

## Appendix 2

# White Paper: Managing radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal

## Key Elements: Summary

The White Paper sets out an approach based on

- voluntarism and partnership between: a repository site host community; wider local interests; the representative local government decision making authority for the host community; central Government; and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).
- key early decision points characterised as: 1) an 'Expression of Interest' – the point at which local communities register their 'without commitment' interest in discussions with Government about potential involvement in a repository siting process, and 2) a 'Decision to Participate' – the point at which a local decision making body/ies make a formal commitment to participate in a siting process and establish a partnership of local community interests, but still 'without commitment' to host a repository.
- right of withdrawal which can be exercised by local decision making body/ies, based on advice from a local community siting partnership, up until the beginning of any site borehole investigation, and in certain defined circumstances thereafter until repository construction commences.
- engagement packages being financial assistance from central Government to communities that have formally expressed an interest in participation in a repository siting programme (the level, coverage and point at which funds become available being a matter for early discussion between communities and Government).
- benefits packages being long-term socio economic investments, additional to repository and associated infrastructure development expenditure, which are agreed between communities and central Government in recognition of intergenerational and potential adverse impacts. Such investments could encompass: education

and skills training; support to local service industries; promotion of new industries; improved public services and housing; improved transport infrastructure and access; better healthcare; environmental improvement; and better recreational facilities.

- full regulatory compliance with the standards set by the Environment Agency and other regulators.
- the new planning system which is likely to be applied (though final decisions have yet to be made) should a geological repository be located in England.
- public consultation through the full planning process and processes of strategic environmental assessment, sustainability assessment and environmental impact assessment.
- agreement on facility design between the NDA and a local siting partnership incorporating reassurance monitoring and an option for waste retrievability.
- research and development by the NDA in support of a repository programme to: refine design and construction; improve understanding of the chemical and physical properties and interactions of emplaced wastes; address specific issues raised by regulators; and support the development of site specific safety cases.
- the NDA as implementing body initially through its Radioactive Waste Management Directorate that later will be 'spun off' into a separate site licence company (SLC) and in due course have its management competed, in line with NDA policy at other sites.

The following documents were also published alongside the White Paper'

- the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) proposed strategy for research and development on geological disposal and associated issues. The strategy will be subject to stakeholder comment prior to review and further development;
- the NDA's proposed Public and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy that will also be subject to stakeholder input, alongside a repository Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process;
- an Environment Agency public consultation (now underway) on Guidance on Requirements for Authorisation of near surface and deep disposal facilities; and

- the DEFRA 2007 UK Radioactive Waste and Materials Inventory.

Officers will review these documents and report further as appropriate