

**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING**

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

**AGENCY:** Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

**DEST Question No. E290\_04**

Senator Forshaw asked on 4 June 2003, EWRE Hansard page 299

**Question:**

What is ANSTO doing to look at the elimination of any radioactive emissions into the sewers? Would you expect a further treatment plant to eliminate all traces of emissions?

**Answer:**

ANSTO has provided the following response.

*Elimination of radioactive emissions into sewers*

ANSTO already meets its authorised limits for liquid waste discharges to the Sydney Water sewer (typically ANSTO only discharges approximately 20% of the authorised limit for radioactivity). ANSTO continues to seek further reductions and has spent in excess of \$1 million (2000-2002) on liquid waste process improvements and in the assessment of appropriate liquid waste technologies which is on-going at this time.

We would not expect any treatment plant to eliminate all traces of radioactivity in effluent from the ANSTO site. ANSTO has adopted current world practice of characterising the generation of waste liquids and applying appropriate technology to manage that waste, with a focus on waste minimisation at source.