

cannot develop their own facilities. However, a large proportion of the existing inventory of low-level radioactive wastes in Canada consists of "historical" wastes. A task force was established in 1988 to find a site for a disposal facility for these.

Canada has one of the largest uranium mining industries in the world. In the area of uranium mine and mill tailings, past and present research conducted by the industry and the federal government provides a sound basis for evaluating the potential environmental impacts. The Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB), the federal government body that manages nuclear issues, has established regulatory criteria for the decommissioning of these wastes. Large volumes are involved and the AECB is making sure that uranium companies fulfil their obligations with regard to the clean-up of these wastes. The Federal Environment and Assessment and Review Office has recently established an independent panel to review the decommissioning of uranium tailings in Ontario.

(b) International Activities

Canada actively participates in bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD, the International Commission on Radiological Protection, and the International Maritime Organization (through the London Convention). It does so through participation by its scientists, industry and government representatives, and/or financial assistance.

Canada provides assistance to developing countries through bilateral co-operation and participation in IAEA programs. One example was hosting a training project that included the participation of 25 developing countries.