## The Market For Uranium

NMA/NRC May 25, 2011

Tom Pool - International Nuclear, Inc. Bob Maxwell – Behre Dolbear

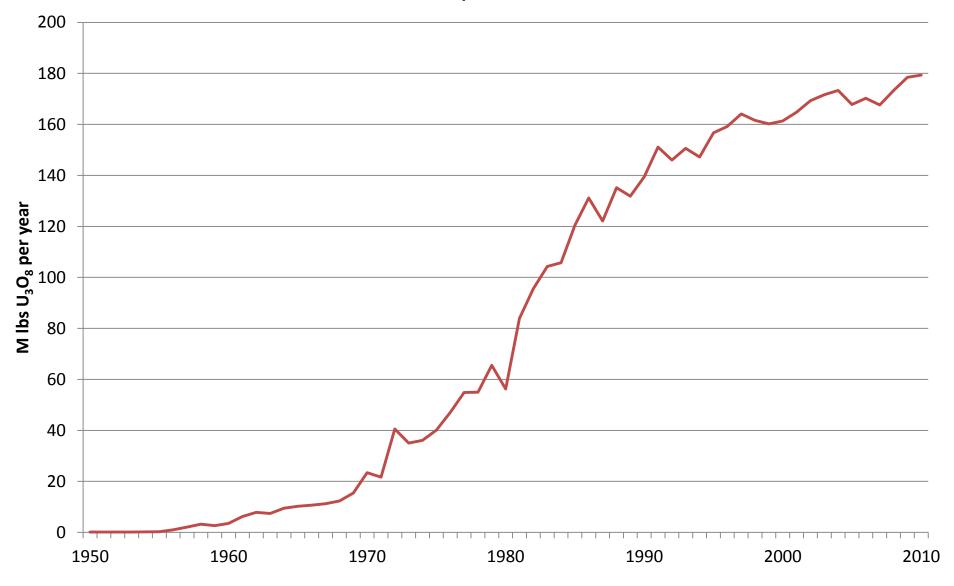


# The Market For Uranium

- Demand
- Supply
- Prices
- Fukushima Effect



#### **World Uranium Requirements - Historical**



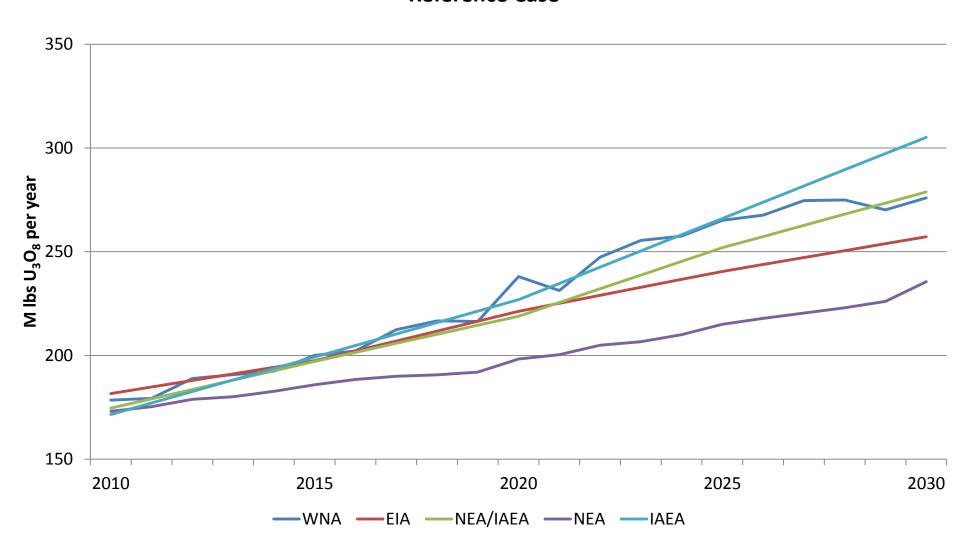


# **Uranium Demand**

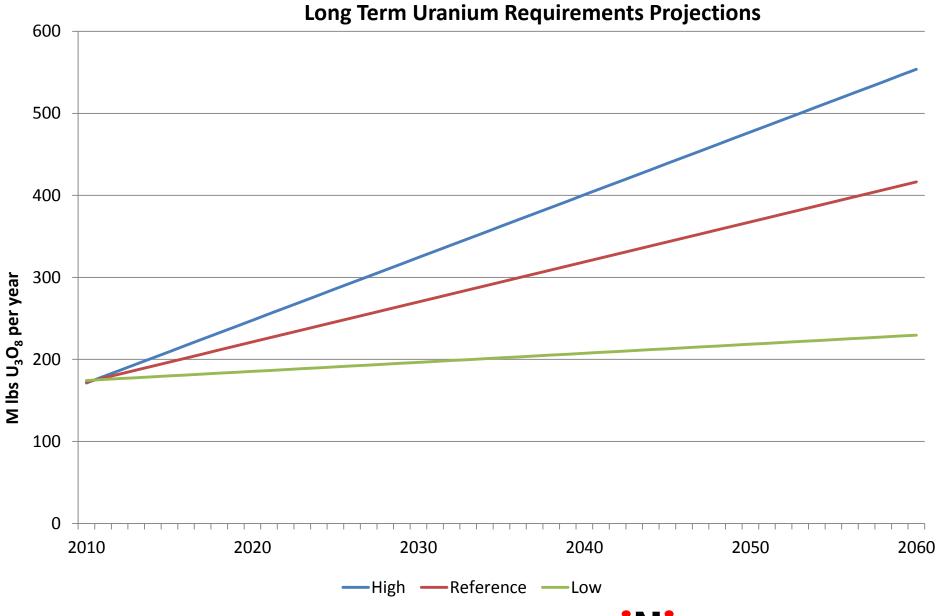
- Existing reactors: 440 in the world, 104 in US
  - Retirements: Minimal
  - Life Extensions
    - US 66 20-year Extensions Granted
    - US 16 Applications Filed
    - US 20 Applications Expected
  - Uprates
    - US 7,500 MWe 1977 2015
  - Outages
    - Refueling Decreasing Duration
    - Unplanned Declining pre-Fukushima
