

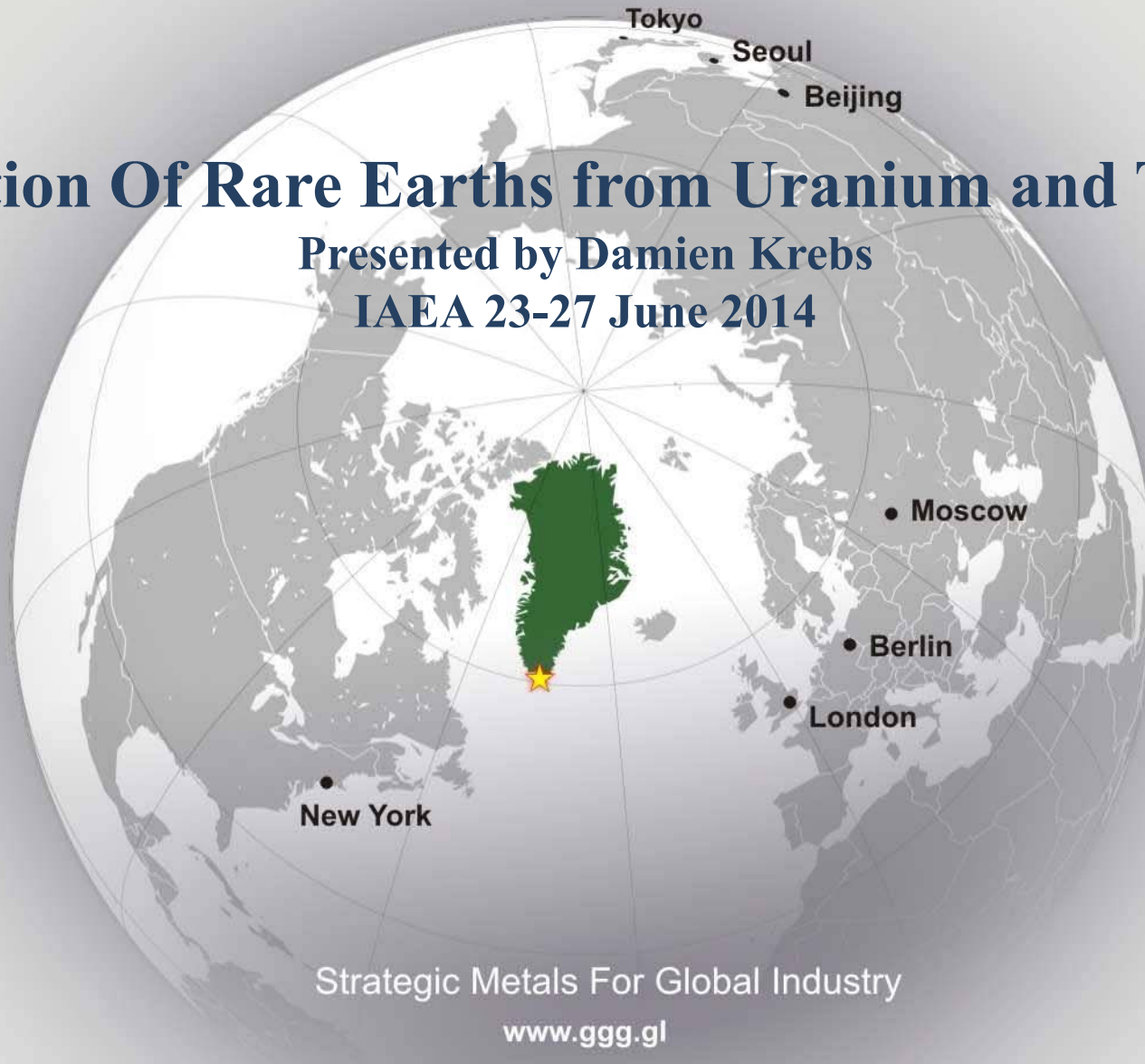


**GREENLAND**  
MINERALS AND ENERGY LTD

# Separation Of Rare Earths from Uranium and Thorium

Presented by Damien Krebs

IAEA 23-27 June 2014



Strategic Metals For Global Industry

[www.ggg.gl](http://www.ggg.gl)



