

Subject: RE: The proposed nuclear waste dump
Date: Thursday, 4 March 2010 9:00:50 PM

To members of the Senate Inquiry.

At the heart of any discussion about the use of nuclear energy to generate power is the question of what to do with the nuclear waste.

It is amazing how the central elements of an issue can become blurred.

If it is considered to present little or no threat to the community to have a nuclear reactor in their midst, why is it considered to be a threat to store the nuclear waste in their midst ?

The more I reflect on this , the more the incongruity of needing to store the waste in some remote environment becomes.

I don't support the use of nuclear energy to produce power in countries, such as Australia, which has the opportunity to explore the use of other resources which don't have the lethal long term consequences of nuclear power.

My argument, here, is that, if the community at large doesn't share my view about the lethal aspect of the use of nuclear energy to produce power, it is totally incongruous to argue that the waste needs to be stored a long distance away from the source of production

-- either you believe that all aspects of the process present little or no threat to the community or you don't support the process because there are some highly questionable aspects of the process which cause you to reject the process as unacceptable due to those aspects.

To argue that there is no risk to produce elements that you then argue need to be stored a long way away from you reveals the underlying contradictions in the argument

-- either it is safe or it is not !!

To then argue that it is acceptable to store this residue, which you acknowledge is dangerous, in the least populated parts of the country reveals the totally self-interested view of the supporters of the use of nuclear energy to produce power in addressing the challenges associated with the way in which the waste from the nuclear energy program are handled.

I urge the members of the Inquiry to seriously explore the reasons why the waste cannot be stored at the point of production and to

acknowledge that dumping the waste on sparsely dispersed communities who are not in the position to challenge this assault on their environment is unethical.

Thanking you for receiving my submission.

Noel Will