    - Capacity Factor
      - US topping out at 90% +
- New Reactors: 61 under construction
  - Initial Cores
  - Periodic Refuelings



# **Uranium Requirements Projections – World – Near Term Reference Case**









# Long-Term Uranium Requirements Cumulative 2010 to 2060

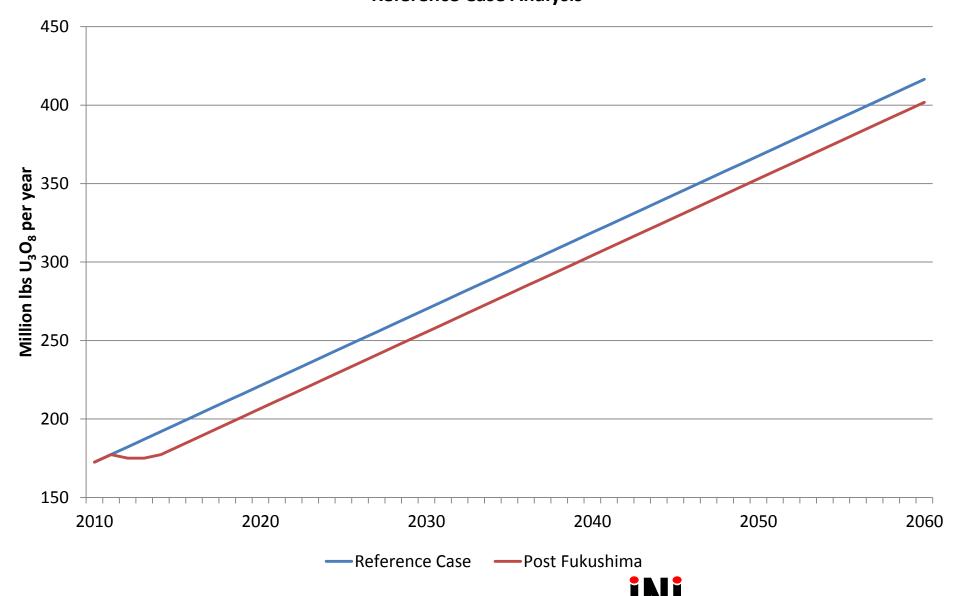
Low Case: 10.3 billion pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>

Reference Case: 15.0 billion pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>

High Case: 18.5 billion pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>



# Long-Term Uranium Requirements Post Fukushima SWAG Reference Case Analysis



INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR, INC.