# Greenland Minerals and Energy Ltd

ASX-listed, Greenland-focussed mineral explorer and developer



## Kvanefjeld multi-element project (REEs, uranium, zinc):

- A mineral project of world-wide strategic importance
- One of world's largest REE-uranium resources
- Highly accessible – able to mine all year round
- Non-refractory ore type – beneficiates and leaches well with low-technical risk
- Long-life, cost-effective production of rare earths
- Environmental and social impact risks are low and manageable



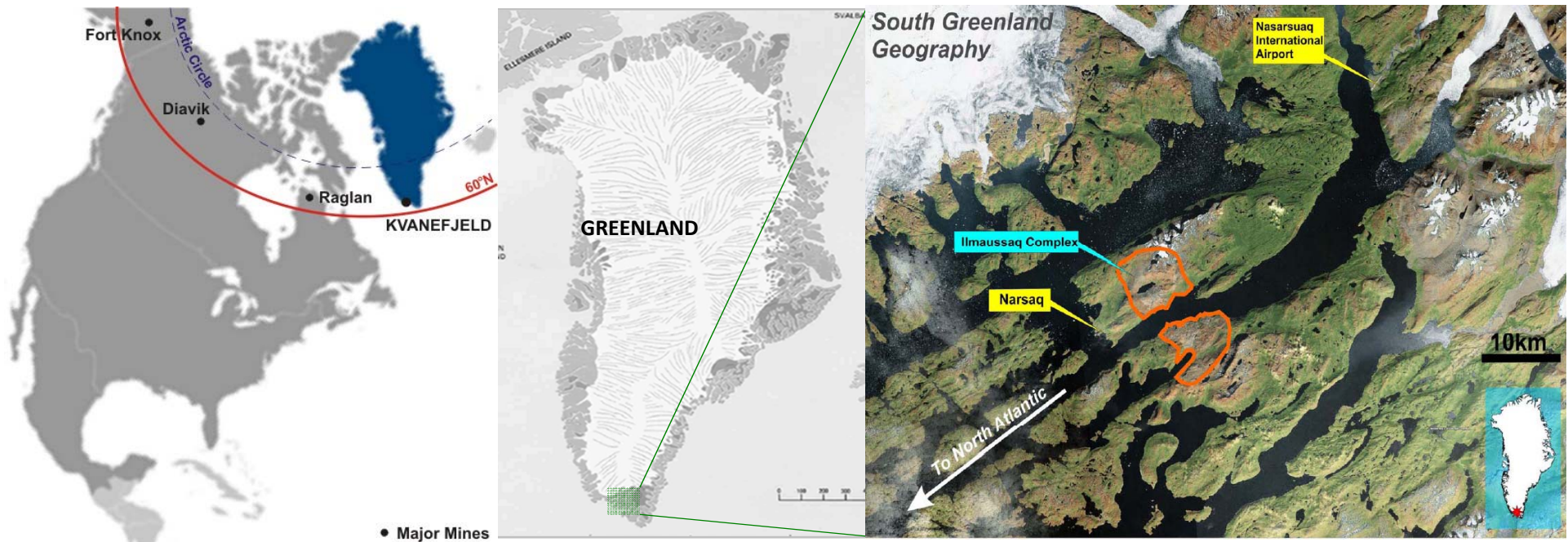


# The Kvanefjeld Project – Favourable Location

## Readily accessible location near existing infrastructure



- Located at a latitude lower than long established mining regions of Alaska and northern Canada
- Adjacent to deep water fjords which run directly out to the North Atlantic Ocean
  - *Mine and concentrator can be built within 10kms of harbour;*
  - *Access to nearby hydropower, minimal infrastructure requirements*
- Town of Narsaq located 10km from Kvanefjeld can provide both labour and services

