



*Independent Statistics & Analysis*  
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Administration

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# Domestic Uranium Production Report 4th Quarter 2015

February 2016



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## Contacts

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## Preface

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The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports data spanning 1996 through fourth quarter 2015 on U.S. uranium production activities in this report, *Domestic Uranium Production Report 4th Quarter 2015*. Data in this report are based on information reported on Form EIA-851A, “Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual)” and Form EIA-851Q, “Domestic Uranium Production Report (Quarterly).”

Previous issues of this report may be found on the EIA website at <http://www.eia.gov/uranium/production/quarterly>

Definitions for terms used in this report can be found in EIA’s Energy Glossary: <http://www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/>.

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## 4th Quarter 2015

U.S. production of uranium concentrate in the fourth quarter 2015 was 585,048 pounds  $U_3O_8$ , down 24% from the third quarter 2015 and down 46% from the fourth quarter 2014. The 49% reduction in the fourth quarter production compared with the 1,154,408 pounds  $U_3O_8$  produced in the first quarter 2015 was from four fewer producing facilities. This may be attributed to the continued low market price of uranium. Additionally, the fourth quarter 2015 production level was the lowest quarterly U.S. production since the fourth quarter 2002.

During the fourth quarter 2015 U.S. uranium was produced at four U.S. uranium facilities, three less than in the third quarter 2015.

U.S. uranium mill in production (state)

*none*

U.S. uranium in-situ-leach plants in production (state)

1. Crow Butte Operation (Nebraska)
2. Lost Creek Project (Wyoming)
3. Nichols Ranch ISR Project (Wyoming)
4. Smith Ranch-Highland Operation (Wyoming)

Strata Energy's Ross central processing plant in Wyoming became operational, but not producing in the fourth quarter 2015, after being under construction since third quarter 2014. Three facilities did not produce uranium during the fourth quarter 2015 compared with the third quarter 2015: White Mesa Mill (Utah), Hobson ISR Plant/La Palangana (Texas), and Willow Creek Project (Wyoming).

## Preliminary 2015 total

U.S. uranium concentrate production totaled 3,303,977 pounds  $U_3O_8$  in 2015. This amount was 32% lower than the 4,891,332 pounds produced in 2014 and the lowest annual U.S. production since 2005. U.S. production in 2015 represents 7% of the 2015 anticipated uranium market requirements of 46.5 million pounds for U.S. civilian nuclear power reactors.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [2014 Uranium Marketing Annual Report, Table 12](#)

**Table 1. Total production of uranium concentrate in the United States, 1996 – 4th Quarter 2015**pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>

<b>Calendar-year quarter</b>	<b>1st quarter</b>	<b>2nd quarter</b>	<b>3rd quarter</b>	<b>4th quarter</b>	<b>Calendar-year total</b>
1996	1,734,427	1,460,058	1,691,796	1,434,425	<b>6,320,706</b>
1997	1,149,050	1,321,079	1,631,384	1,541,052	<b>5,642,565</b>
1998	1,151,587	1,143,942	1,203,042	1,206,003	<b>4,704,574</b>
1999	1,196,225	1,132,566	1,204,984	1,076,897	<b>4,610,672</b>
2000	1,018,683	983,330	981,948	973,585	<b>3,975,545</b>
2001	709,177	748,298	628,720	553,060	<b>2,639,256</b>
2002	620,952	643,432	579,723	E500,000	<b>E2,344,107</b>
2003	E400,000	E600,000	E400,000	E600,000	<b>E2,000,000</b>
2004	E600,000	E400,000	588,738	E600,000	<b>2,282,406</b>
2005	709,600	630,053	663,068	686,456	<b>2,689,178</b>
2006	931,065	894,268	1,083,808	1,196,485	<b>4,105,626</b>
2007	1,162,737	1,119,536	1,075,460	1,175,845	<b>4,533,578</b>
2008	810,189	1,073,315	980,933	1,037,946	<b>3,902,383</b>
2009	880,036	982,760	956,657	888,905	<b>3,708,358</b>
2010	876,084	1,055,102	1,150,725	1,146,281	<b>4,228,192</b>
2011	1,063,047	1,189,083	846,624	892,013	<b>3,990,767</b>
2012	1,078,404	1,061,289	1,048,018	957,936	<b>4,145,647</b>
2013	1,147,031	1,394,232	1,171,278	946,301	<b>4,658,842</b>
2014	1,242,179	1,095,011	1,468,608	1,085,534	<b>4,891,332</b>
P2015	1,154,408	789,980	774,541	585,048	<b>3,303,977</b>

E = Estimated data. P = Preliminary data.

Notes: The reported 4th quarter 2002 production amount was adjusted by rounding to the nearest 100,000 pounds to avoid disclosure of individual company data. This also affects the 2002 annual production. The reported 2003 and 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarter 2004 production amounts were adjusted by rounding to the nearest 200,000 pounds to avoid disclosure of individual company data. The reported 2004 total is the actual production for 2004. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A and Form EIA-851Q, "Domestic Uranium Production Report."