# Long-Term Uranium Requirements Post Fukushima Outlook

- Pre-Fukushima Requirements Projection
  - 15.0 billion pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
- Post-Fukushima SWAG
  - 14.3 billion pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
- Thus, the Fukushima incident is projected to have cost the uranium industry some 700 million pounds during period 2011 – 2060.
  - At current prices of about \$55 per pound, the revenue loss to the uranium industry is likely to be on the order of \$38.5 billion!



# **Uranium Supply**

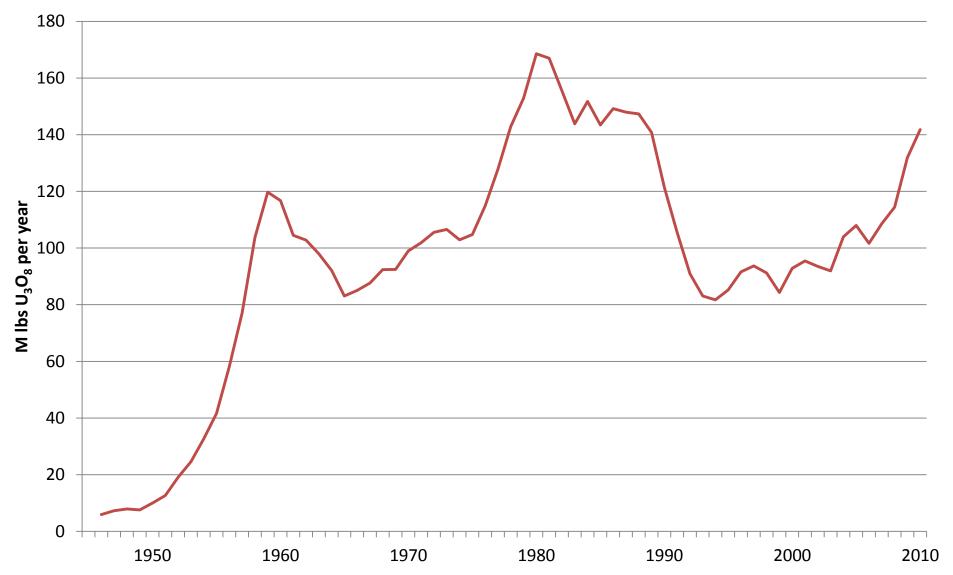
- Resources
- Primary Supply
  - Mines
  - By-Product
- Secondary Supply
  - Inventory
  - Spent Fuel Reprocessing
  - Government/Military HEU Plutonium MOX
  - Depleted Uranium



## **Uranium Resources - IAEA**

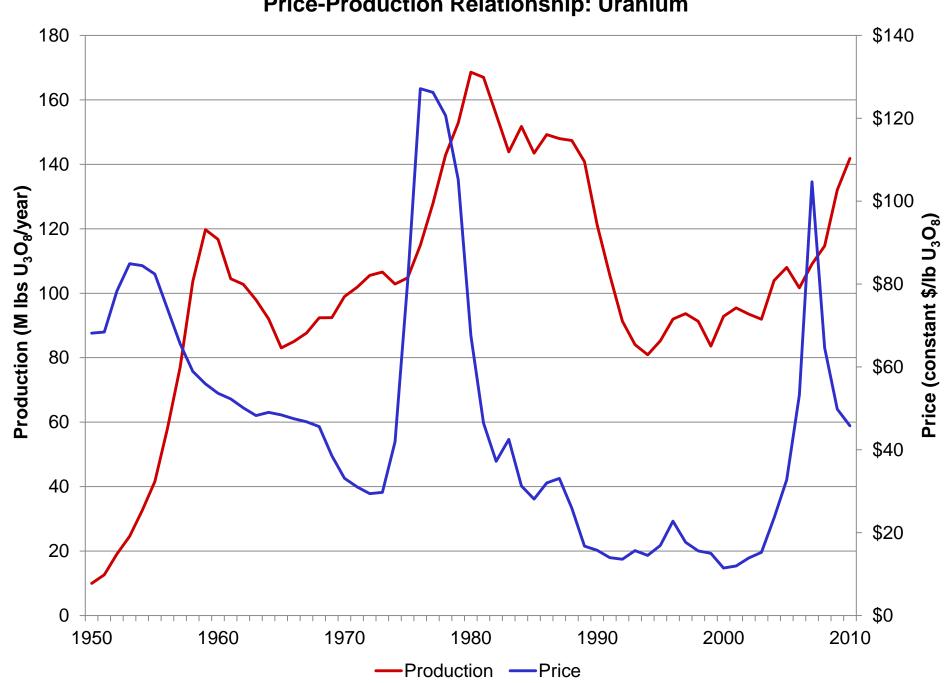
- 373 Deposits
- $\sim$ 40 Billion Pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (222 years at the current rate of consumption)
  - Includes some deposits currently politically inaccessible
  - Includes substantial phosphate by-product: 7 Billion
     Pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
  - Includes some black shale: 500 Million Pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
  - Does not include seawater: ~100 Billion Pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>

