

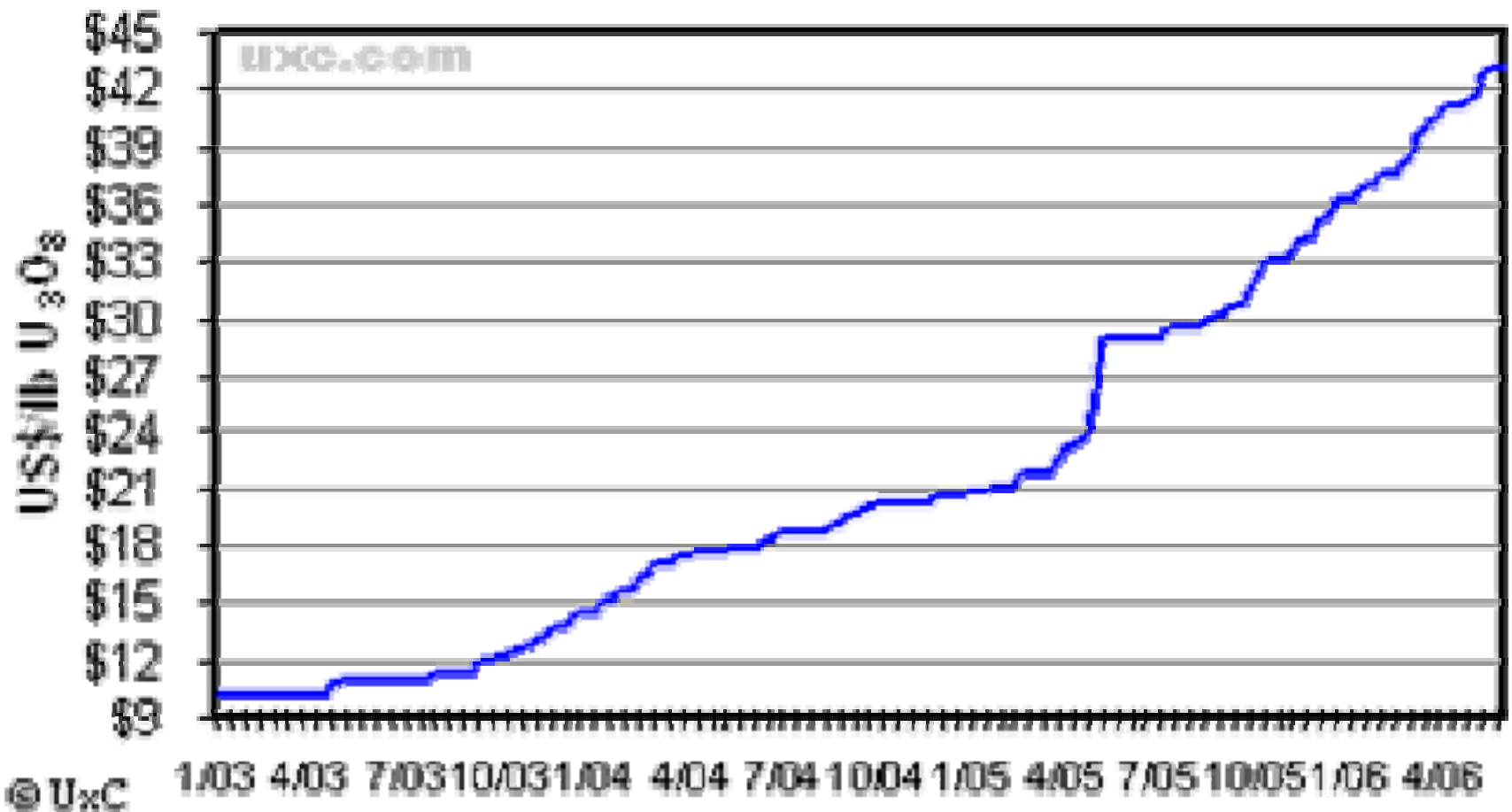


OVERVIEW OF URANIUM RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

NMA/NRC Uranium Recovery
Workshop

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Increased Price of Uranium



Key Messages

- Preparation for new applications and re-starts
- Elimination of dual regulation at in-situ leach sites (ISLs)
- Risk Informed regulation
- Address stakeholder issues
- Continuous Improvement – open communication with industry and stakeholders

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST WORKSHOP

- Terminated specific license for Petrotonics Shirley Basin South; transferred to DOE (June 05). Bear Creek is close to license termination.
- Completed approximately 53 licensing actions and reviews since June 05.
- Published for comment, draft NUREG/CR-6870, “Consideration of Geochemical Issues in Groundwater Restoration at Uranium In-Situ Leach Mining Facilities” (June 05). Office of Research in the process of completing the final report.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST WORKSHOP Contd.

