

Wild mushrooms

This Environmental Impact Study (EIS) includes wild mushrooms, and *Boletus edulis* in particular, as a VEC (valued ecosystem component) for the Radioactivity TSD (Technical Study Document). It cites its ability to absorb radioactivity and the potential effects of radiation on the species viability as grounds for choosing this mushroom as a VEC. It further states that no field studies were completed specifically for this TSD but that it relies on past field studies for its data. In addition, it states that *Boletus edulis* is a common wild mushroom in the site study area.

There are no other grounds given for the inclusion of this particular species among others nor any reasons given to exclude wild mushrooms from the Terrestrial Environment TSD as a VEC. Moreover, no references are cited that denote the work or studies completed, unlike with other VEC's. The EIS needs to make explicit its claims about this particular mushroom as a VEC.

Methodology

- identify the methods used to select locations
- identify the reasons for these choices
- identify the local populations in the Site Study Area
- identify the surrounding terrain and host terrain
- identify the radionuclides investigated
- identify the field studies conducted in the past and on which this report relies
- identify the baseline data
- identify whether these data from past studies include other man-made chemical toxins
- identify the wild mushrooms found and reported in these past studies
- identify the methodologies used to analyse these mushrooms for their chemical properties
- identify why *Boletus edulis* is an indicator species for radionuclides in wild mushrooms

Properties

- compare current results with baseline results
- differentiate radionuclides from weapons testing and nuclear operations
- compare results at Bruce site with data from a pristine area
- report data of other industrial toxins that correspond with activity in the Site Study Area, such as nuclear wastes incineration, fire training activity and fossil fuel use

Policy

- inform us why *Boletus edulis* is a VEC for the Radioactivity TSD and not for the Terrestrial Environment TSD
- explain plans for current study and collections of *Boletus edulis*
- identify plans for ongoing follow-up studies of this VEC