

Job No/Ref:	Independent Examination of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan	Client:	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Nuclear Restoration Services
Subject:	Response to the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions	Date:	19 August 2024

Overview

On behalf of our clients the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Nuclear Restoration Services please see below our response to the questions raised by the Inspector with respect to:

- *Matter 7 – Delivery Strategy for Waste
Policy CSW 17: Waste Management at the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites*

82. To be effective and to respond to climate change over the Plan period does this policy need to refer to compliance with other Plan policies such as DM 2 Environmental and Landscape Sites of International, National and Local Importance and DM 3 Ecological Impact Assessment?

It is our view that the Draft Plan already states that any applications made for minerals and waste development will need to be considered against the relevant Development Management (DM) Policies and that this is clarified in each of the DM policies. Therefore, a specific reference in CSW17 is not required. However, this then leads to a broader question of if CSW17 needs to refer to the DM policies then should all other Strategic policies such as CSW8 CSW10, CSW11, CSW12, CSW13, CSW14, CSW15 also cross refer to all, or specific, DM policies as well?

83. To aid clarity does the supporting text to this policy need modifying to reference the document "Near-surface Disposal Facilities on Land for Solid Radioactive Wastes Guidance on Requirements for Authorisation" (February 2009)?

Our view is that this addition is not required. The document referred to by the Inspector (known as the 'GRA') is focused on providing guidance around purpose built near-surface disposal facilities. Such facilities would be located at the surface of the ground, or at depths down to several tens of metres below the surface that might be suitable for the importation and disposal of very low level waste (VLLW), low level waste (LLW), and shorter lived intermediate level waste (ILW).

Part B of CSW17 makes it clear that the types of 'disposal' that may be acceptable at the Dungeness sites would be where structures are left in-situ or where waste generated by demolition activities is used on site as part of the decommissioning activities.

The guidance that is focussed on such on-site disposals that may be proposed on a nuclear site (e.g. as part of the process of decommissioning the site) is: *The Management of radioactive waste from the decommissioning of nuclear sites: guidance on the requirements for release from radioactive substances regulation* (also known as GRR) that has been referred to in the supporting text.

It may, however, be pertinent for the supporting text to CSW17 to reference the recently published UK policy framework for managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning (May 2024) ([Managing](#)

[radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/radioactive-substances-and-nuclear-decommissioning) that sets out the current Government policy on such on-site disposals that are envisaged in CSW17.

84. Policy CSW 17 refers to footnote 96. Should this information be included in the policy itself to ensure that it is effective?

This is a broader point the Inspector has made in relation to all policies that include footnotes. We are relatively neutral on this point and would suggest it is more of a matter of principle for the LPA and Inspector to agree. However in our experience footnotes are commonly used and helpful within Local Plan documents.