#### **World Uranium Production - Historical**

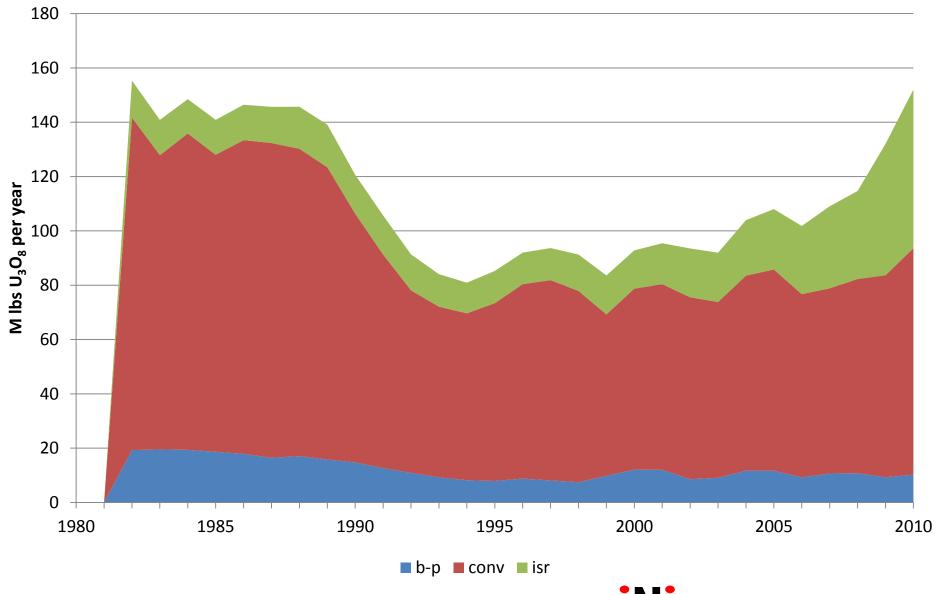




#### **Price-Production Relationship: Uranium**

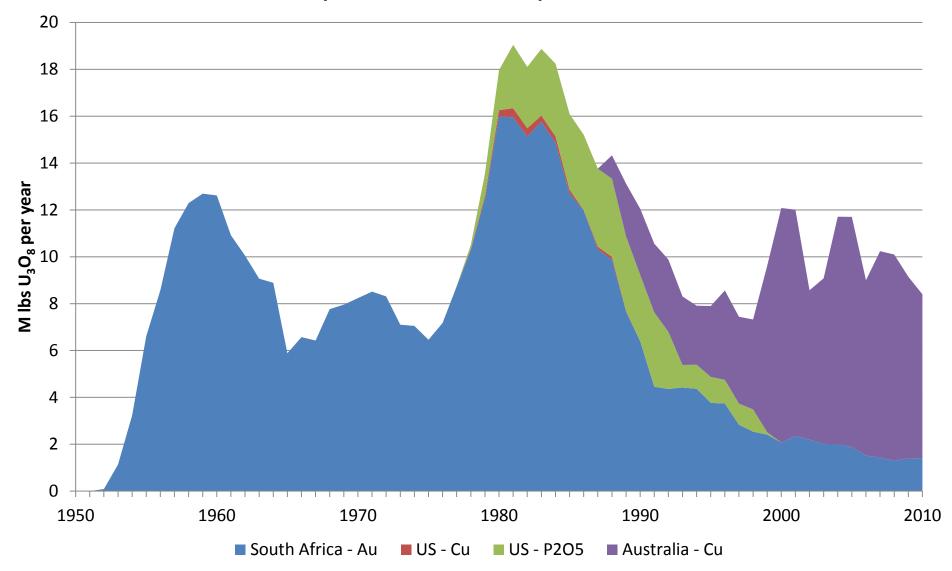


#### **World Uranium Production By Method - Historical**



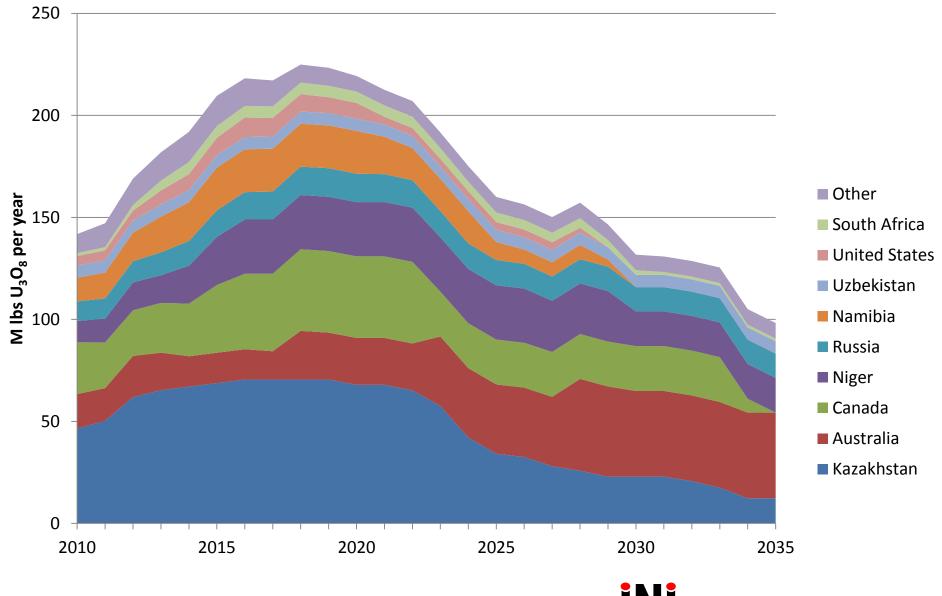


#### **By-Product Uranium Output - World**



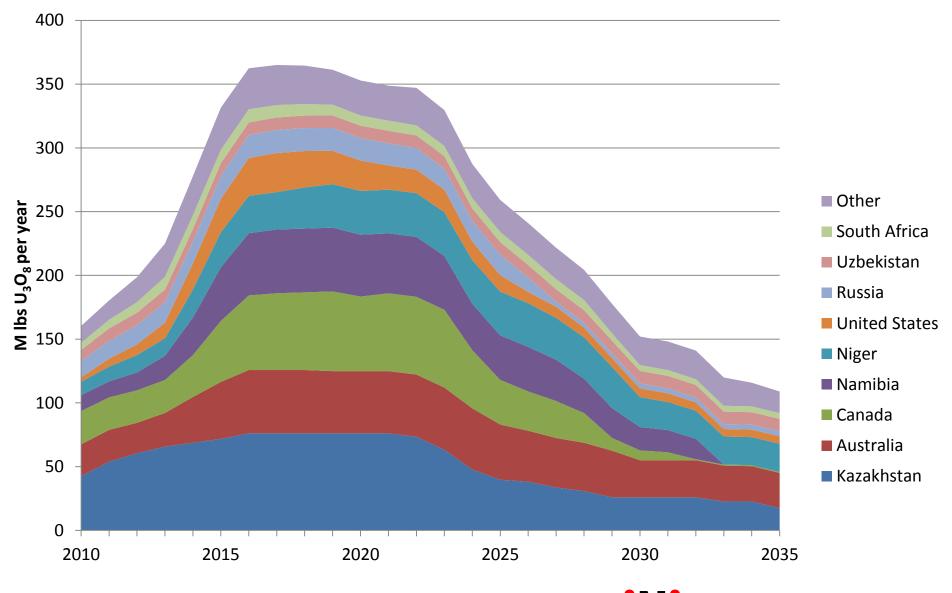


#### **Scheduled Uranium Production Forecast**





#### **Uranium Production Capability Forecast**





Submitted

