

EMD, Uranium Committee Plans for 2004-2005

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Chairman

1. Yearly State-of-the-Uranium Industry in the U.S. Report

In January, a State-of-the-Uranium Industry Report will be published on the AAPG EMD Uranium Web page. This will summarize conditions in the industry, notices of openings and closing of what uranium production exists in the U.S. in the previous year. This will also include a discussion of the yellowcake prices over the past 12 months and anticipated future trends. The type and status of all known environmental projects will also be discussed on closed uranium mines or on operations known to be underway.

2. Re-Vitalization of Nuclear Power Industry in the 21st Century in the U.S.

Because nuclear energy is the only variable alternative energy resource for producing economically viable, long-term sources of energy for producing electricity, there is a major need to provide AAPG EMD members and others with the information required to tell the story of the need and justification for re-vitalizing nuclear power in the U.S. in the 21st Century. Furthermore, because no other energy source is likely to provide economical power in long term, the use of nuclear power must assume a vital role in U.S. power production as soon as possible. Because of the unreliable nature of overseas oil and gas supplies and pricing, and of the need not to be dependent on such supplies, the U.S. must provide the leadership away from such dependence. This will require decades to accomplish if the effort is begun now. Dialogues will be encouraged on: 1) developing legislation to encourage domestic uranium production and encourage overseas, 2) geological, hydrogeological, and environmental practicalities involved in revitalizing the use of nuclear power to generate electrical power in the U.S. The Three-Mile Island incident, as well as others around the world, need to be re-evaluated in an open forum, with special emphasis on the adversarial objections created by so-called environmentalists.

3. Provisions for Information Acquisition Involved in the Revitalization of Nuclear Energy in the U.S.

The Uranium Section Web site should contain a variety of information sources, Web portals, chat rooms or bulletin boards on the above issues serving as an Internet clearinghouse for members of the EMD and other groups within the AAPG as well as for the general public. This Web site would also provide access to the classical uranium exploration literature, mining approaches, mine permitting and a range of information on environmental monitoring of ongoing mining and nuclear power plant operations and waste control, handling, and storage. The activities and effectiveness of waste storage sites of Yucca Flats, Carlsbad and other coded facilities around the country would be discussed and evaluated with the views of the general public in mind. The latter would be addressed with sound and meaningful technical dialogue with EMD members providing the leadership to assist in re-developing the nuclear power industry in the U.S. The availability of this information also would attract new members to the EMD.