

FUTURE STORAGE OF REDUNDANT NUCLEAR SUBMARINES: MOD CONSIDERS REPORT ON THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS OF PROPOSALS TO DISMANTLE SUBMARINES

5 November 2001

A report published today (5/11/01) summarises for MoD what the public and other stakeholders believe should be taken into account in deciding on the options and site for the interim storage of wastes from redundant nuclear powered submarines.

The report, which MoD commissioned from the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change at Lancaster University, as part of its work to find the best option for future land storage of redundant nuclear submarines, has made over 60 recommendations. This will influence how the work is to be taken forward.

The report notes that this consultation exercise has been considered a positive step but that more must be done to engender trust and understanding. There was public support for the move from storing the submarines afloat to storing on land, with a preference for storing the intact reactor compartments, rather than further dismantling.

Lancaster University conducted this work – known as ‘Front End Consultation’ – between January and July 2001. The consultation looked at ascertaining what issues the public and other stakeholders believe should be taken into account when deciding on the options and site for the interim storage of wastes. In all, the consultation involved 8 separate discussion groups, 4 stakeholder workshops, as well as a citizen’s panel (which is akin to a jury). The university also hosted a dedicated website, which remains available to provide information and capture any further views.

MoD is to give detailed consideration and will comment on each of the Report’s recommendations in due course. This response will be published.