

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ANSTO

Output Group: ANSTO

DEST Question No. E548_07

Senator Crossin provided in writing:

Question:

- (a) Is 2011 still the expected date of return for waste from reprocessed spent fuel rods from the La Hague facility in France?
- (b) How many shipments over what time period will be required to repatriate all the Australian nuclear material?
- (c) What is the latest time that this complete return of material from France must occur by?
- (d) Have arrangements been made with the relevant shipping and transport providers to facilitate these shipments?

Answer:

ANSTO has provided the following response:

Return of radioactive waste from France

- (a) As indicated by Dr Cameron in the hearing (page EWRE 47), we currently believe a date around 2015 to be the most likely date for a shipment of waste arising from the reprocessing of HIFAR spent fuel.
- (b) As indicated by Dr Cameron in the hearing (page EWRE 48), we anticipate that the waste arising from the reprocessing of HIFAR spent fuel by COGEMA La Hague will be returned to Australia in a single shipment.
- (c) The contract between ANSTO and COGEMA provides that "the parties shall agree by the year 2010 in an amendment to the contract on implementation conditions for the return shipment". That amendment has not yet been negotiated.
- (d) See response to part (c) above.