

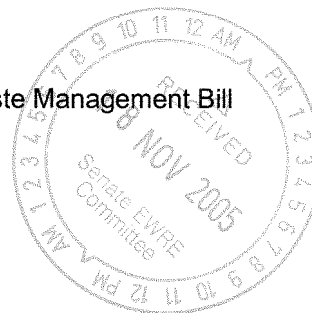
Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Stephen McMahon [stephen.mcmahon@bigpond.com]

November 2005 8:37 PM

(SEN)

quiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill



17 NOV. 05

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

Dear Senator Troeth,

I am writing to raise some serious concerns about this bill and the way in which it is being handled.

This legislation is in complete conflict with an earlier promise made by the federal government. It contradicts the "absolute categorical assurance" to the NT government that there would be no nuclear dump imposed on the Northern Territory. Good public policy is developed through negotiation and inclusion - not imposed by governments determined to get their way no matter what.

The Inquiry period is far too short to deal with the complexity of the issues involved and it is insulting that the committee has not bothered to travel to the NT to hear directly from the community that is going to be most severely affected by the proposed nuclear dump. There has been no consultation with the NT government or community, traditional Aboriginal landowners or those on the proposed transport routes

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) maintains that such facilities require community consent and a reasonable degree of 'social license'. This legislation is inconsistent with this international obligation.

The sites chosen for the NT dump were not selected through any scientific assessment.

The federal legislation would allow the proposed NT waste dump to be turned into an international radioactive waste dump housing highly radioactive materials from all around the world - effectively forever.

The federal government has failed to make any compelling case for the urgency of this legislation.

All political parties in the NT are opposed to the imposition of the dump.

The overriding of existing provisions of federal and territory law that could hinder or delay the dump plan is a disturbing precedent that greatly undermines community confidence in the Commonwealth's actions on this issue - and its future intentions.

Please do not go ahead with this. It is in nobody's interest.

Yours Sincerely,  
Stephen McMahon

Stephen McMahon

18/11/2005