

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 53

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 5

Programme: Supervising Scientist Division

Topic: Stockpiling of Ore from Ranger 3 Deeps Exploration Decline

Hansard Page: 13

Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: But to your knowledge not a single kilogram of what has come out of that excavation thus far would be considered as ore.

Mr McAllister: I could not guarantee that not a single kilogram of it was, but the rock that comes out of the decline is discriminated. Any ore grade material is put on a separate stockpile. That is not to be processed unless Ranger get the authority to go ahead with the dig.

Senator LUDLAM: How much has had to be parked on that separate stockpile thus far.

Mr McAllister: I do not believe that there has been any parked there to this point in time.

Senator LUDLAM: Could you confirm that one way or the other for us? I am sorry to be pedantic.

Mr McAllister: I can do that, yes.

Senator LUDLAM: You can take that on notice

Answer:

As at 26 November 2013, a total of approximately 100,000 tonnes of rock material had been extracted from the Ranger 3 Deeps exploration decline. Approximately 300 tonnes (or 148 cubic metres) of this material has been assessed as containing greater than 150ppm uranium and therefore classified as ore. Consistent with regulatory requirements, this ore grade material is being stockpiled separately from other waste rock material on the mine site.