



Energy Fact Sheet

Uranium....It's Back

Arden L. Larson, President E-Vat, Inc.

(A company dedicated to finding environmentally-friendly ways of processing ores.)

Key Messages

- Nuclear energy (fueled by uranium) is the safest, cleanest source of energy we have.
- We are in the midst of the third uranium boom in U.S. history.
- The environmental impact of uranium mining in Western Colorado will be minimal.

The History of Uranium in Grand Junction

- There is a strong legacy, history and depth of first-hand knowledge of uranium mining in Grand Junction.
- Marie Skłodowska Curie (Madam Curie) opened up the science of radioactivity. She is best known as the discoverer of the radioactive elements in polonium and radium and as the first person to win two Nobel prizes. Curie used uranium mined near Grand Junction for her research.

The Three Uranium Booms

- 1950s-1960s — Thousands of government employees were in Grand Junction looking for uranium deposits that would be used for the United States' nuclear weapons program.
- Early 1970s — The United States government began pushing for the development of nuclear power.
- Today — There is still a lot of uranium deposits left. There is approximately 100-200 million pounds located in thousands of properties across Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. Each location contains relatively small deposits.

Uranium Processing Plants

- There is one operating mill located in Blanding, Utah.
 - This mill produces approximately 2,000 tons per day.
- There is another mill located in Canon City, Colorado.
 - This mill is not currently operating.

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- The other way to recover uranium is by using drills. This is called Insitu Leaching or leaching. This process mines the ore at the deposit site and pumps the fluids to the surface for metal recovery. This is currently occurring in Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Texas.

Uranium Around the World

- Australia and Canada have the largest uranium deposits in the world.
- France produces 80 percent of its power needs through nuclear power and owns uranium resources all over the world.
- Prices have spiked worldwide. In the United States, the price in 1979 was \$44 per pound. Today, it is \$138 per pound.

Uranium and the Environment

- There are 103 nuclear power reactors in the United States.
- Nuclear energy has the smallest environmental impact of any emission-free electricity source.
- Each reactor provides emission-free electricity for one in five homes and businesses in the U.S..
- The uranium that fuels the reactors is so efficient that just one fuel pellet (about the size the end of a pen) provides as much energy as:
 - 149 gallons of oil
 - 1,780 pounds of coal
 - 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas

Contact:

Arden L. Larson, President, E-Vat, Inc., 970-256-1273 or by email at ardengold@msn.com

Other Resources:

Nuclear Energy Institute, www.nei.org