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[www.nuclearwasteservices.uk](http://www.nuclearwasteservices.uk)

01 July 2025

The Parish Clerk  
Whicham Parish Council  
via email

**Re: Email from Whicham Parish Council**

Thank you for your email on behalf of Whicham Parish Council dated 11 June 2025.

We recognise the motion that Whicham Parish Council approved at its last meeting and would welcome the opportunity to understand more about any concerns that residents of the Parish may have about the project.

The siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility in England is set out in the UK Government's policy, specifically Appendix 1. ([May 2024 Policy Framework for Managing Radioactive Substances and Decommissioning](#)).

With regard to a community withdrawing from the siting process this Policy does allow for this, yet it is a decision for Cumberland Council as they are the relevant Principal Local Authority.

This Policy is also clear that the Government requires us to find both a suitable site and a willing community before we can seek the relevant regulatory and planning permissions to begin construction of a facility and that takes time. Identifying Areas of Focus helps us to find out whether or not there is a suitable site to construct a site within the South Copeland Search Area.

I can clarify that identifying an Area of Focus does not mean a GDF will necessarily be sited in that location. Nor does it in any way infer that NWS considers a community to be willing or otherwise to host a GDF.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hughes".

Simon Hughes  
Siting Director, Nuclear Waste Services