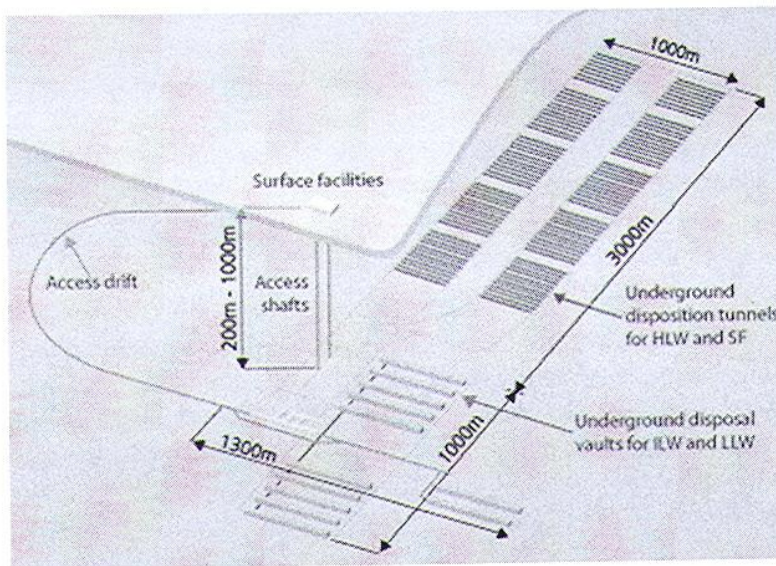


## Managing of Radioactive Waste

'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal' White Paper published in June 2008. This sets out the Government's framework for the long term geological disposal of radioactive waste (isolation of waste deep inside suitable rock formations), and its secure storage in the interim. At the same time it invites communities to express an interest in opening up discussions (without commitment) on the possibility of hosting a geological facility at some point in the future. As of 2006, 25 countries worldwide have chosen this method of disposal as their main policy.

Generic plan of disposal site



The White Paper sets out how the site selection process could take place. Expressions of interest would take place on the basis of 'voluntarism and partnership', and would include the 'right of withdrawal' up until the point when construction would be due to begin. It is expected that 'Community Siting Partnerships', made up of local community interests, would be used as the primary method of community engagement.

It is suggested that it is likely to be 2 to 3 decades from the process of selecting a site to the facility becoming operational.

- The potential benefits to local communities are summarised as follows:

'Construction and operation of a geological disposal facility will be a multi-billion pound project that will provide skilled employment for hundreds of people over many decades. It will contribute greatly to the local economy and wider socio-economic framework. There could be spin-off industry benefits,

infrastructure benefits, benefits to local educational or academic resources, and positive impacts on local service industries that support the facility and its workforce. It is also likely to involve major investments in local transport facilities and other infrastructure, which would remain after the facility had been closed...'

'...In addition there may be other benefits which may be commensurate with developing the social and economic wellbeing of a community that has decided to fulfil such an essential service to the nation.', also 'an approach needs to be identified that recognises and addresses the potential impact on a community over the long timescales involved...'

'...[without pre-judging delivery methods] the following could be some of the overarching objectives for the investment that a community might benefit from as a result of hosting a geological disposal facility:

- Improved local training/skills development/education investment
- Increased business for local service industries
- Improved public services/infrastructure/housing/recreational facilities
- Improved transport infrastructure
- Better local healthcare to meet the increased needs of the community
- Local environmental improvement

This list is illustrative rather than exhaustive as short and long term local needs may vary depending on the community that hosts the facility...'

- White Paper attached and main, informative website is as follows:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/mrws/index.htm>