**Table 2. Number of uranium mills and plants producing uranium concentrate in the United States**

End of	Uranium concentrate processing facilities				Total
	Mills - conventional milling <sup>1</sup>	Mills - other operations <sup>2</sup>	In-situ-leach plants <sup>3</sup>	Byproduct recovery plants <sup>4</sup>	
1996	0	2	5	2	9
1997	0	3	6	2	11
1998	0	2	6	1	9
1999	1	2	4	0	7
2000	1	2	3	0	6
2001	0	1	3	0	4
2002	0	1	2	0	3
2003	0	0	2	0	2
2004	0	0	3	0	3
2005	0	1	3	0	4
2006	0	1	5	0	6
2007	0	1	5	0	6
2008	1	0	6	0	7
2009	0	1	3	0	4
2010	1	0	4	0	5
2011	1	0	5	0	6
2012	1	0	5	0	6
2013	0	1	6	0	7
2014	0	0	7	0	7
4th quarter					
2015	0	0	4	0	4

<sup>1</sup> Milling uranium-bearing ore.

<sup>2</sup> Not milling ore, but producing uranium concentrate from other (non-ore) materials.

<sup>3</sup> Not including in-situ-leach plants that only produced uranium concentrate from restoration.

<sup>4</sup> Uranium concentrate as a byproduct from phosphate production.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A and Form EIA-851Q, "Domestic Uranium Production Report."

Table 3. U.S. uranium mills and heap leach facilities by owner, location, capacity, and operating status

Owner	Mill and Heap Leach <sup>1</sup> Facility name	County, state (existing and planned locations)	Capacity (short tons of ore per day)	Operating status at end of				
				2014	1st quarter 2015	2nd quarter 2015	3rd quarter 2015	4th quarter 2015
Anfield Resources	Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill	Garfield, Utah	750	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby
EFR White Mesa LLC	White Mesa Mill	San Juan, Utah	2,000	Operating- Processing Alternate Feed	Operating	Operating- Processing Alternate Feed	Operating- Processing Alternate Feed	Operating- Processing Alternate Feed
Energy Fuels Wyoming Inc	<i>Sheep Mountain</i>	<i>Fremont, Wyoming</i>	725	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Undeveloped
Kennecott Uranium Company/Wyoming Coal Resource Company	Sweetwater Uranium Project	Sweetwater, Wyoming	3,000	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby
Pinon Ridge Resources Corporation	Pinon Ridge Mill	<i>Montrose, Colorado</i>	500	Permitted And Licensed	Developing	Developing	Developing	Permitted and Licensed
<b>Total Capacity:</b>			<b>6,975</b>					

<sup>1</sup>Heap leach solutions: The separation, or dissolving-out from mined rock, of the soluble uranium constituents by the natural action of percolating a prepared chemical solution through mounded (heaped) rock material. The mounded material usually contains low grade mineralized material and/or waste rock produced from open pit or underground mines. The solutions are collected after percolation is completed and processed to recover the valued components.

Notes: Capacity for 4th Quarter 2015. An operating status of "Operating" indicates the mill usually was producing uranium concentrate at the end of the period.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A and Form EIA-851Q, "Domestic Uranium Production Report."

Table 4. U.S. uranium in-situ-leach plants by owner, location, capacity, and operating status

In-situ-leach plant owner	In-situ-leach plant name	County, state (existing and planned locations)	Production capacity (pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> per year)	Operating status at end of				
				2014	1st quarter 2015	2nd quarter 2015	3rd quarter 2015	4th quarter 2015
AUC LLC	Reno Creek	Campbell, Wyoming	2,000,000	Developing	Developing	Developing	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed
Azarga Uranium Corp	Dewey Burdock Project	Fall River and Custer, South Dakota	1,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed				
Cameco	Crow Butte Operation	Dawes, Nebraska	1,000,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
Hydro Resources, Inc.	Church Rock	McKinley, New Mexico	1,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed				
Hydro Resources, Inc.	Crownpoint	McKinley, New Mexico	1,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed				
Lost Creek ISR LLC	Lost Creek Project	Sweetwater, Wyoming	2,000,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
Mestena Uranium LLC	Alta Mesa Project	Brooks, Texas	1,500,000	Producing	Producing	Standby	Standby	Standby
Power Resources, Inc. dba Cameco Resources	Smith Ranch-Highland Operation	Converse, Wyoming	5,500,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
South Texas Mining Venture	Hobson ISR Plant	Karnes, Texas	1,000,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
South Texas Mining Venture	La Palangana	Duval, Texas	1,000,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
Strata Energy Inc	Ross CPP	Crook, Wyoming	375,000	Under Construction	Under Construction	Under Construction	Under Construction	Operational
URI, Inc.	Kingsville Dome	Kleberg, Texas	1,000,000	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration
URI, Inc.	Rosita	Duval, Texas	1,000,000	Restoration	Restoration	Reclamation	Reclamation	Reclamation
URI, Inc.	Vasquez	Duval, Texas	800,000	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration

Table 4. U.S. uranium in-situ-leach plants by owner, location, capacity, and operating status (cont.)

