

Hal Duell

12-Mar-10

Senate Inquiry  
National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010

Dear Sir

I would like to add my comments to others regarding a national nuclear waste facility. I think it's fair to say that all sites under consideration in the Northern Territory have their own problems. Mukarty Station, which looks to have the inside running, has at least three big ones. The area gets monsoon run-off, it's known to experience earth tremors and a conflict between traditional owners could set them against each other to no-one's benefit.

So why not look further afield? In South Australia the Woomera Prohibited Area may have what we are looking for. Legally, I believe the site is already under some degree of Federal jurisdiction. If that jurisdiction has lapsed, with a precedent to draw upon surely it wouldn't be too difficult to re-instate it.

Environmentally, even after being cleaned up, I suspect parts of Woomera are still polluted with enough bomb residue to make some areas forever unsuitable for residential development but ideal for a nuclear waste facility.

The area is not likely to get monsoon run-off, it is geologically stable and it is remote. Whoever wins the March, 2010 election, the SA government will probably object. But it could be pointed out that with one of the world's largest uranium mines at Roxby Downs, and three others at Beverley, Honeymoon and Four Mile, their objections ring hollow.

Sincerely  
Hal Duell