



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **UNION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE SAFELY**

The Northern Region's largest general trade union has today urged a major local authority to decide to move to the next stage in the process on the future of Nuclear Waste storage.

A Report is due to go to the Cabinet Committee of Cumbria County Council on Wednesday 30th January 2013. The Report includes the Final Report of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership.

The Cabinet Report has a number of recommendations essentially divided up into moving to the next phase in the siting process, which are desk based studies, Stage 4; or alternatively deciding against siting a Repository locally.

The GMB Union, Northern Region, which includes Cumbria has said that the Council's Cabinet needs to think very seriously of the economic consequences of any decisions they take on Wednesday.

Chris Jukes Senior Organiser and Regional Political Officer of the GMB Union said:

"We clearly understand where people are coming from in relation to the environment. However any decisions that potentially have a detrimental impact on direct and indirect employment and investment, should be treated as very grave steps indeed".

Mr Jukes said that the GMB had always placed health and safety of workers, families and communities at the forefront of its involvement in Nuclear. He also emphasised that the future of the Nuclear Industry in Cumbria could be at stake.

Mr Jukes said:

"In these times of the worst economic conditions since the pre Victorian era, anyone seriously making decisions that could threaten the jobs and livelihoods in the short, medium and long term, of thousands of workers and their families across Cumbria, must answer the basic question of how they would re-employ all the people effected. Historically parts of Cumbria (and its predecessors) have seen some of the most deprived communities in Britain, offset by periods of industrial growth. Wednesday is essentially a watershed moment in deciding to maintain jobs and communities.

The GMB believe the GDF decision needs to run in parallel with a long term industrial strategy for the Sellafield site and West Cumbria. In addition it is essential that Central Government sets out its long term vision for Sellafield and start the investment now".

**-ENDS-**

Notes to Editors as follows:

The Political composition of Cumbria County Council's 10 Members Cabinet is: 6 Conservative; 3 Labour; 1 Independent.

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