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Uranium Recovery Realities in the U.S. – A Review

With the mounting concern about greenhouse gas emissions, interest in nuclear power has increased substantially over the past five years in the U.S. where more than 50 permit applications are now under review for building new plants. Nations around the world are looking to increasing their use of nuclear energy to generate greenhouse gas emission-free electricity because it is the cleanest technology available that is capable of producing the amount of electricity required at a competitive cost. With this increase in interest, there has been an increase in uranium exploration and production, which in turn has encountered an equally increased resistance from a few adversarial groups, especially in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. These groups base their objections on exploration and mining techniques and mining laws that were in effect at least 30 years ago. Unfortunately many in the news media have been reporting on these complaints without regard to important improvements in exploration and uranium recovery techniques and environmental protection laws. The general public has consistently been led to believe that uranium exploration and recovery will poison both the land surface and the underlying aquifers over vast areas. We will discuss these misconceptions in some detail. ■

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the Ohio State University in geology and hydrogeology (BA-1966), of Rice University in geology and geophysics (MA-1976), and was elected a Fellow in the Geological Society of America. He is a licensed Professional Geoscientist and Geologist in Texas, Mississippi, Alaska and Wyoming and is licensed in Washington as a Professional Hydrogeologist and Geologist. He also holds national certifications in geology (AIPG) and hydrogeology (AIH). He serves on committees for the AIPG, AEG, and other technical societies. Mr. Campbell has worked over 40 years in the mining and environmental industries, and has published three technical books on uranium and other natural resources, including ground water, and numerous associated reports, technical papers, and presentations in the U.S. and overseas on a variety of geological, geotechnical and hydrogeological subjects.

HENRY M. WISE, P.G., has more than 30 years of professional experience in geology, uranium exploration and development and environmental remediation. His experience includes the exploration and in-situ recovery of roll-front uranium deposits in South Texas where he was responsible for the delineation and production at the Pawilk Mine for U.S. Steel. He also has substantial experience in environmental site assessments and soil and ground-water remediation projects in Texas using dual-phase extraction techniques. Mr. Wise is currently the Technical Services Manager for Eagle/SWS in La Porte, Texas, where he oversees several TCEQ State Lead and Emergency Response contracts. Mr. Wise is a graduate of Boston University with a Bachelor's Degree in Geology, and he obtained a Master's Degree in Geology from the University of Texas at El Paso. A Licensed Professional Geologist in Texas, he was a Founding Member in 1977 of the Energy Minerals Division of AAPG, a member of the Uranium Committee and a Certified Professional Geologist of AIPG. He is also co-chairman of the HGS Governmental Affairs Committee and writes both the "Governmental Update" for the HGS *Bulletin* and the *Wise Report*, published both privately and on the HGS, AIPG-Texas, and AEG-Texas websites.



Biographical Sketches

MICHAEL D. CAMPBELL, P.G., P.H., serves as Managing Partner for M. D. Campbell and Associates, L.P., founded in 1993 in Houston, Texas, where he manages environmental, forensic, and mining investigations (including uranium and other mineral project assessments, reserves studies, and environmental compliance) for industry and the legal community. In 1977 he was a Founding Member of the Energy Minerals Division (EMD) of AAPG and was elected EMD President (2010-2011). He was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of the Division of Environmental Geosciences (DEG) of AAPG and currently serves as Chairman of EMD's Uranium (Nuclear Minerals) Committee and as a member of AAPG's Astrogeology Committee. Mr. Campbell is a graduate of