- Approved alternate concentration limit (ACL) amendment request for Pathfinder Mines Shirley Basin (Oct. 05).
- Approved ACL amendment request for Rio Algom Ambrosia Lake (Feb. 06).
- Approved ACL amendment request for Umetco Gas Hills facilities (Mar. 06).

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST WORKSHOP Contd.

- Completed Commission Paper (SECY-05-0200, Oct. 05) with options for Commission consideration on efforts by Western Nuclear to acquire off-site properties in conjunction with decommissioning of its uranium recovery site.
- Completed Draft Environmental Assessment for the Western Nuclear alternate concentration limit application (May 2006).
- Homestake Groundwater Standards Amendment – consultation with EPA and New Mexico – Final Environmental Assessment (June 2006)
- Close to completing Reynolds Ranch Satellite Amendment

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST WORKSHOP Contd.

- Conducted 6 on-site inspections of uranium recovery facilities since June 05.
- Completed all staff filings related to ongoing Hydro Resources, Inc. (HRI) hearing and 4 major areas of concern: (1) groundwater protection, groundwater restoration, and related surety estimates, (2) cultural resources, (3) radioactive air emissions, and (4) adequacy of EIS for Section 17, Unit 1, and Crownpoint (NEPA issues).

Status of HRI Hearing

- Licensing Board has issued decisions on (1) groundwater issues (7-20-05), (2) cultural resources issues (9-16-05), and (3) radioactive air emissions issues (1-6-06).
- Licensing Board has stayed issuance of decision on NEPA issues (3-23-06), pending Commission review of Board decision on radioactive air emissions issues which was requested by, and granted to, intervenors (2-22-06).
- Commission has denied intervenor requests for review of Board decisions on groundwater (1-11-06) and cultural resources issues (4-3-06).
- Commission affirmed Board decision on radioactive air emissions (5-16-06).

ONGOING/PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- ISL Rulemaking/MOU – Meeting June 29
- New potential applications
- Potential licensee re-starts
- Complete HRI Hearing
- Licensing reviews
- DOE Title I reviews
- Conversion and enrichment facilities
- License terminations – Bear Creek

ONGOING/PLANNED ACTIVITIES Contd.

Specific Major Activities

- Complete Western Nuclear ACL App.
- Homestake groundwater Issues
- UNC groundwater Issues
- Sequoyah Fuels Reclamation plan and groundwater actions
- DOE Atlas site reviews
- RMD application

CHALLENGES

- New potential license applications
- Meeting tight schedule with ISL rulemaking – will delay some other work
- Adequate budget/staff for new applications
- Potential re-starts
- Attrition & recruitment – difficulty hiring entry level due to high housing cost in DC area
- Maintaining adequate technical expertise
- Consistency with staff contacts
- Off-site groundwater issues/Institutional controls

STAFF CHANGES

- Losses
 - John Lusher – June 2005
 - Rick Weller – Retirement – Back as a consultant (2 days/week)
- Gains
 - Ron Linton – Senior Hydrogeologist
 - Bob Lukes – Health Physicist

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

- S. Cohen: Kennecott, Crow Butte, Western Nuclear, Pathfinder Lucky Mc and Shirley Basin
- P. Michalak: PRI, UNC Churchrock,
- M. Fliegel: Sequoyah Fuels, Bear Creek, Exxon, ANC
- R. Linton: Homestake, HRI
- B. Lukes: Rio Algom, Umetco, Back-up for Honeywell

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS (Contd.)

- D. Martin: Paducah, Portsmouth, Dam Safety
- M. Raddatz: Honeywell, RMD, Cabot, U-Isotopes

HIRING PLANS

- One Hydrogeologist GG-13
- One Geotechnical Engineer GG-13
- Both are nationwide postings – tough to fill due to high cost of living in the Washington DC area

Staff Presentations

- ISL Rulemaking – Mike Fliegel
- Groundwater Sampling Issues – Paul Michalak
- Water Treatment Facilities – Uranium – Gary Comfort
- NEPA and New Application and Re-start Issues – Ron Linton
- Inspections – Blair Spitzberg Region IV