



U*Times

The latest News Summary on the Uranium Sector

W/o January 25, 2010

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Commentary: The sentiment for 2010 points to an important year for the uranium business with a prognosis of increased demand and continued realization by governments and business of the virtues of nuclear power.

Ux U3O8 Prices*



Uranium Market Poised for Recovery in 2010: TradeTech Year-End Spot Price Settles at US\$44.50

Denver, CO, January 1, 2010

Overview of pricing in 2009 A declining trend in uranium prices that began in 2008 continued into 2009, as TradeTech's uranium spot price fell 15 percent from US\$52.00 per pound uranium oxide (U3O8) at year-end 2008 to \$44.50 on December 31, 2009.

The uranium market attempted to recover from the effects of a global financial crisis that began in late 2008, and the spot price strengthened by mid-year. However, this trend was short-lived as several sellers competed aggressively to conclude sales and the spot price fell again in the second half of the year.

In early October, the spot price climbed briefly as BHP Billiton reported damage to the main shaft of its Olympic Dam that would take months to repair. The company declared *force majeure* on certain uranium deliveries, which brought a number of buyers, primarily traders and financial entities, to the market and the price rose to \$50.00 per pound U3O8. By December, however, the spot price retreated as the US Department of Energy's sale of uranium to fund cleanup of the Portsmouth uranium enrichment facility overshadowed the market.

The drop in spot prices in the second half of 2009 caused lower expectations of market participants, especially among buyers. "The psychological effect of decreasing prices led many utilities to relax purchasing plans and turn away attractive offers in the expectation of further price declines. While 2009 was a relatively active year for term contracting, a substantial number of utilities, particularly in the USA, continue to wait in hopes of catching the market at the absolute bottom before securing supplies for the longer term," said TradeTech President Treva Klingbiel.

"Buyers are expected to return to the market during the first quarter of 2010 as a number of utilities have indicated they can justify discretionary purchases for inventory at current price levels," Klingbiel added. In addition, buying from Asia is expected to remain strong as India and China, in particular, forge ahead with plans for expanded nuclear energy programs to meet rising energy demand

Texas, Palangana ISR uranium project fully permitted

AUSTIN, TX, Jan. 20 /PRNewswire-First Call/ -

Uranium Energy Corp (NYSE- UEC, the "Company") is pleased to announce that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (the "TCEQ") has granted a Radioactive Materials License (RML) for the Company's Palangana ISR Uranium Project located in

Duval County, Texas. Prior to Palangana, the last RML granted by TCEQ was in 2002 to Mestena Uranium for their operation in Brooks County, Texas.

The Palangana project has now obtained all the permits needed to proceed with development and has fully and successfully completed the state permitting process at all levels.

Amir Adnani, President and CEO, stated, "The completion of the permitting for Palangana underscores the value-creation opportunities the Company is developing in South Texas. With the fully licensed Hobson processing facility now in hand, and with the decades of ISR development and operations experience behind the technical team here, management is confident of the transition to operating status."

Harry Anthony, Chief Operating Officer, said, "We appreciate the professionalism and speed with which the TCEQ is acting. With Palangana now fully permitted, Company geologists and engineers are accelerating the pace and scope of their development efforts."

The Company completed the acquisition of the Palangana project through its acquisition of the South Texas Mining Venture, L.L.P. on December 18, 2009. Presently, the Company's technical team is studying the substantial historical information about the project before initiating a 215-hole drilling program with several rigs onsite. Concurrently, the Company has also engaged SRK Consulting for technical assistance to develop a current NI 43-101 Technical Report for the Palangana project which is expected to be completed by mid February 2010.