WDEQ & NRC

**NRC** 

WDEQ & NRC

**NRC** 

WDEQ & NRC

NRC & WDEQ

Pending cancellation of moratorium

**Future** 

NRC Mid-2011

Acquired

WDEQ - DDW

**WDEQ** 

**WDEQ** 

**NRC** 

NRC & NMUIC

4	A Sampling of Status of Major Permits - USA			

**Project** 

**Moore Ranch** 

Peninsula/Strata - Lance

Titan – Sheep Mountain

**Uranerz – Nichols Ranch** 

Uranium One – Ludeman

Ur Energy – Lost Creek

**URI - Churchrock** 

**Virginia Uranium** 

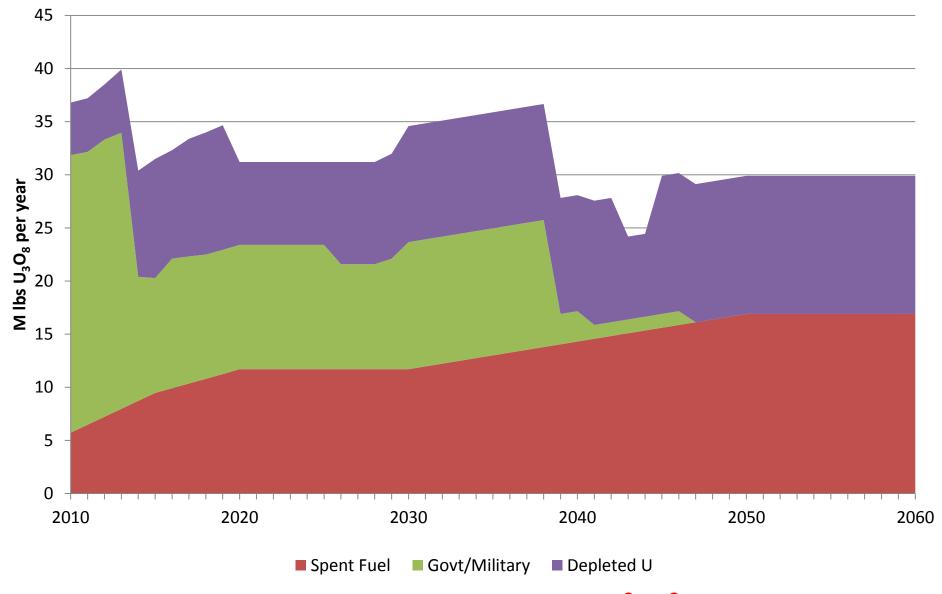
Powertech – Dewey Burdock

# Secondary Supply

- Inventory (Natural): Net Increase
  - Government: Almost Gone
  - Producers: Need to accumulate as production increases
  - Consumers: Need to accumulate as consumption increases
  - Hedge Funds/Speculators: Accumulating as in almost all commodities and adding volatility
- Spent Fuel Reprocessing: Increasing
- Government/Military HEU Plutonium MOX: Declining
- Depleted Uranium: Increasing
- Price Sensitivity: Relatively Low (Politically driven)

