



Medical Association for Prevention of War

Media Release

Oz Minerals Annual General Meeting

Doctors slam uranium miner Toro Energy over junk science, which may put workers at increased risk.

28 May 2012

At this afternoon's Oz Minerals AGM, the Board will be asked to give undertakings to stop Toro Energy continuing to promote deliberately misleading science, by claiming low levels of radiation are good for health. Toro Energy is 40% owned by Oz Minerals.

Toro plans to mine uranium at Wiluna in WA. The company has paid for at least three speaking tours by controversial Canadian scientist Doug Boreham, who argues low level radiation is beneficial to health.

"This is entirely contrary to accepted evidence." said GP Dr Margaret Beavis, Vice President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War. "There is no "safe" lower threshold."

Reports in 2003 from the US National Academy of Science, in 2006 from the Committee for the Biological Effects of Ionising Radiation and then again in 2010 from the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation all confirm the "Linear No Threshold" model, where radiation is clearly harmful at low levels.

The recent report on 86,000 Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors in fact highlights that low levels of radiation increase cancer rates, and has heightened concerns about the effects of low level radiation.

Dr Beavis will tell the AGM that

"Not only has Toro paid for three visits by Canadian scientist Dr Doug Boreham, we are told they have also used him for employee radiation training. If so, they are not only misleading the public and their shareholders, but are also potentially putting the health and safety of their workers at risk."

"Miners are unlikely to take essential protective measures seriously if they believe radiation is good for their health. Uranium miners have significantly higher rates of lung cancer due to radon gas exposure. If Toro is promoting this junk science to employees then Toro may well be breaching its duty of care to its workforce."

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