

From: Ilona Renwick

26th October 2005

Depleted Uranium

I wish to present the following information as a submission regarding the above inquiry.

Whenever our uranium is mined and used whether for nuclear medicine or power generation, depleted uranium remains.

The United States have found a use for this in their weapons. If other countries haven't yet it is only a matter of time before they do.

As well as causing severe injuries and death, depleted uranium remains in the soil or the air and has a half life for millions of years. Its potency remains during this time to cause radiation sickness, cancers, and birth defects.

Death is likely from any one who comes in contact with it - contamination may occur just by working near it - breathing it in. This has been evidenced by the health effects on people who went into Iraq after the first Gulf War in 1991. Many of them have become sick and died.

We have Australians who have been in those locations where the effects have been passed onto their children. Women present have developed cancers and needed a hysterectomy or have born children with birth defects. This, of course, has been a sad problem for many Iraqis.

The depleted uranium particles easily become airborne and are spread to all parts of the world, including Australia.

An increase in mining uranium will automatically increase the amount of depleted uranium available for weapon production.

I understand there is thought of selling uranium to China. The Chinese will say they need it for energy production but they are smart enough to use the depleted uranium in their weapons. This will further add to the contamination and health risks on our beautiful Earth.

If we are to be responsible world citizens, we will not mine our uranium as we will never be able to police its use when it leaves our shores.

We also should not allow any combined army exercises with the United States in Australia as they may bring their weapons into this country.

Over the years these health issues regarding depleted uranium have been