Nuclear power regaining favor

[Industries want the government to co-sign for more than \\$40 billion in loans](#)

BY JUDY PASTERNAK

Investigative Reporting Workshop -- Jan 24 2010

WASHINGTON – *The Obama administration may soon guarantee as much as \$18.5 billion in loans to build nuclear reactors to generate electricity, and Congress is considering whether to add billions more to support an expansion of nuclear power.*

These actions come after an extensive, decade-long campaign in which companies and unions related to the industry have spent more than \$600 million on lobbying and nearly \$63 million on campaign contributions, according to an analysis by the Investigative Reporting Workshop at American University.

Nuclear power generates about 20 percent of America's electricity, but many existing reactors are aging. No new plant has been authorized since the 1979 incident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, when small amounts of radiation were released and authorities feared for days that a huge surge might escape.

That's in part because it can cost as much as \$8 billion to build a nuclear plant, and in part because the problems of nuclear waste and safety remain unsolved.

But the problem of global warming remains unsolved, too, and as the nation struggles to rebound from a deep recession, building new nuclear reactors increasingly looks to some like a big jobs program. The industry, capitalizing on both developments, argues that nuclear energy must be part of any effort to curb heat-trapping carbon emissions.

Its longtime foes – environmentalists, some labor unions, Democrats – increasingly agree.

"This is nuclear's year," said House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., who in recent years has become one of the industry's champions on Capitol Hill.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, has pledged that the climate bill that's making its way through Congress will include new government help for the nuclear industry. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina says he would provide a much-sought Republican vote for the bill if its energy provisions include help for the nuclear industry.

January 21, 2010

Interest piqued in uranium miners

Publisher: U308.biz

Author: *Melissa Pistilli*

Market analysts including Howard Ruff, long-time financial advisor and founder of the 35 year-old investing newsletter [The Ruff Times](#), are becoming quite bullish on uranium mining stocks. In a recent interview with [The Gold Report](#), Ruff acknowledged his enthusiasm for uranium mining plays.

"Uranium mining interests me because there's going to be demand," he explained. "There are enough nuclear plants either under construction or on the drawing boards and there's only half enough uranium above ground to service their needs."

For those who like to play it safe, big producers and development companies with identified resources in the ground offer the best investment prospects for

this sector, advises Ruff. Of course, investing in uranium explorers can be quite profitable, but should be left to those not adverse to risky endeavors.

Cameco to Make a Play for Paladin?

There's a lot of speculation swirling in the marketplace about the prospect of Canada's mining giant [Cameco](#) making a bid for Australia's Paladin Energy.

Cameco, the world's second largest uranium producer, is looking to double its annual uranium output from its current holdings by 2018. Adding some additional producing mines to its largesse would go a long way toward securing its already prominent foothold in the uranium supply market.

Back in November 2009, Cameco CEO Jerry Grandey said the miner was seriously considering acquisitions and mentioned Paladin as an attractive target. The main drawback, however, is the cost. "We've always been challenged by the valuation," Grandey said.

RBS analysts Lyndon Fagan says Cameco would most likely need to fork over a premium of more than 30 per cent Paladin's current share price. The Australian Financial Review says the takeover could cost \$3.7 billion.

A 15 per cent retreat in the Australian miner's share price over the last three months may have Cameco salivating. "I think Cameco would certainly be looking at Paladin," said Fagan. "Paladin's share price has been underperforming recently because of failing to deliver on production targets, and the recent weakness could provide an opportunity for the likes of Cameco."

On Tuesday, shares in Cameco [TSX: CCO] were trading at \$31.62. Shares in Paladin [ASX: PDN] were trading at \$4.06.

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Uranium Processing Facility in nation's best interest

By Homer Fisher

Sunday, January 24, 2010

After years of planning, followed by multiple hearings and reviews, the National Nuclear Security Administration's

preferred alternative for the construction of the Uranium Processing Facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge is moving through the final steps to enable construction and operation.

The decision to build UPF is timely, fully justifiable and clearly in the nation's best interest.

