**Addressing the Issue**

This is Radioactive Waste Management Limited’s response to an issue raised on our Geological Disposal Implementation Plan showing how the issue has been addressed. Our issues register can be accessed via [http://www.nda.gov.uk/geological-disposal/issues/](http://www.nda.gov.uk/geological-disposal/issues/).

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### Issues Raised

**321-01:** Northern Cumbria, between the National Park and the Solway, is geologically even more complex. The whole northern region under consideration has been the subject of hydrocarbon exploration for 40 years; applying logically the exclusion criteria defined by the BGS means that it should have been screened out.

**321-02:** The regional hydrogeological regime in west and north Cumbria is dominated by the presence of the Cumbrian mountains. The extreme relief is about twenty times greater than desirable for categories of waste repository hosted in crystalline rocks. That fact alone is sufficient to characterise the region as hydrogeologically unsuitable, quite apart from the demonstrable complexity of the geology.

**321-03:** The well-understood geology and hydrogeology, and hence the inherent safety of any chosen potential site, is categorically against the region’s suitability to host a nuclear waste repository.

**321-04:** The predictions of fluid flow to make an acceptable safety case can only be made using models which are simple. If models are built from complex geologies they will inevitably be full of multiple errors, omissions, false or dubious assumptions, and so on, and therefore unsafe.

### How the Issue Has Been Addressed:

These four linked issues have been raised concerning the unsuitability of West Cumbria as a potential site for a future Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). A fuller response to these issues has previously been prepared [1] and is available on the bibliography and on the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership web site. Additional consideration of the geological aspects of West Cumbria was also the subject of a Cumbrian MPs fact-finding mission in January 2013 which can also be accessed via the same website [2]. In 2013, Cumbria County Council withdrew support for moving to the next phase of the evaluation process for West Cumbria.

Since the publication of the Implementing Geological Disposal White paper in 2014 [3], UK Government policy is to undertake a National Geological Screening exercise [4] along with other initial actions before considering any specific part of England, Wales or Northern Ireland. Therefore, West Cumbria is currently not being considered as a site for a future GDF, so there is no specific work planned to address any of these four linked issues and they have been reassigned to a ‘Non-active’ status on the issue register. If West Cumbria becomes a candidate site in the future, these issues will be returned to an “Active” status.

### Supporting References


