

THE MATOUSH PROJECT

The Matoush project is a \$50-million uranium underground exploration program. It is a highly controlled and regulated operation that is safe for workers and the local population. The underground exploration program will create approximately 160 new jobs mostly within the Mistissini and Chibougamau communities and will have a positive impact on the local economy.

URANIUM: THE FACTS

- URANIUM IS MORE COMMON THAN GOLD OR SILVER

Uranium is found in abundance in the earth's crust. It is found in its natural state in the rock, soil, rivers and oceans. It is more abundant than gold or silver. Small quantities can be found in the soil, water, plants, animals and the human body.

Did you know?

Canada is currently the largest producer of uranium, generating one third of total world production.

WHAT IS URANIUM USED FOR?

Uranium is used for a number of different purposes, but its principal use is to generate **electricity**. Uranium is the most promising energy-generating alternative of the future. It meets international standards as a clean, safe, reliable and efficient source. Most importantly, uranium does not produce greenhouse gases.

The cost of nuclear-generated electricity is comparable to that of large-scale hydroelectric and fossil fuel generating methods. Nuclear energy is particularly attractive in areas that don't have access to low-cost fossil fuels or hydroelectric resources. The cost of nuclear combustion is low and is a small increment in total energy cost.

In addition to being clean, economical and safe, nuclear energy is dependable. Unlike other sources of energy, nuclear power can meet the need of large-scale demand. By virtue of these features and its availability, nuclear energy represents a sound choice for the energy needs of today and tomorrow.

Advantages provided by the nuclear industry

- *Reduction of emissions*
- *Constant sustainable output*
- *Ever-increasing acceptance as a viable alternative*

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Nuclear reactors worldwide (2008)

- 436 nuclear reactors were in operation in 2008.
- A total of 115 new reactors are under construction or planned for completion within the next 10 years.¹
- Some 15 countries use nuclear energy for more than one quarter of their energy consumption.
- Ontario has 16 reactors generating about 50% of its electricity and France has 59 reactors generating 78% of its electricity.
- The use of nuclear energy for the production of electricity is becoming the preferred choice for developing countries

THREE OTHER USES

Uranium is also used for other purposes, specifically in medicine and agriculture and in the food industry particularly.

In **medicine**, uranium is the raw material for isotopes that are used in diagnosing and treating cancer. Canada produces two thirds of all the cancer-treating isotopes in the world and developed the equipment used in nuclear medicine.

In **agriculture**, nuclear technology is brought to bear on eliminating the risk of bacterial infections in food, reducing the danger of food-borne illness. Nuclear technology is also used to increase production, aid in irrigation and soil fertilization, in insect control and in developing new generations of plants.

Nuclear energy can also play a key role in **desalinating water**, an important use when we consider that a fifth of the world population does not have access to potable water.

Nuclear energy represents a very interesting alternative to fossil fuels.

¹Source: Cameco and Worldwide Nuclear Association

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OTHER FACTS

Canada is one of the 189 countries that have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In Canada, there are strict policies regarding the use of the nuclear atom. According to the Canadian Nuclear Association, the overriding requirement is that nuclear materials and technology must not be used to manufacture nuclear weapons. In Canada it is illegal to export uranium, nuclear components or technologies for used in nuclear weapons.²

LINKS

International Atomic Energy Agency

<http://www.iaea.org/index.html>

Nuclear Energy Agency

<http://www.nea.fr/html/welcome.html>

Worldwide Nuclear Association

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/>

²Canadian Nuclear Association Nuclear Facts: Canada's Best Kept Secret http://cna.ca/english/Nuclear_Facts/CNA_Best_Kept_Secret_August04.pdf.

■ For more information, please contact Strateco at: avezina@bbhgm.com

Strateco believes that sustainable development means caring for the environment at every stage of exploration and production, actively involving the Cree community in the project, ensuring the safety and health of our workers and providing safe and clean energy for the future.