

Subject: Nuclear Waste Dump - Muckaty Station
Date: Wednesday, 10 March 2010 8:07:53 PM

TO THE SENATE ENQUIRY

The following points suggest a democratic/respectful way for radioactive waste management.

1. Speak directly to the people who will be affected by the proposal, that is the Traditional Owners at Tennant Creek. That is the Senate Committee should travel to the spot and talk directly with the owners.

2. To my knowledge there has never been a debate about whether remote areas are the best storage areas for radioactive waste. I thought it would be better stored where it is used so uranium experts can be around if anything goes wrong. Transferring the waste long distances could be a fatal and it smacks of 'out of sight out of mind' thinking.

Have a debate with the people.

3. The bill overrides Section 11. That is, state/territory laws that hinder site selection. As well as overriding commonwealth environmental and Aboriginal heritage protections. Section 12, eliminates Aboriginal and green interests. Section 13, overrides private property rights.

Sitting down 'chewing the fat' with communities rather than coercion/exploitation is a more humane approach to implementing change.

4. The rest of the provisions in the bill place complete discretion in the hands of the Minister to chase the only nomination at Muckaty Station. This includes his assessment of the site but no details of how this will be done. And, to add insult to injury the local people will have no right of appeal.

The minister needs to sit in the dirt for a few weeks and nut out a plan with the owners.

I would just like to add the 7 fatal flaws of nuclear power as outlined by a letter writer to the SMH last October.

'the waste problem';

'the carbon released in the mining, transport and processing of the ore';

'the high cost of building the plants';

'the massive amounts of water needed to run the plants'; 'hostile attack';

'peak uranium' (extent of fuel supply);

'and the crippling costs of decommissioning plants';

I remain, yours sincerely
Dianne Powell