

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15  
23 October 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation

**TOPIC:** Repatriation of Spent Fuel from Europe

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 5-6)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-1

**Senator LUDLAM:** Thank you. So the shipment at the end of 2015—or it sounds as though it might be in transit until early 2016—is all of the material from France. Do you know whether there is any material left over from the old Dounreay plant or anywhere else in Europe?

**Dr Paterson:** Thank you for the question. The 51 cement overpacks that are stored at Dounreay have been the subject of negotiation with agencies of the UK government....

**Senator LUDLAM:** What form is it in? If I open up the cask, what—

**Dr Paterson:** The waste is vitrified in glass, so it is a fairly similar but slightly different process to the French process. It is stored in the same configuration in the casks; and the casks are already certified in many jurisdictions globally for their safety and resilience, both in the transport setting and in the storage setting.

**Senator LUDLAM:** That is just standard gear. How long are they licensed for?

**Dr Paterson:** The full duration of the licence is of the order of 40 years, but I will take that on notice so that we give you a full answer on that.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Thank you. There is one other that you might take on notice—I do not imagine that you have this with you—and that is, the total activity of what is contained within those two shipments. That might be helpful as well.

**Dr Paterson:** We will be very happy to provide that to you.

**ANSWER**

Part 1. The cask has not yet been certified by the competent Australian regulator, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. Identical casks have been licensed for 40-year periods in Europe, with further extensions possible; the actual life of the casks is anticipated to be considerably longer.

Part 2. The total activity of those two shipments will be approximately 10 Petabecquerels.