

National Council of Provinces question: Question 217

Mr K A Sinclair (COPE-NC) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) Whether the Koeberg Nuclear Power Plant has the capacity to store used nuclear (a) waste and (b) fuel products on site at the facility; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether levels of storage have ever been allowed to surpass the designated levels of capacity for the facility; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) when and (b) what were the reasons for allowing this to happen? CW277E

REPLY

- (1) a) Koeberg Nuclear Power Station has the capacity to store low and intermediate level waste on site prior to final disposal at Vaalputs National Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility. Eskom has been disposing waste at the Vaalputs facility for many years.

b) All of Eskom's used nuclear fuel is currently stored in the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station (KNPS) used fuel pools and in the four dry storage casks which are located in the cask storage building at KNPS onsite. The storage of the used nuclear fuel at KNPS is licensed by the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR). Fuel is kept in licensed fuel storage pools which are built as part of the reactor facilities. There is no approved off site facility for storage of used nuclear fuel.
- (2) No, levels of storage have never surpassed capacity.