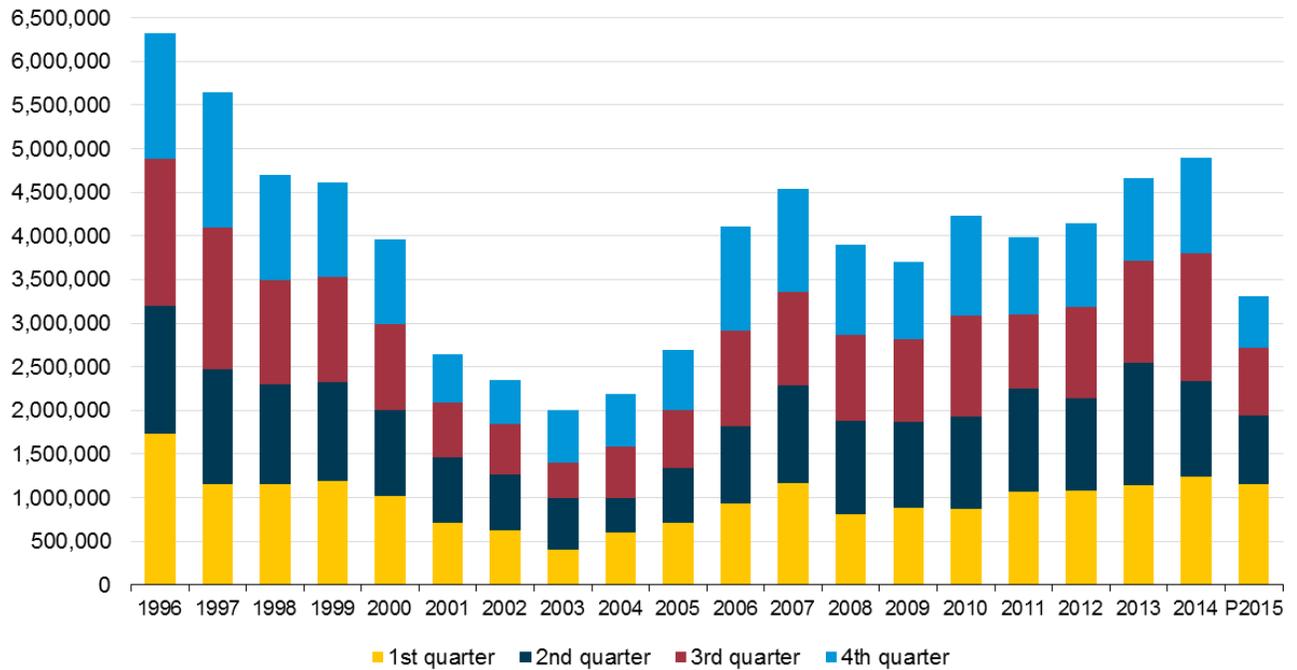
In-situ-leach plant owner	In-situ-leach plant name	County, state (existing and planned locations)	Production capacity (pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> per year)	Operating status at end of				
				2014	1st quarter 2015	2nd quarter 2015	3rd quarter 2015	4th quarter 2015
Uranerz Energy Corporation	Nichols Ranch ISR Project	Johnson and Campbell, Wyoming	2,000,000	Producing	Producing	Operating	Operating	Operating
Uranium Energy Corp.	Goliad ISR Uranium Project	Goliad, Texas	1,000,000	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed
Uranium One Americas, Inc.	Jab and Antelope	Sweetwater, Wyoming	2,000,000	Developing	Developing	Developing	Developing	Developing
Uranium One Americas, Inc.	Moore Ranch	Campbell, Wyoming	500,000	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed
Uranium One USA, Inc.	Willow Creek Project (Christensen Ranch and Irigaray)	Campbell and Johnson, Wyoming	1,300,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
<b>Total Production Capacity:</b>			<b>26,975,000</b>					

Notes: Production capacity for 4th Quarter 2015. An operating status of "Operating" indicates the in-situ-leach plant usually was producing uranium concentrate at the end of the period. Hobson ISR Plant processed uranium concentrate that came from La Palangana. Hobson and La Palangana are part of the same project. ISR stands for in-situ recovery. Christensen Ranch and Irigaray are part of the Willow Creek Project. Uranerz Energy has a tolling arrangement with Cameco Resources. Uranium is first processed at the Nichols Ranch plant and then transported to the Smith Ranch-Highland Operation plant for final processing into Uranerz's uranium concentrate. CPP stands for central processing plant.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A and Form EIA-851Q, "Domestic Uranium Production Report."

Figure 1. Uranium concentrate production in the United States, 1996 – 4th Quarter 2015

pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>



P = Preliminary data.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A and Form EIA-851Q, "Domestic Uranium Production Report."