
EA Ref: GDF/SSRP/2020/02

ONR Ref: CM9 2020/312361

Mark Cullinan,
Independent Chair,
Copeland GDF Working Group.

Date: 23 November 2020

Re: Regulator's support to Copeland GDF Working Group

Dear Mark,

Congratulations on your appointment as independent chair of the Copeland GDF Working Group. This is an early, but important, step in a national process to site a facility to dispose of the UK's most hazardous radioactive waste.

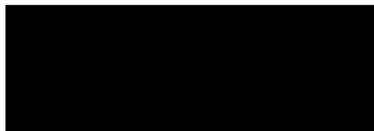
The Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation have no role in decisions to select sites but will regulate any geological disposal facility (GDF) for radioactive waste located in England. This letter is to offer support to the Copeland GDF Working Group by explaining how our regulatory roles and processes will help ensure protection of people and the environment now and in the future. To maintain our independence, however, we would not wish to be a formal member of the Working Group and would not be involved in decision-making.

If it would be of assistance, the regulators could also actively support stakeholder communications and engagement managed by the Working Group to explain our role and offer advice, through impartial participation in events, such as exhibitions and enabling on-line access to our materials. Separately we will also continue to communicate information about our role in geological disposal and respond to enquiries from the public and the media as appropriate. For example, we shall shortly be publishing our latest annual report of regulatory activities on geological disposal, including scrutiny of Radioactive Waste Management Limited.

As you will be aware the Environment Agency has considerable experience working with communities across Copeland, Cumbria and beyond to protect and enhance the environment, both as a regulator and working in partnership with others to deliver infrastructure. If you consider this experience could be beneficial to your role as Chair then we would be happy to arrange a time to discuss it.

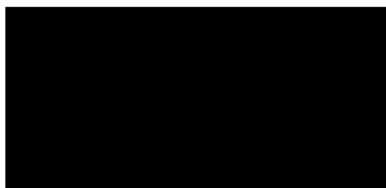
If you would like to discuss our offer of support further then contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for the Environment Agency and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for the Office for Nuclear Regulation [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Keith Ashcroft

**Area Director for Cumbria and Lancashire
Environment Agency**



Rob Campbell

**Head of Decommissioning, Fuel & Waste Sub-
Division
Office for Nuclear Regulation**

cc:

EA: [REDACTED]

ONR: [REDACTED]