**Uranium Industry Re-Development and Expansion in the Early 21st Century:** 

Supplying Fuel for the Expansion of Nuclear Power in the U.S. -

#### **The Environment vs. The Paradigm**

Rocky Mountain Natural Gas Strategy Conference & Investment Forum: Session 1 Presented by

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## **Basis of Opinions Presented**

- Mr. M. Campbell serves as Chairman of the Uranium Committee, Energy Minerals Div., AAPG.
- This presentation is based on the committee's Uranium Report for 2005 (See References for URL).
- The EMD Uranium Committee members include: Joseph Evensen, Ph. D., ExxonMobil Upstream Research Co.

Henry M. Wise, P.G., Eagle Construction & Environmental, Inc.

and a number of Special Consultants.







We are in this together; united we stand, divided we fall...



### **Fear of Nuclear Energy**

# Fear

Weapon of War, Hollywood & Press Media

# Assessment

Safety Record, Economic Advantage, Jobs, Technology, Management

# Risk

Comparative Analysis w/ Other Types of Risk: NIMBY - Industry, Local, etc.

## **Energy Production in the U.S.**



### **Energy Production in the U.S.**



## **Nuclear Generation of Electricity**

U.S. Nuclear Electricity Generation, 1973 to 1999

#### **Billion Kilowatt Hours**



## **Nuclear Power Plant Sites**









### Night Lights in U.S. - Electricity Usage



### Nuclear Power Plants in the World



Where are the Plants? U.S., U.K., Canada, Europe, Eastern Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Koreas, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, etc.

## **Might Lights in World - Electricity Usage**



Where are the Plants? U.S., U.K., Canada, Europe, Eastern Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Koreas, etc.

### **Nuclear Power Plants in Europe**



Where are the Plants in Europe? U.K., Spain, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Sweden, Finland, etc.

## **Night Lights in World - Electricity Usage**



Where are the Other Plants? U.K., Canada, Eastern Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Koreas, Mexico, South Africa, etc.



#### Nuclear Power Plants in Japan



Who has the greatest number of plants/area of country? Japan.

### **Uranium Exploration Trend Areas in U.S.**



Sources: Based on U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Project Office (GJPO), National Uranium Resources Evaluation, Interim Report (June 1979) Figure 3.2; and GJPO data files.

## **Roll Front in Mine Pit Wall, Texas**



# **Roll Front in Mine Pit Wall, Wyoming**



## **Uranium Exploration Guides**

#### CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF URANIUM ROLL FRONT DEPOSIT (After Devoto, 1978)



Homatito	Siderite	Uraninite	Molybdenite	Dretito
Magnetite	Sulfur-9	Pyrite	Pyrite	Jordisite Calcite
	Ferroselite	Fos	Jordisite	
	Goethite	Selenium	Calcite	
		Ilsmannite		

# **Roll-Front Exploration Guide, Wyoming**



## Roll Front in Mine Pit Wall, Texas (Cont'd)



**Reduced Zone** 

**Ore Zone** 

### **Roll-Front Biogeochemical Cell, Wyoming**





# **Uranium Production: In Situ Leaching**



## Uranium Production: In Situ Leaching





#### FLOW PROCESS SCHEMATIC

#### URANIUM EXTRACTION

YELLOWCAKE RECOVERY



#### **Uranium Production: In Situ Leaching (Cont'd)**

**Making Certain Assumptions**, **One Full Barrel of Yellowcake** (U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>):

20

*a* Market Price of \$20.00 / Ib = \$17,600.00

*a* a Market Price of \$40.00 / lb = \$ 35,000.00







# **Uranium Prices (Cont'd)**



## Uranium Production





#### U.S. Uranium Mine Production, 1993-2004

Estimate for 2003.

Sources: Energy Information Administration: 1993-2002-Uranium Industry Annual 2002 (May 2003), Table 4. 2003-2004-Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report"

#### U.S. Uranium Concentrate Production and Shipments, 1993-2004



Estimate for 2002 and 2003.

Sources: Energy Information Administration: 1993-2002-Uranium Industry Annual 2002 (May 2003), Table 5. 2003-2004-Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report"

Owners and Operators of U.S. Civilian Nuclear Power Reactors Maximum Contracted Purchases of Uranium from Suppliers, in Effect at the End of 2004, by Delivery Year, 2005-2008





Employment in the U.S. Uranium Production Industry by Category, 1993-2004



Sources: Energy Information Administration: 1993-2002-Uranium Industry Annual 2002 (May 2003), Table 8. 2003-2004-Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report"



