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Wyoming Governor To Uranium Miners: Bring Us Your Projects!

By James Finch

"We're Ready: This State is in Play!"

The New Face of Wyoming's Uranium Mining

Part One of a Five-Part Series

Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal really likes the current uranium bull market, "I hope the price of yellowcake stays up, and things get moving." Yes, the Wyoming democratic governor strongly endorses uranium mining in his state. That would make sense because Wyoming is the largest U.S. uranium producer. More than 40 percent of the uranium reserves in the United States are located in Wyoming, according to the reserves and resource estimate published by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Since hitting a bottom in late December 2000, the spot price of uranium has soared by more than 500 percent, reaching a high of \$38.50/pound at the end of February. The last time uranium traded this high, President Ronald Reagan was into the second month of his first term.

Unlike some states, where uranium mining is frowned upon, or banned, Wyoming welcomes the industry with open arms. "We've always sort of been comfortable with the uranium industry," Freudenthal told StockInterview.com. "The uranium industry is part of our history. It's not something that is frightening or alarming to us." Freudenthal clearly sees nuclear energy as a potential solution for the energy crisis, "I don't think anybody has any reservations that we need to have greater domestic capability in energy. I think, in the circles that worry about those equations, there is clearly a role for nuclear power."

Freudenthal urged the capital markets to act on the energy crisis by turning to Wyoming and mining the abundant supply of uranium, "There's got to be some clear signals to the capital markets that investment in this area will ultimately be rewarded. We certainly have the resource." Since June 2004, publicly traded junior uranium companies and speculators have created a staking frenzy in the state. Wyoming's Office of State Lands and Investments reported developers are snapping up tens of thousands of acres of state leases. The reading room, where prospectors and developers study potential federal lands for leasing purposes in the Cheyenne office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was filled to capacity during a recent visit by the StockInterview.com editorial

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team.

StockInterview.com asked if the unusually high level of staking activity in Wyoming by publicly traded companies, such as Strathmore Minerals (TSX: STM; Other OTC: STHJF), Energy Metals Corporation (TSX: EMC), Kilgore Minerals (TSX: KAU), UR–Energy (TSE: URE) and Uranerz Energy (OTC BB: URNZ), was merely speculative, Freudenthal responded, "I think we're past the sort of speculation of people running through and picking everything up. We're down to serious players trying to make serious decisions." Good news for the above–mentioned uranium development companies: The Governor of Wyoming believes you mean business, and he's doing everything he can to encourage you!

Freudenthal was optimistic more companies would bring their projects to Wyoming, "These are not light investments. But you also don't go out and re–activate uranium production, if at the end of the day,

you don't have a buyer." Governor Freudenthal is a good listener and acts quickly and decisively when facing facts. For example, when StockInterview.com informed him that decommissioned Russian nuclear warheads now powered about one in every twenty electric light bulbs in the United States, and that the swords–for–plowshares arrangement might end in 2013 (end of HEU), Freudenthal responded, "If that timing is correct, then they should already be making decisions to invest in Wyoming. I hope they do."

A large number of Canadian and European financiers believe there is a nuclear renaissance. Where does the Governor stand? "We're ready," Freudenthal shot back. "They just need to start bringing the projects and the money (into Wyoming). I think we have a very good regulatory climate. I think if they move into the 'in situ' (ISL) mining, we've got some experience with that." And if the public companies bring their projects to Wyoming, how does Governor Freudenthal feel? "This state is IN PLAY!" he exuberantly announced.

Asked to compare Wyoming with New Mexico, once a top uranium–producing state, he responded, "This state, historically, is just much more comfortable with commodity development." On the other hand, he somewhat deferred to New Mexico's own nuclear renaissance, where rumors are flying of a new nuclear power plant and the expansion of uranium mining and nuclear in that state, explaining, "New Mexico is closer to some larger energy consuming markets. They have fewer miles of transmission lines to build if they are going to get to California or Nevada. It wouldn't seem illogical if I were a private investor to look there first."

What does the Governor have to say to the new flock of uranium development companies, joining Cameco's Power Resources in mining Wyoming's uranium? There are several companies, which have staked land, and are now beginning to move their projects forward. Freudenthal advised, "They need to start allocating greater capital at a rate that the project sponsors are comfortable. We're past the speculators. People know it (uranium) is here. Nobody wants to hit the market too early. And they don't want to be too late. It'll move. I just don't know when. But when it does, we're in a position to respond to it. We've got the goods. We've got the right regulatory climate."

