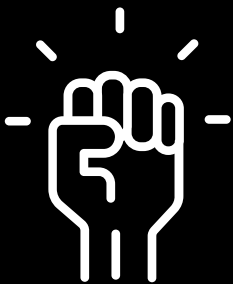


# MILLOM SAY NO TO NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP



## GDF-OFF

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**Millom and District Against  
Nuclear Waste Dump**

## **WHAT IS A GDF?**

GDF means Geological Disposal Facility. In other words, a nuclear waste dump. The UK has produced radioactive waste for about 70 years. This comes from nuclear power stations, medical and industrial facilities and defence programmes. The more serious waste will take tens of thousands of years to decay. This is currently held above ground around the UK in 20 secure facilities across the country costing billions of pounds to maintain. In the next 100 years, this will increase to three times the size of the Royal Albert Hall.

Although some of the waste is stored at Drigg (less dangerous) and Sellafield (more serious) the proposed new site will receive ALL waste from ALL 20 facilities around the country and will arrive by train – it will be one of the biggest in the world and the first in the UK.. Millom and Haverigg have been put forward to host this GDF facility.

## **WHAT WILL THIS MEAN ?**

The full impact and extent is currently unknown. Currently local people have raised many concerns, the most pressing being the Marine Geophysical(seismic) surveys that are about to be conducted off the shores of Millom and Haverigg. These will start in July/August 2022 and last for about four weeks. The surveys consist of towed devices which use compressed air to produce high-energy pulses of low-frequency sound waves. Every 10 seconds a sound blast will be emitted 24 hours a day for 4 weeks.

This affects a wide range of marine life – from zooplankton (a crucial marine food source), to fish and marine mammals such as porpoises, whales and dolphins. The blasting causes stress, can damage hearing and health and impair their ability to navigate, find food, communicate and breed. Despite this knowledge the surveys are going ahead – with no consultation with the community! These surveys have been banned in other parts of the world. There are many other concerns which include the protected SSSI areas around here (dunes, RSPB sites) – what will be the impact on birds, natterjack toads and other wild life? Is it wise to site a facility in an area that might be subject to rising sea levels?

## **WHO IS THE SOUTH COPELAND GDF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ?**

The South Copeland GDF Community Partnership are tasked to take the process forward; it includes representatives from Copeland Borough Council; Cumbria Association of Local Councils; Millom Town Council; Millom Without Parish Council; Whicham Parish Council; and Nuclear Waste Services (NWS). Local councils can withdraw but the process will continue; only NWS and Copeland can stop it at this stage.

Having a willing community to host the facility is essential. The UK government invited anyone or any group of people to submit potential sites for the new GDF. An individual proposed our area initially then Copeland Council put forward Mid Copeland and South Copeland (the Lake District National Park is exempt). A third proposal is off the coast near Mablethorpe in Lincolnshire where locals are campaigning against it.

There will be a 'Test of Public Support' when the public can say no but this will probably not happen for some years, meanwhile the community is reliant upon information provided by the GDF Partnership, who have so far declined offers to include alternative information. Copeland will decide when to take the Test.

## **WHAT CAN I DO TO SAY NO ?**

Join our Facebook group to show solidarity! You can also write or email your local council.

## **WHO ARE WE?**

We are Millom and District Against the Nuclear Dump. Within 3 days over 300 folk have joined us (mostly people who live here, including those with experience of working in the nuclear industry). We're linked with other groups and share information on our private Facebook page. Find out more: 07522 993238.