

Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Peter Lane [petelane@highway1.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 11:06 AM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Radioactive waste



The Chair - Senator Judith Troeth
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005
Dear Senator,

I understand the rationale for dumping radioactive waste in Australia is that certain parts of this continent have been identified as being "stable".

Many areas of Australia will indeed remain undisturbed for aeons, but many others will suffer earthquakes over the (geological) near future, some next year. But which areas?

The Yilgarn Craton is part of the very ancient Australian Shield. This would be considered a very "stable" area and one of extremely low risk.

But it was less than 40 years ago when the town of Meckering, located on this supposedly "stable" craton (craton is defined as "A major structural unit of the Earth's crust, consisting of a large stable mass of rock"), was hit by a Richter Scale 6.9 earthquake.

Big enough to destroy the most robust dump.

Experienced geologists use the word "stable" in the comparative sense only. As dramatically demonstrated at Meckering, no area is absolutely "stable". Whereas one can confidently predict that there will be earthquakes in certain zones, it is not possible to predict there will NOT be earthquakes in any particular area.

NO areas are stable, and for this reason alone I would strongly urge you to reject any proposal to store uranium in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lane