I understand, appreciate and respect the views of those who have written and spoken in opposition to UPF. However, I believe many of the objections that have been raised are not supported by the facts. Rather, they reflect unfounded assumptions and/or lack of understanding of the current and future mission of Y-12. As long as highly enriched uranium exists, we need a facility to ensure it is managed safely and securely. Addressing this need without further delay is clearly a national imperative.

Some opponents have assumed that UPF is needed only for increasing the number of nuclear weapons. Fully documented studies have established that UPF is essential even if the nation never builds another nuclear device. It will become the nation's most important facility for safely disassembling existing nuclear weapons as the nation's stockpile is reduced and a major resource for reprocessing uranium for nuclear fuel.

Further, the UPF will ensure that the United States maintains the capability to contribute to international nuclear nonproliferation efforts.

The proposal for renovating and continuing to use current facilities also fails to recognize the operational complexity and safety issues associated with renovating these 40- to 50-year-old facilities while continuing operations at required levels.

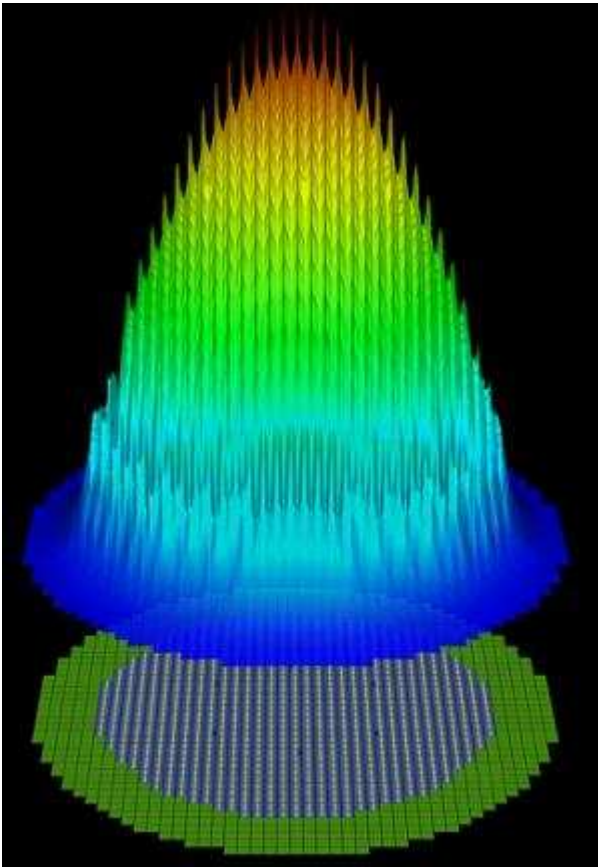
UPF will be a major contributor to President Barack Obama's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons through enhancing the ability to dismantle existing weapons and support nonproliferation in an environment that is more secure, safer for employees and less costly for our nation. Those who really believe in these goals should be advocating the rapid move to the construction of UPF.

ScienceDaily Web address:
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/01/100122222224.htm>
Your source for the latest research r

Using Supercomputers to Explore Nuclear Energy

Science Daily (Jan. 25, 2010) – *Ever wanted to see a nuclear reactor core in action? A new computer algorithm developed by researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory allows scientists to view nuclear fission in much finer detail than ever before.*

A team of nuclear engineers and computer scientists at Argonne National Laboratory are developing the neutron transport code UNIC, which enables researchers for the first time to obtain a highly detailed description of a nuclear reactor core



An elevation plot of the highest energy neutron flux distributions from an axial slice of the reactor is shown superimposed over the same slice of the underlying geometry. This figure shows the rapid spatial variation in the high energy neutron distribution between within each plate along with the more slowly varying, global distribution. The figure is significant since UNIC allows researchers to capture both of these effects simultaneously. (Credit: Image courtesy of Argonne National Laboratory)

The code could prove crucial in the development of nuclear reactors that are safe, affordable and environmentally friendly. To model the complex geometry of a reactor core requires billions of spatial elements, hundreds of angles and

