

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Senate Estimates  
21 October 2009

**Question:** SR-3  
**Topic:** Uranium Exports  
**Proof Hansard Page:** E78

#### Senators Ludlam and Joyce asked:

**Senator LUDLAM**—I have a question on the topic Senator Eggleston raised before, uranium exports to China. You might not have this information to hand. We export uranium oxide to China. Can you tell us where that is enriched? Is it enriched in Chinese facilities or elsewhere?

**Mr Hartwell**—I am not sure that I can answer that question. I will ask my officer to come to the table.

**Ms Hinton**—At the moment we export uranium to China. It has to be received by an approved receiver; but, no, we do not know where it is enriched.

**Senator LUDLAM**—We do not know where it is enriched?

**Ms Hinton**—I do not know where it is enriched.

**Senator LUDLAM**—Somebody must know. I do not want to tie up the committee's time. Can you take that on notice?

**Mr Hartwell**—We will take that on notice.

**Senator JOYCE**—Is it exported to CNC? Is CNC the purchaser of it?

**Mr Hartwell**—I will have to check the details of those transactions. As I mentioned previously, there have just been two transactions. I will check exactly where they were, if you will bear with me.

**Senator LUDLAM**—I do not want to tie up time. I just wondered if the officers knew.

#### Answer to Senator Ludlam's question:

None of Australia's exports of uranium to China have been through an enrichment process yet. Pursuant to the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Transfer of Nuclear Material, the facilities on the Delineated Chinese Nuclear Fuel Cycle Program eligible to enrich Australian obligated nuclear material are:

- Shaanxi Uranium Enrichment Plant; and
- Lanzhou Gaseous Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Plant.

#### Answer to Senator Joyce's question:

We believe the question refers to CNNC (China National Nuclear Corporation) of which China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation (CNEIC) is a subsidiary. CNEIC is the exclusive company authorized by China to carry out import of nuclear fuel and related products. The sales contracts between the companies producing Australian uranium and the end user are commercial-in-confidence and would require disclosure of commercial-in-confidence material in a contract between parties other than the Commonwealth.