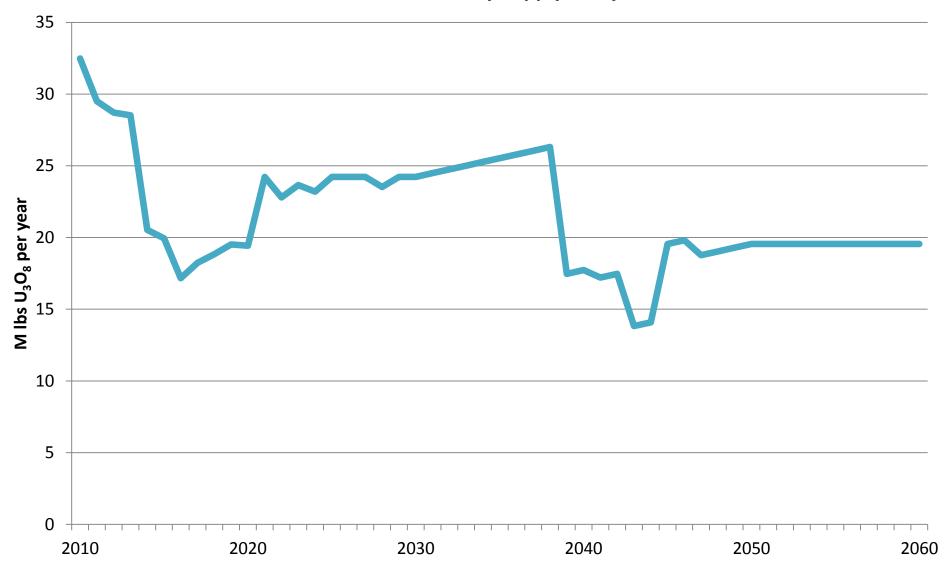


#### **Secondary Uranium Supply Components - Projected**





#### **Net Uranium Secondary Supply - Projected**



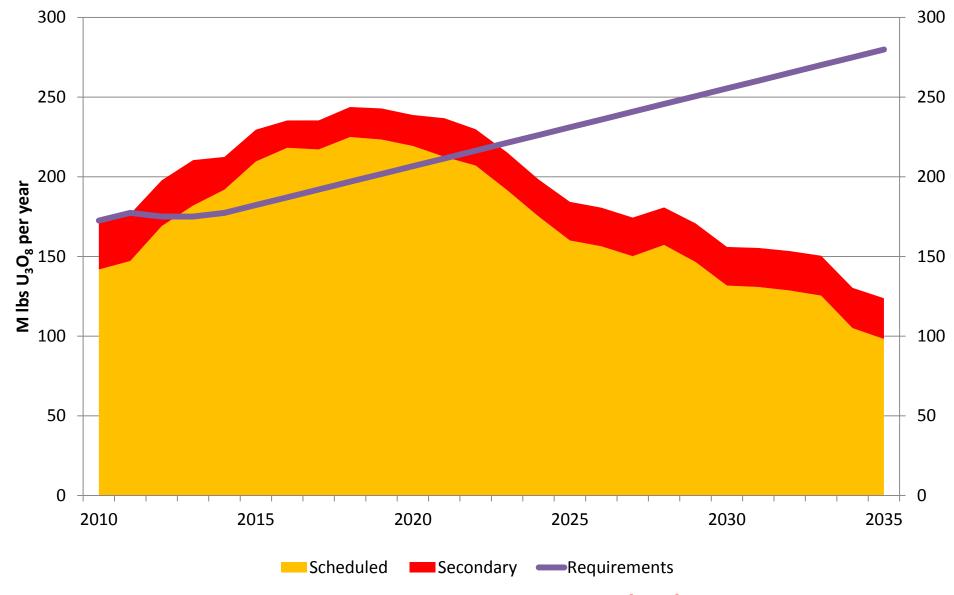


# Supply – Demand Balance

- Demand
  - Post Fukushima Dip/Pause
  - Long-term growth at 2% per year
- Supply
  - Oversupply in the near-term
  - Project cancellations & deferments
  - Increased competition for sales

