

Promote your windfarm business instead of geosequestration..txt

The chairperson,

Geosequestration for Stanwell Corporation - why waste money on a suspect solution when there are other, renewable ways to go.

A submission.

Hello committee member,

The PM, Mr Howard does this country a disservice with his continual support for coal as our main supplier of energy for the foreseeable future in Australia and for coal and now uranium to help support economic development in China and India.

Are you aware that on April 3, 2006, when all the media were shouting about the agreement between Prime Minister Howard and Chinese Premier Wen regarding uranium sales to China, another potentially more significant but almost unnoticed agreement was signed by Premier Wen in Canberra?

The media gave little prominence that on the same day a joint enterprise called Roaring 40's, involving Hydro Tasmania (also a Tasmanian Government owned corporation) and Hong Kong based China Light and Power, signed a 300million Australia dollar deal to build three 50MW windfarms in Eastern China.

Those windfarms are part of China's plans to expand its wind industry to a huge 30,000MW by 2020 in order to meet its legislated target of a full 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. In Australia we have no similar vision leaving our renewable supply at about 2% of energy produced.

Over the same period, uranium's salesmen say nuclear power may meet perhaps 5% of China's energy needs.

China, understanding the need to address climate change and air pollution has made a real effort to develop its renewable energy resources. Thanks to the right policy signals, China has already installed more solar water heaters than the rest of the world put together. What is Australia doing to increase their use in our sunny country?

More significantly it is China's huge plans for photovoltaic solar power that hold perhaps the biggest potential, a potential which UNSW- educated and Australian citizen Dr Shi Zhengrong has tapped into with spectacular effect.

Dr Shi has become a billionaire and made it to the Forbes list as one of the world's richest men by taking Australian solar technologies to the huge Chinese market with his company, Suntech. Suntech is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Why aren't we taking up these technologies in Australia? Is it because (as seen on Four Corners recently) that our energy policy in Australia is written by the coal mining companies?

Australia's total uranium exports are currently worth around \$400 million a year. Even if, as expected, they double with this deal with China, the total earnings are equivalent to less than three individual wind contracts on the scale of the Roaring 40's deal. There may be perhaps 200 of those deals to be won if we want them.

This is an area that Stanwell Corporation might like to be involved.

In addition, as Suntech and Roaring Forties show, the cash from renewable energy development can start flowing to us today. Regardless of the deals

Promote your windfarm business instead of geosequestration. .txt dominating the news, uranium sales aren't expected to eventuate for up to a decade while mines expand and power plants are proposed, sited, approved - maybe, built and finally commissioned.

On checking Hydro Tasmania's website, Hydro Tasmania is setting up an office in New Delhi, India to capitalise on significant opportunities in renewable energy development in that country. If similar contracts are won in India for windfarms, as have been in China, uranium energy production will only be a small percentage of new energy generated to help India's economic development and only many years from now.

Selling these technologies overseas will earn more dollars as export income for Australia and play a bigger part sooner in reducing world greenhouse gas emissions than any nuclear power plant built some time in the distant future.

Recently I heard that Britain's Chief Scientist is warning of the significant dangers to the world of climate change if greenhouse gas emissions are not cut. Mr Howard just wants to hide his head in the sand on this issue. He is a dangerous man.

This is John Howard's problem - he has won 4 elections and is convinced only his views are right. He also is only willing to listen to certain lobby groups. And he will not consider anything else. He has been PM for too long.

A forward looking government would look at these alternative energy success stories. All that is needed is to see where Stanwell Corporation can play a part in these alternate renewable energy schemes that are being taken up by China (and maybe India in the near future). Development of these plants will be cheaper and they will be operating more quickly than nuclear power plants. Hence we will be helping these developing countries increase their energy production but not by using old, polluting or dangerous technologies.

I am particularly concerned about the use of Depleted Uranium in modern weapons. Weapons containing Depleted Uranium were used by the United States in both Gulf Wars. Many soldiers and other personnel who have worked or visited lands where these weapons were used have reported serious medical problems and a significant increase in birth defects among their unborn children. Of course Iraqi's have also have had serious health problems from this source as much radioactive material is wind-borne. Some Australians too have been effected.

This is an issue that no-one wants to talk about.

Depleted Uranium remains after uranium has been enriched for Nuclear Power Plants.

Do we need more uranium in the hands of governments eager to increase their arsenals with a variety of weapons?

The energy realities in China are that its renewable energy market will be at least three times as large as its nuclear power market, and possibly larger still.

Most Australians would not realise this as our governments, opposition parties and the media do not seem to want to inform us about it.

I would be interested in a reply on both of the issues raised. Hopefully I will also see these matters mentioned in future media interviews.

I would like this to be considered as a submission to be considered.

Regards and best wishes

Hlona Renwick