

Submission to Senate Inquiry: National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010

I am writing to respectfully request that a hearing be held at Tennant Creek into the whole issue of placing a Nuclear Waste Repository at Muckaty in the Northern Territory.

It seems like a quick decision has been made without carefully considering scientific reports which have not suggested any location in the Northern Territory as a suitable site. The science needs to be detailed and accurate, and the process should not be rushed.

There are also issues with the whole process of this site being nominated and whether all the people who have traditional connection and custodianship over the whole area have been properly consulted. The details of that process of nomination and anthropological clearance need to be made public.

My research has revealed that in 1986 two outstations near Tennant Creek were proposed by the local Member of Parliament as suggested sites for disposal of 'national toxic waste'. However, there was a big earthquake in 1988 which indicated that the ground was unstable, and the proposal went no further until now. So, did some of the Muckaty people come forward with a proposed site, or did someone approach them with the promise (some would call it a bribe) of a large amount of money? These are unanswered questions that need to be answered.

There is anxiety in the general community about having a nuclear waste repository imposed in the Northern Territory and unresolved issues connected to this.

I appeal for a hearing in Tennant Creek so that the people likely to be directly affected and who have serious concerns can make their personal submissions to the Senate Inquiry.

Yours respectfully,
Marlene Hodder
15 March 2010