

What Cumbria County Council Will Be Deciding On

Our summary of the event is that the people of west Cumbria are being asked to approve an extremely deep or shallow hole in the ground, very close to their property, or far away from it, but in some instances undermining it. The hole will be of indeterminate size, in an imprecisely-known location; perhaps in, or under, the Lake District National Park, or not, and be at (and of) any depth, depending on the type of geology they find when they dig the hole. Residents can be assured that, whatever geology is found, it will be entirely suitable for the purpose of the dump, and copious supporting evidence will be supplied from independent experts to prove that. (Naysayers need not apply.)

The dump may be close to Sellafield, or not, but wherever it is, it will be served by a totally inadequate infrastructure with poor transport assets, which may (despite the difficult terrain), or may not (because of the difficult terrain), have to be improved to cope. Furthermore, it may host waste which has, or has not, been treated by some unknown and untried process (the existing White Elephant plant will be decommissioned at a very good rate - to be replaced by an even larger White Elephant at even greater expense), which will achieve its annual target over a ten year span, perhaps. The longevity of the White Elephant will be increased by its producing more waste than it cures, which is, of course, a Very Good Thing (*with apologies to A.A. Milne for the inappropriate upper case letters*) in terms of employment.

Waste, whilst still "quite hot", will then be placed in containers whose construction has not yet been designed, or proven, but made of material yet to be decided. Such containers will be perfect for the job and will last for at least twice as long as the 100 thousand year lifespan that some of the material - which has yet to be identified - may have. It is not yet known how much waste will be stored in the dump, but it may be "quite a lot". To make the project worthwhile, waste will originate from all over the country (possibly, eventually, even abroad) and will be of an unknown quantity and toxicity, but whatever it is, and however much there is of it, will remain highly toxic for "a very long time". Although "quite hot", the interred material will make no contribution to global or marine warming. All gases will be safely vented at all times with no danger to the environment whatsoever. Build up of gases will not be tolerated. The approved system will perform perfectly throughout its design life - as soon as we get round to designing it.

It is unfortunate that the (w)hole will be the final straw for any non-nuclear industry, such as tourism and leisure, but they will benefit from a compensation package akin to that used currently for shopping malls, called a Community Benefit Package. The amount for which is currently not determined. It may (or may not) be a substantial fund. Sadly, if such a package is not accepted, the project will still go ahead and any compensation reduced due to the adverse impact of a nuclear dump in close proximity to your property diminishing its value. Please note that, due to planning law changes, Cumbrian residents will be limited to choosing the colour of the factory gates. No other arguments will be permitted, sorry. (By special arrangement with Électricité de France.)

The foregoing demonstrates that the proposed dump has been very well researched, is entirely sustainable, and is a practical way of dealing with some of the worst poisons known to mankind, (except if they leak, which they won't, but even if they did, it will be for future generations to deal with, by which time the technology may, or may not, be available to deal with it). The development is financially viable and self-sustaining, so long as the subsidies, which don't exist, are forthcoming.

The only certain thing seems to be that contracts for its construction are already being awarded and the gravy train already rolling. (The slapping sound is not the sound of what used to be the Irish Sea, which now forms the effluent discharge pond, it is the sound of pigs at a trough.) It is reassuring to know that, even in these straightened times, we can help out German, Spanish and French électricité companies by permitting them to employ low-cost loans provided by the tax-payers of the U.K. to generate profits in order to support their respective home countries. We are quite sure that our new-found best mates will not cause us to wonder whether energy security is in any way compromised by the scheme. We remain convinced they will still be around in 150 years time when it comes to cleaning up what is left of the sites around the country. (Accidents and unfortunate incidents excepted.) (Carbon credits at favourable rates are now available, and capped accident insurance liability benefits will be supplied on demand.)

The "trickle-down" effect will ensure that all strata of the Cumbrian community will gain from these plans although, naturally, those most-deserving will be at the forefront when it comes to time to distribute the benefits.

Please be assured that residents will not be inconvenienced at any time. All projects in West Cumbria come with the guarantee of "No Adverse Effect" - for the lifetime of the guarantee (two days or more). (Unless withdrawn sooner).

Please be assured at all times that Sellafield is NOT a dirty industry, and there is no reason to be nervous, as confirmed by our history. (Er. . ., or not.)

Now it is time for a prayer led by our "Churches Together" Nuclear Disciple.

Do turkeys vote for Christmas? In Allerdale and Copeland they do, it seems.