

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing
26 February 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Nuclear Waste storage at OPAL

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: AI-5

During the previous estimates you had discussed your plans to amalgamate storage facilities for nuclear material at the OPAL site with the open of this move providing space for more on-site waste storage. How are these plans moving along and has OPAL's waste storage capacity improved as you had hoped?

ANSWER

ANSTO is on schedule with the construction of the new Nuclear Materials Store. Regulatory approvals have been received to allow construction of the facility, and the drafting of the detailed design is near completion. We anticipate commencing construction in mid-2009, and commissioning the facility in 2010. The construction of the nuclear materials store will provide ANSTO with low-level waste storage capacity to accommodate expected waste generation until 2025.