



*Proud of our past. Energised for our future.*

Copeland Borough Council  
The Copeland Centre,  
Catherine Street, Whitehaven,  
Cumbria CA28 7SJ

tel: 0845 054 8600  
fax: 01946 59 83 03  
email: [info@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:info@copeland.gov.uk)  
web: [www.copeland.gov.uk](http://www.copeland.gov.uk)

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Dear Baroness Verma

Thank you for another useful meeting on Thursday, 4 October 2012 and your recognition of the role West Cumbria does and can play within the energy sector by your first official visit being to Sellafield.

I think we all felt that progress was made and as agreed I wanted to set out Copeland's specific clarifications on the key issues of Right of Withdrawal, Geology and Community Benefits,

Taking each in turn:-

The need to strengthen the right of withdrawal is an issue that has been raised consistently with ourselves. To gain a better understanding of the details of options and timescale to place the right of withdrawal on a legal footing, we would like government to identify all possible options supported by specific timescales for each option.

The geology of the area is of paramount concern to many residents and therefore there is a need for definitive information as soon as possible if a positive decision to participate is taken. To allow for this to happen we are seeking clarification from Government as to how the detailed geological works identified in Stage 4 and 5 could be accelerated.

The MRWS Partnerships thirteen principles as a basis for negotiation on community benefits and consequently agreed by government was welcomed, but as it was again an issue raised by our communities, it is important more thought is given to how and when these discussions will take place in Stage 4. Therefore more detail on this would be helpful.

An early response on the above would be welcomed in order to enable the decision making bodies to adhere to their target decision date of January.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Elaine Woodburn**  
**Leader of Copeland Borough Council**