

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

31 May 2011

**Question:** **BR7**  
**Topic:** **Uranium Mine**  
**Proof Hansard Page:** **18**

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** I appreciate that. Has a uranium mine the size of Ranger—anything of that order of magnitude—ever been rehabilitated before anywhere in the world?

**Ms Constable:** Mines certainly have. Again, I would have to take on notice that specific question as it relates to uranium mines.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Yes.

**Answer:**

Remedial activities have been undertaken at the Ronneberg mining complex, a large abandoned mine within the Wismut project in Germany, and the smaller Puy de L'Age mine in France. Direct comparisons between projects are inappropriate due to a wide range of different characterisations inherent in each operation. Area is not the only, nor necessarily, major determinant in rehabilitation costs. Critical factors include the state of the operation at the beginning of rehabilitation, site hydrology, hydrogeology and geology, surrounding geomorphology, climate, and geochemistry of waste materials.