



MINISTRY OF ENERGY

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office

National Assembly Question : 926

Mrs C Dudley (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Energy:

- (1) Whether she has found that reports that the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) and the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) plan to use smelters at Pelindaba for commercial operations are true;
- (2) whether the reference to commercial operations means the importation of radioactive waste for smelting and release into the South African market;
- (3) whether consideration has been given to the risk of radioactive metal products finding their way into homes, schools and places of work;
- (4) whether her department intends to institute a full inquiry into the general state of the existing nuclear industry in South Africa to satisfy the many concerns of the general public? NW1017E

Reply:

- (1) The reports are factually incorrect and therefore not true.
- (2) The smelter was not licensed for commercial operations.
- (3) Necsa submitted a full Safety Assessment Report to the National Nuclear Regulator to ensure that issues pertaining to the safety and protection of people and the environment are fully considered.
- (4) The Department conducted several reviews of the nuclear infrastructure as indicated in the annual performance plan and strategic plan.