

## PNFA FACT SHEET

### STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

- The dire subject of massive quantities of radioactive waste accruing at the 442 nuclear reactors across the world is rarely, if ever, addressed by the nuclear industry.

Each typical 1000-megawatt nuclear reactor manufactures 33 tonnes of thermally hot, intensely radioactive waste per year.

The search for a permanent solution is intensifying as over 80,000 tonnes of highly radioactive waste in the United States and Europe await transportation to a storage facility yet to be found.

- Australia has been identified as one place to ship this nuclear waste. Ominously on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007, the Federal council of the Liberal Party quietly endorsed a foreign nuclear waste dump in Australia.

This dangerous material will be vulnerable to traffic accidents and an attractive target for terrorist sabotage as it travels on roads and railway lines for the next 25 years.

- In May 2007 the Howard government negotiated a deal with the Northern Land Council, who chose Aboriginal tribal land at Muckaty Station in the Northern Territory for a nuclear waste repository by persuading two elders of one Aboriginal family to the tune of \$12 million to surrender their land.

This geologically unstable area recently experienced a 2.5 Richter earthquake and is laced with underground aquifers

supplying water to indigenous populations, to outback towns and numerous stations.

- A subsidiary of Halliburton, U.S Vice President Dick Cheney's former company co-constructed the railway line between Adelaide and Darwin, now administered by Serco Asia Pacific, a leader in the management and transport of Britain's nuclear waste. The rail-line runs adjacent to both the S.A. Olympic Dam uranium mine and to Muckaty Station.

If Australia agrees to take nuclear waste from Britain and the U.S, it could be shipped to Darwin and then sent on the Halliburton-Serco railway line to be cooled for decades and then stored in the Australian outback for evermore.

- A study released recently by the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S shows that the cooling pools at nuclear reactors - which store 10 to 30 times more radioactive material than that contained in the reactor core - are subject to catastrophic attacks by terrorists, which could unleash an inferno and release massive quantities of deadly radiation.

This vulnerable high-level nuclear waste includes hundreds of radioactive elements that have different biological impacts in the human body, the most important being cancer and genetic diseases.

If this waste is stored in the Australian outback it will inevitably leak over time contaminating underground aquifers and food for ever more, inducing large numbers of cancers and genetic diseases in future generations of humans, animals and plants.