



Ministry
of Defence

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MSU/4/5/2/12/is

7 July 2016

Dear John

I am writing to you today to confirm a decision regarding the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) which indirectly affects your constituency.

You may recall that the SDP is the MOD's programme to deliver a safe, secure and environmentally responsible solution for dismantling 27 defuelled Royal Navy submarines after they have left active service. Five sites were shortlisted to store Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW) from out-of-service nuclear submarines. The interim store will have the capability to hold this ILW until it is transferred to a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) some time after 2040.

One of these sites, Burghfield was within your constituency and I am able to let you know that the bid to store the ILW at this site was unsuccessful.

Capenhurst Nuclear Services (CNS) in Cheshire has been named as the preferred site, with an existing facility on the site as the preferred option and an on-site contingency option to build a new store. Although unlikely, should both of these options prove unfeasible upon further investigation, there is a fall back site which can be considered. This contingency site is Aldermaston in Berkshire, operated by AWE.

After thorough assessment of all the site evidence and careful consideration of the valuable feedback from public consultation, it has been determined that the Capenhurst existing facility provides the MOD with the best solution to store the Reactor Pressure Vessels safely and securely until permanent disposal in a Geological Disposal Facility.

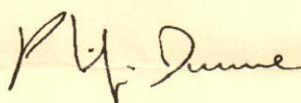
All the shortlisted sites were considered fairly and equally on the same basis in a process which is publicly documented on the gov.uk website. Stakeholder and community views received during public consultation have played an important part in informing the MOD's analysis.

Rt Hon John Redwood MP
House of Commons
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To outline fully the way that this decision was reached, a Response to Consultation and SEA Post-Adoption Statement report is to be published online today. This gives a more detailed picture of the factors that have been considered to reach these two chosen sites and the MOD's answer to any queries raised by the Public Consultation <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/submarine-dismantling-project-site-for-the-interim-storage-of-intermediate-level-radioactive-waste>.

As a responsible nuclear operator the MOD takes seriously its duty to manage the submarine fleet throughout their operational service and during the disposal process. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my commitment that this activity will be undertaken in a safe, secure, cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.

I hope this provides some clarity about how the process has affected your constituency, but if you have any queries, I am happy to direct them to my officials who will assist.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Philip Dunne', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

PHILIP DUNNE MP