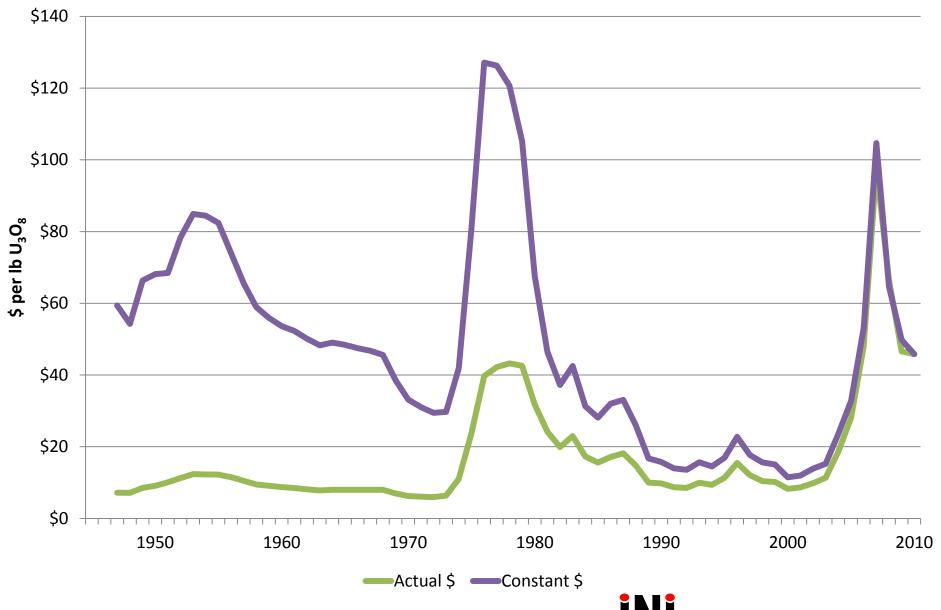


#### **Uranium Supply-Demand Balance**





#### **Uranium Price - Historical**





## **Prices**

- The 2007 price bubble was driven by speculation and manipulation.
  - Uranium spot price is very easy to manipulate because the market is so thin
  - Hedge fund buying has taken over 10 M lbs out of the market
- The 2007 price bubble dislocated production costs
  - Producers had very high expectations for future prices
    - Lowered cut-off grades
    - Increased wages
    - Catch-up on maintenance
    - New equipment
    - Overall: A higher standard of living

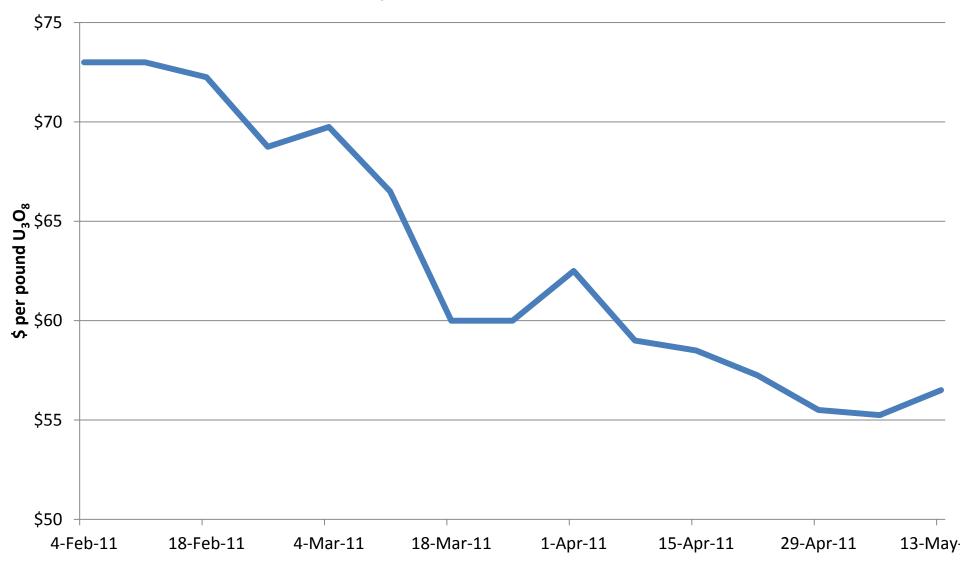


### Fukushima Effect – Uranium Stock Prices

Company	<u>8-Mar</u>	<u>15-Mar</u>	Loss
Cameco	\$38.16	\$29.30	23%
Paladin	\$5.00	\$3.26	35%
Uranium One	\$6.02	\$3.55	41%
Tournigan	\$0.30	\$0.17	43%
Ur-Energy	\$2.57	\$1.49	42%
Uranium Energy	\$5.63	\$3.36	40%



#### **Uranium Spot Prices - Fukushima Effect**





## **Prices**

- Prices and costs are related
  - Ranger 2005: \$16.66 per pound  $U_3O_8$
  - Ranger 2010: \$66.74 per pound  $U_3O_8$
  - Rossing 2005: \$16.07 per pound  $U_3O_8$
  - Rossing 2010: \$62.63 per pound  $U_3O_8$
- Higher prices mean higher costs
  - Decrease in cut-off grade
  - Higher standard of living



## Prices - Future

- Volatility due to speculation and manipulation
- Oversupply in the near- to mid-term
- Producer difficulty in lowering costs and, hence, sales prices
- Increasing regulation and NGO intervention increases costs and, hence, prices
- Overall: Conflicting pressures, but weakness likely in the near-term and gains in the mid-term as the Fukushima effect fades



# Conclusions

- Demand Stagnating
- Supply Abundant resources, increasing competition
- Prices Weakening in near term
- Companies Difficulties raising financing
- Fukushima Effect Revitalization of NGOs throughout the world and a 2 to 3 year setback for the nuclear industry

