



*Independent Statistics & Analysis*

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Administration

# Domestic Uranium Production Report 4th Quarter 2016

February 2017



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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 2016 on U.S. uranium production activities in this report, *Domestic Uranium Production Report 4th Quarter 2016*. 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 2016

U.S. production of uranium concentrate in the fourth quarter 2016 was 725,947 pounds  $U_3O_8$ , down 11% from the third quarter 2016 and up 16% from the fourth quarter 2015. During the fourth quarter 2016, U.S. uranium was produced at seven U.S. uranium facilities, the same number as in the third quarter 2016.

U.S. uranium mill in production (state)

1. White Mesa Mill (Utah)

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

2. Crow Butte Operation (Nebraska)
3. Lost Creek Project (Wyoming)
4. Nichols Ranch ISR Project (Wyoming)
5. Ross CPP (Wyoming)
6. Smith Ranch-Highland Operation (Wyoming)
7. Willow Creek Project (Wyoming)

## Preliminary 2016 total

U.S. uranium concentrate production totaled 2,916,558 pounds  $U_3O_8$  in 2016. This amount was 13% lower than the 3,343,207 pounds produced in 2015 and the lowest annual U.S. production since 2,689,178 pounds produced in 2005.

**Table 1. Total production of uranium concentrate in the United States, 1996 – 4th Quarter 2016**pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>

Calendar-year quarter	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	Calendar-year total
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>
2015	1,154,408	789,980	774,541	624,278	<b>3,343,207</b>
P2016	626,522	745,306	818,783	725,947	<b>2,916,558</b>

E = Estimated data. P = Preliminary data. NA = Not available. -- = Not applicable.

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
2015	0	0	4	0	4
4th quarter 2016	0	1	6	0	7

<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				
				2015	1st quarter 2016	2nd quarter 2016	3rd quarter 2016	4th quarter 2016
Anfield Resources Inc.	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-Processing Alternate Feed	Operating-Processing Alternate Feed	Operating-Processing Alternate Feed	Operating-Processing Alternate Feed
Energy Fuels Wyoming Inc	Sheep Mountain	Fremont, Wyoming	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 Corporation	Pinon Ridge Mill	Montrose, Colorado	500	Permitted and Licensed	Permitted and Licensed	Permitted and Licensed	Permitted and Licensed	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.

- = No data reported

Notes: Capacity for 4th Quarter 2016. 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				
				2015	1st quarter 2016	2nd quarter 2016	3rd quarter 2016	4th quarter 2016
AUC LLC	Reno Creek	Campbell, Wyoming	2,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	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	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	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	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed
Hydro Resources, Inc.	Crownpoint	McKinley, New Mexico	1,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	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	Standby	Standby	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	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby
South Texas Mining Venture	La Palangana	Duval, Texas	1,000,000	Operating	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby
Strata Energy Inc	Ross CPP	Crook, Wyoming	375,000	Changing License to Operational	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
URI, Inc.	Kingsville Dome	Kleberg, Texas	1,000,000	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration
URI, Inc.	Rosita	Duval, Texas	1,000,000	Reclamation	Reclamation	Reclamation	Reclamation	Reclamation

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

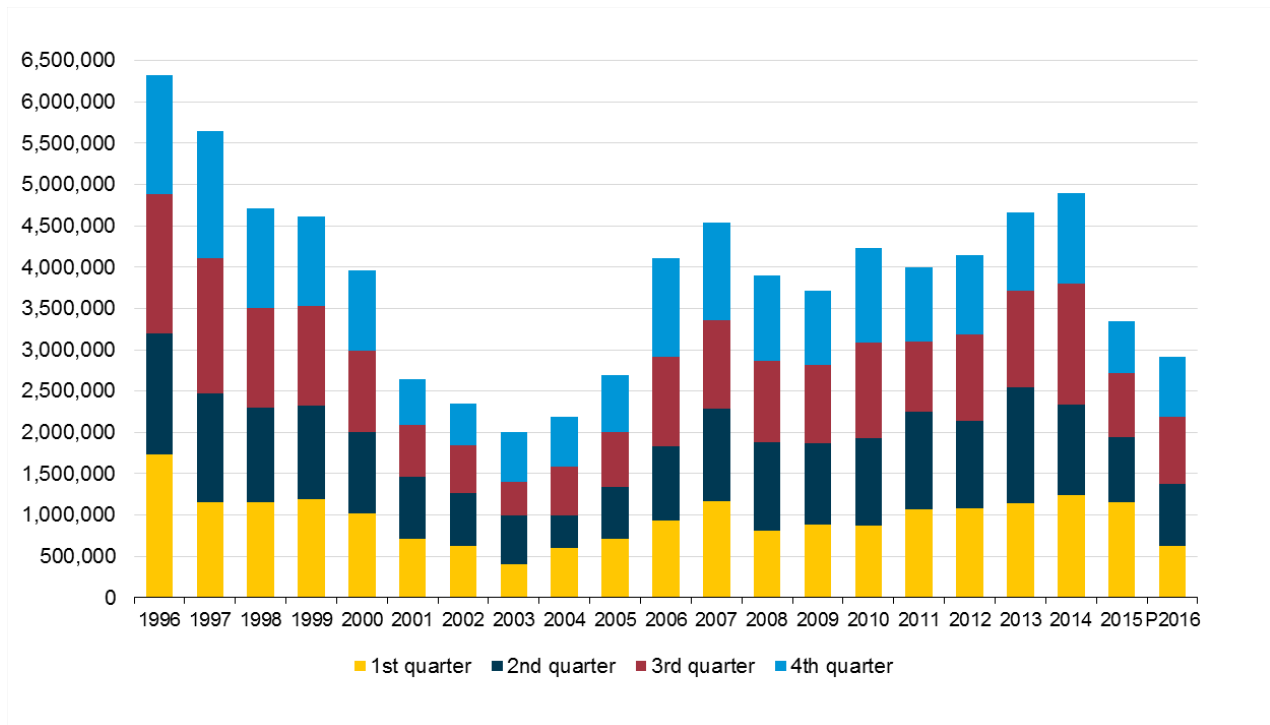
In-situ-leach plant owner	In-situ-leach plant name	County, state (existing and planned locations)	Production capacity (pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> per year)	Operating status at end of				
				2015	1st quarter 2016	2nd quarter 2016	3rd quarter 2016	4th quarter 2016
URI, Inc.	Vasquez	Duval, Texas	800,000	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration
Uranerz Energy Corporation (An Energy Fuels company)	Nichols Ranch ISR Project	Johnson and Campbell, Wyoming	2,000,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
Uranium Energy Corp.	Goliad ISR Uranium Project	<i>Goliad, Texas</i>	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	<i>Sweetwater, Wyoming</i>	2,000,000	Developing	Developing	Developing	Developing	Developing
Uranium One Americas, Inc.	Moore Ranch	<i>Campbell, Wyoming</i>	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 2016. 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 2016**

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."