

as confidential and not publicly released.

Management of the Uranium Concentrate Procurement Program, formerly under the Manhattan Engineer District of the Army Corps of Engineers, was transferred by early 1947 to the AEC as a key responsibility. The AEC's critical mission included the acquisition of uranium concentrates to meet defense needs and the development of a domestic uranium ore reserves base adequate to meet the future demand as then foreseen. The AEC began in 1947 a major program for uranium exploration and development of a domestic uranium mining industry. The program was designed to utilize the full-scale participation of mining-industry firms, small miners, and private prospectors, and its success required that exploration activities were maintained at a high level. Through financial incentives issued by the AEC, private industry was encouraged to explore for uranium deposits. The AEC also conducted exploration projects for uranium in selected areas and made the results from those projects available to the private sector. These actions succeeded in stimulating a rapid rate of private industry participation by providing supporting services and information to the private sector. During the Uranium Concentrate Procurement Program, the AEC and successive agencies issued announcements that redirected the program or established new incentives as required to achieve the long term goals of the concentrate procurement effort. These announcements, in varying degree, altered the Federal government's informational requirements for the ongoing uranium procurement and ore reserve programs.

The Uranium Ore Reserve Program was complementary to the Uranium Concentrate Procurement Program. The Uranium Ore Reserve Program dealt initially with the quantity and quality of uranium reserves on mining properties tributary to uranium mills, from which the AEC had contracted to buy uranium concentrates. The mills were to be amortized by the Government, generally in a short time period. AEC's responsibility was to assure that sufficient uranium ore to feed the mills existed on the tributary properties so the Government reasonably could expect to receive the amounts of uranium concentrate specified in the milling contracts and to assure that identified reserves were adequate for amortization of the milling projects proposed by industry firms.

The Uranium Ore Reserve Program's prime objective was collection of

current and accurate information at that time on the supply of uranium ores in the Western United States. Assessment of the ore reserves for uranium deposits on individual properties required independent calculation of reserves by Federal government agency mining engineers. For this purpose, drill-hole and other engineering data for a large number of properties were made available to the government agencies by the mining companies.

In addition to quantitative data regarding ore reserves, data were also obtained about the deposits' physical locations, ownership, geological and geochemical characteristics, mining problems, and mining costs. Data were also routinely obtained about industry activities, including acquisition of land for uranium exploration, exploration and development activities, mine production of uranium ore, milling of ore, the costs associated with these activities, and the processing of uranium ore and production of concentrate. Data and costs for other activities were also obtained. The data for each uranium mine and property were compiled into an individual file (record). The files for all U.S. mines and properties (1940–1983) make up the database. The files may also contain official letters and documents, notes, and other specific information prepared by the government agency staff.

The government's uranium ore reserve effort, which began early in the Uranium Concentrate Procurement Program, was continued after 1970 when the procurement program was ended. Estimates of domestic uranium ore reserves and potential (undiscovered) resources made by the ERDA and DOE under the Uranium Ore Reserve Program were published annually by those agencies into early 1983.

Across all records in the mines and properties database, the quantity and quality of data, subject-matter, type of information, its relative completeness, and similarity of the information are variable. Some records contain a large amount of detailed, company and property-specific information, whereas other records contain more limited information. For the Uranium Mines and Properties Database, the list of identification codes for mine/property names contains about 8,700 ID-code/name combinations that were assigned for recording and tracking the mines and properties data. That number is believed to represent an approximate upper limit for the total number of records (files) created for uranium mine and property data during the Federal government programs.

The Uranium Mines and Properties Database contains historical, confidential information about the domestic uranium industry (1940–1983) that relates to, but is not limited to, the ownership of uranium mines and properties, ore reserves, mine development, mining operations, and ore and uranium concentrate production. The historical information is potentially helpful to other Federal agencies in reclamation projects at former uranium mine sites, processing sites, and related sites. Such uses may include, but are not limited to, documenting the history and nature of former site use and activities, determining the outlines of former mine (open pit and underground) areas and workings, and to potentially relocate sites of surface exploration boreholes.

The information obtained by the EIA in its Uranium Mining and Processing Surveys is submitted by domestic uranium mining and milling firms. The information is analyzed and disseminated by the EIA as non-company-specific information in a variety of printed and electronic-media products that are used by analysts and policymakers in the government and the private sector. (EIA's uranium information is available on its web site at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/nuclear/page/newuran.html>.) The uranium industry information obtained in EIA's uranium surveys is not integrated with the U.S. Uranium Mines and Properties Database (1947–1983).

In addition to information obtained on its Uranium Mining and Processing Surveys, the EIA uses information contained in the Uranium Mines and Properties Database to annually prepare estimates of the domestic uranium ore reserve situation. The estimates of U.S. ore reserves made by the EIA are published annually in the "Uranium Industry Annual" report series (1985–2001); submitted to the Congress, the U.S. Department of Energy, and other Federal agencies as required; and periodically submitted to the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

II. Current Actions

The EIA is notifying the public of its intent to release, upon request from Federal government agencies for official use, information about uranium mines and properties in United States. The information is considered confidential. Information that may be released includes: (1) The U.S. Uranium Mines and Properties Database containing information about uranium mines and