# **Economics & Environmental Issues (Cont'd)**



#### Economics & Environmental Issues (Cont'd)

#### CO<sub>2</sub> Generated After Producing One GigaWatt-Hour of Electricity By Indicated Energy Source (U.S. EIA)



### **Nuclear Power Plant Safety**

#### Multiple Layers of Safety at Nuclear Power Plants



1) Outstanding Safety Record

2) Improved Technology

**3)** Improved**OperationsManagement** 

#### 4) Improved Construction Cost Management

Shield Building Wall
Three-foot thick reinforced
concrete metal reinforcement
2.5-inch diameter steel rods
speced one foot apart

Containment Vessel
 1.5-inch steel cylinder

1.5-inch steel cy
182 feet tall

#### Dry Well Wall

- Metal reinforcement
- 2.5-inch diameter steel rods spaced one foot apart
   Five-foot thick reinforced
- concrete

#### **Bio Shield**

 Four-foot thick leaded concrete with one-inch thick interior and exterior steel lining

#### **Reactor Vessel**

- 70 feet tall
   21 feet in diameter
- High Tensile Steel
- four to eight inches thick

#### **Reactor Fuel**

#### Weir Wall

- 1.5-foot thick concrete
- 24 feet tall

#### Pedestal

 Six-foot thick concrete with one-inch thick interior and exterior steel lining



**Boiling Water Reactor** 

### Nuclear Waste Transportation & Storage: Fear of Nuclear Waste ?



**Over Past 40 Years:** 

Waste Transportation: 1) Major Container Research & 2) Improved Technology

Waste Storage: 1) Favorable Geologic & 2) Hydrogeologic Studies

International Activities: Favorable Results in: 1) Canada, 2) Belgium, 3) France, etc.

## Nuclear Waste Transportation & Storage: Fear of Nuclear Waste ? (Cont'd)

Counties Affected by Truck Transportation to Yucca Mt.



Waste Transportation: Container Research & Improved Technology (See References)



Waste Storage: Geologic & Hydrogeologic Studies (See References)



Nuclear Waste Transportation & Storage: Fear of Nuclear Waste ? (Cont'd)

# Fear<

Exposure? Drinking Water? Hollywood & Press Media

# Assessment

Safety Record, Good Science New Technology, Improved Management

Comparative Analysis w/ Other Types of Risk: NIMBY - Industry, Local, & w/ International Solutions (See References).

Risk



## Geologic Research in Uranium Exploration







**Technical Literature, Core Analyses, and Economic Assessments** 



#### **Uranium Exploration**





#### **Claim Locations w/ GPS**

#### Drilling



**Coring & Logging** 



...and More Drilling



## **Uranium Field Work**



#### **Underground Mines**



#### Field Reconnaissance & Mining Claims





**Environmental Monitoring Wells** 



#### ...And there are always disagreements....



#### **Conclusions...**

#### Nuclear Power is One of the Answers...

20

10



### Now <u>and</u> Later

Fission is the Bridge to Fusion

#### **The Yellow Zone**

'The energy gap between decreasing supply and increasing demand will develop when peak oil production occurs sometime after 2020. At that point, the long-term solution to energy supply will be conversion to nuclear, solar, and hydrogen power."

From: Limerick, P.N., et al., 2003 Graph courtesy of John D. Edwards.



AAPG, Energy Minerals Div., Uranium Section URLs and References: <u>http://emd.aapg.org/members\_only/uranium/links.cfm</u> (Members Only Page)

Campbell, M. D., *et al.*, 2005, Recent Uranium Industry Developments, Exploration, Mining and Environmental Programs in the U.S. and Overseas, AAPG, Energy Minerals Div., Uranium Committee Report for 2005: <u>http://emd.aapg.org/technical\_areas/uranium.cfm</u> (Public Page)

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Rubin, B., 1970. Uranium Roll-Front Zonation in the Southern Powder River Basin, Wyoming, *Wyoming Geological Assoc. Earth Science Bull.*, v. 3 n. 4: pp. 5-8.

**On Nuclear Waste Transportation & Storage: Facts about Radiation:** <u>http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/factsheets/doeymp0403.shtml</u>

Yucca Mt., Nevada: http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/index.shtml



U.S. DOE Nuclear Remediation Programs (By State): http://www.em.doe.gov/doe/em/frontdoor/0,2195,14763,00.html

*Google* for numerous other Web sites containing other information. For example: Pro-Coal Use in Texas:

http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/tepc/616presentations/EPCcoalpresentation.pdf

For a comprehensive list of URLS and References on Uranium Exploration, Development, Prices, and Associated Environmental Issues, see: AAPG, Energy Minerals Div., Uranium Section Members Only Page:

http://emd.aapg.org/members\_only/uranium/links.cfm

For an online source of this presentation, see:

http://www.mdcampbell.com/Denver/CampbellCOGAConferenceSession1.ppt