Presentation from the Partnership at a Commercial Members Meeting.</li> </ul>
Eden District Council	<p>Mike Tonkin (councillor)  <a href="mailto:mike.tonkin@eden.gov.uk">mike.tonkin@eden.gov.uk</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report to members on 'Outside Bodies' website.</li> <li>- Presentation to members as Environment Portfolio Holder.</li> </ul>
GMB/Unite Unions	<p>Peter Kane  <a href="mailto:peter.kane@sellafieldsites.com">peter.kane@sellafieldsites.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updates given to Shop Stewards Committee.</li> <li>- Forward on newsletters to members.</li> </ul>
Lake District National Park Authority	<p>Robert Allison  <a href="mailto:robert.allison@lakedistrict.gov.uk">robert.allison@lakedistrict.gov.uk</a>  Judith Cooke  <a href="mailto:judith.cooke@lakedistrict.gov.uk">judith.cooke@lakedistrict.gov.uk</a></p>	
National Farmers Union	<p>Robert Morris-Eyton  <a href="mailto:rmorriseyt@aol.com">rmorriseyt@aol.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Link to Partnership website and Robert's contact details placed on NFU website.</li> <li>- 2 principal officers that cover West Cumbria updated that the process is happening and to forward any queries to Robert.</li> </ul>

NuLeAF	Fred Barker <a href="mailto:fred.barker@nuleaf.org.uk">fred.barker@nuleaf.org.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written report to each NuLeAF Steering Group.</li> <li>- Referenced in e-bulletin.</li> <li>- Website has a GDF section which signposts Partnership meeting reports.</li> </ul>
Prospect Union	Marcus Swift <a href="mailto:mjs17@sellafieldsites.com">mjs17@sellafieldsites.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make the Partnership an agenda item at Sellafield Site Representatives Meetings, and either the General Purposes Committee or Branch Executive Council.</li> <li>- Send all appropriate papers to Prospect members in the Sellafield Limited Branch.</li> <li>- Collate questions, comments, points and general feedback.</li> <li>- Provide reports to Prospect's national SET Committee.</li> </ul>
South Lakeland District Council	Simon Rowley <a href="mailto:s.rowley@southlakeland.gov.uk">s.rowley@southlakeland.gov.uk</a> Clare Feeney-Johnson <a href="mailto:c.feeneyjohnson@southlakeland.gov.uk">c.feeneyjohnson@southlakeland.gov.uk</a>	Forward minutes and newsletters to Senior Management Team and Portfolio Holder.
<b>Observing Members:</b>		
CoRWM	Brian Clark <a href="mailto:briandclark@btinternet.com">briandclark@btinternet.com</a> Mark Dutton <a href="mailto:lizmark@lizmark1.co.uk">lizmark@lizmark1.co.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verbal update to all plenary meetings.</li> <li>- Circulate key papers to Committee.</li> <li>- Insert in e-bulletin as appropriate.</li> </ul>
DECC	Bruce Cairns <a href="mailto:bruce.cairns@decc.gsi.gov.uk">bruce.cairns@decc.gsi.gov.uk</a> Andrew Craze <a href="mailto:andrew.craze@decc.gsi.gov.uk">andrew.craze@decc.gsi.gov.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report to various meetings and colleagues with an interest in the process.</li> <li>- Advise Ministers who take Government decisions in this area.</li> </ul>
Environment Agency	Gavin Thomson <a href="mailto:gavin.thomson@environment-agency.gov.uk">gavin.thomson@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>	Report key points arising to various colleagues in nuclear regulation and NW region.
Isle of Man Government	Paul McKenna <a href="mailto:paul.mckenna@gov.im">paul.mckenna@gov.im</a>	Presentation on geological disposal given to Council of Ministers in 2009. Regular updates/scientific advice to Isle of Man Government.
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Alun Ellis <a href="mailto:alun.ellis@nda.gov.uk">alun.ellis@nda.gov.uk</a> Jay Redgrove <a href="mailto:jay.redgrove@nda.gov.uk">jay.redgrove@nda.gov.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monthly reporting to RWMD and central communications staff.</li> <li>- Dissemination of Partnership minutes and Meeting Reports to staff.</li> </ul>
Office for Nuclear Regulation	Mick Bacon <a href="mailto:mick.bacon@hse.gsi.gov.uk">mick.bacon@hse.gsi.gov.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact reports distributed after each contact (meeting or otherwise).</li> <li>- Regular report to related project groups.</li> <li>- Briefings taken before each meeting depending on agenda.</li> </ul>
West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group	David Moore <a href="mailto:dmoore@copelandbc.gov.uk">dmoore@copelandbc.gov.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quarterly verbal updates to SSG.</li> <li>- Paragraph in quarterly newsletter.</li> <li>- Link on website to Partnership site.</li> </ul>