

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E555_07

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

Has DEST provided advice to government on the storage of waste from a nuclear power station?

Would the proposed NT dump be suitable for such waste?

Would waste from a nuclear power plant be handled the same way or differ in radioactivity from waste from the OPAL reactor?

Answer:

Nuclear power and radioactive waste

DEST has not provided advice to the Minister on management of radioactive waste from nuclear power plants.

The Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility would not be suitable for managing waste from a nuclear power industry.

The volume of low and intermediate level radioactive waste generated by a nuclear power industry could not be accommodated at the Facility. High level wastes from a nuclear power plant would have different infrastructure and management requirements from the wastes to be managed at the Facility.