Would Governor Freudenthal invite or discourage a public utility in building a nuclear power plant in

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Wyoming? "I don't have a problem with one. The question really has always been, and most of what we are focused on, right now, is getting power lines built. If we don't have power lines, we're not going to get nuclear plants. We're not going to get coal-fired plants. We're not going to get anything. Ours is an export state. There is not enough internal demand for electricity to justify the construction of a plant." Freudenthal added Wyoming was "waiting to see if the larger economy is ready for some nuclear power plants."

Two years ago, his administration created the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority to work on getting power lines constructed. That may help remove the bug stalling the launch of Wyoming's first nuclear reactor, as well as exploiting the state's most valuable renewable energy source, wind. "We've got five or six areas that are world-class wind resources. We have people who want to build the turbines, but they have got to have access to the power grid. And I think the same is true in terms of whether it is a nuclear power plant, a coal-fired plant or this new combined-cycle plant, where you can convert coal to gas. Ultimately, the marketplace will decide which way they're going to go. But, no matter which one they do, I know my chances of getting it in Wyoming are greater if I have figured out our power line routes."

Freudenthal is popular, can think on his cowboy-boot clad feet, and can be decisive. And he is working

on the power line routes, not just dreaming about what could be done. "We have some hopeful things," he explained. "We have been working with California on the Frontier Line." And what is the Frontier Line? U.S. Secretary of Energy announced in a press release a year ago, "This proposal exhibits the boldness and innovation the West is traditionally known for, as well as the multi-state cooperation and big-picture thinking required to make regional markets thrive." Secretary Bodman praised Governors Schwarzenegger, Freudenthal, Guinn and Huntsman, saying, "... the 'Frontier Line' project will begin the process of ensuring reliable electricity for some of our fastest growing Western States."

Being an export state, Wyoming has done well during the recent boom in commodities, enjoying the rising royalties from the production of oil, natural gas, coal and uranium. This past year, the state built up a surplus of nearly \$2 billion. How does Freudenthal plan to spend this money? "We're putting a chunk into college scholarships, a chunk into infrastructure and a chunk into human capital investments." And next year, Freudenthal will have more such chunks to spend as high energy prices continue to demand the extraction of those abundant resources Wyoming generously offers the rest of the United States.

As a side note, Wyoming is a "red state," but with a very popular governor who is ironically a Democrat. While we did not discuss Freudenthal's political ambitions, Wyoming's previous leading political personality has been serving as Vice-President of the United States through most of this decade. Memo to Hillary Rodham Clinton: Don't overlook Dave Freudenthal if you want to woo the vast number of red states between the east coast and the left coast. This governor could help get your old room back at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

James Finch writes about uranium stocks and the uranium sector, which is again seeing the blossoming of many junior exploration and development companies – a development that first occurred over 50 years ago. James Finch contributes articles on stocks, uranium, mining and investment trends

to

<http://StockInterview.com>

. His archived articles and Market Outlook Journal can be viewed with full

graphics and unedited commentary at

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Uranium Facts For The Natural Resource Investor

By Charles Weber

Investing in uranium is looking toward the future. With fossil fuels fizzling out, the world needs reliable sources of energy. The price of uranium has moved surprisingly fast over the last year with the scare of oil and natural gas shortages. Also, analysts report a severe uranium shortage over the next ten years. Lets take a look at what uranium is and how it is/will be used. I have always heard "buy what you know", so hopefully you will know a little more about uranium after reading.

Uranium can be found abundantly on the planet. Uranium is formed when stars explode, expelling the heavy element. Uranium-238, the most common form of uranium found on earth has a half life of 4.5 billion years, which explains its large quantity (around 99% of the world's uranium). Uranium-235 makes up a little more then half of the remaining 1%. Uranium-234 makes up small amount left.

The most important form of uranium is uranium-235, which possesses some very useful characteristics. Uranium-235 can undergo "induced-fission". Induced fission is when a free neutron is used to bombard the element, causing it immediately to destabilize and split. During this reaction a large amount of heat is given off. This heat, through various means, can be harvested into power. This is process is commonly called nuclear fission. Over 400 nuclear fission generators exist in the world today in major countries such as the US, China, Russia and Germany. Nuclear power planys fired up in 1959. The number is growing dramatically as countries are expanding their power grids. Demand for uranium and uranium enrichment increases as more nations decide to add nuclear power to their power creating arsenals.

Discuss with your investment advisor the pros and cons of adding uranium stocks to your portfolio. I have several precious metal and natural resource mining stocks in my portfolio which have done well over the last year. I am definitely going to add a uranium mining company to my list of stocks.

Charles Weber is an upcoming writer who researches various topics. Content should be taken as information and not investment advice. His website with more information about natural resource investing can be found at

<http://www.naturalresourceinvesting.com>

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