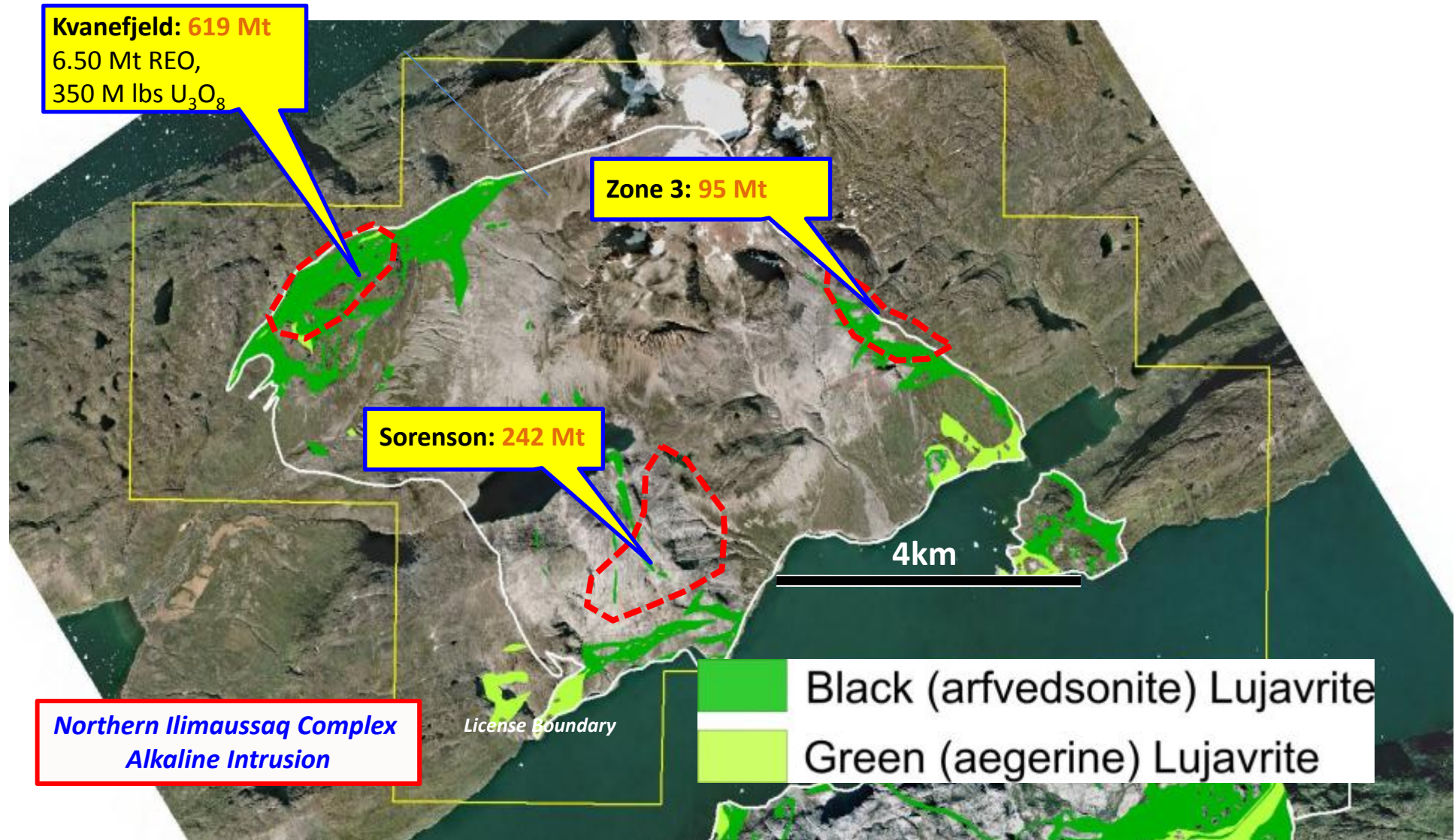






# The Kvanefjeld Project – Unique Geology

## Location of Deposits within Northern Ilimaussaq Complex





# The Kvanefjeld Project – Significant Resources

## Exploration and Resource Estimation continuing success



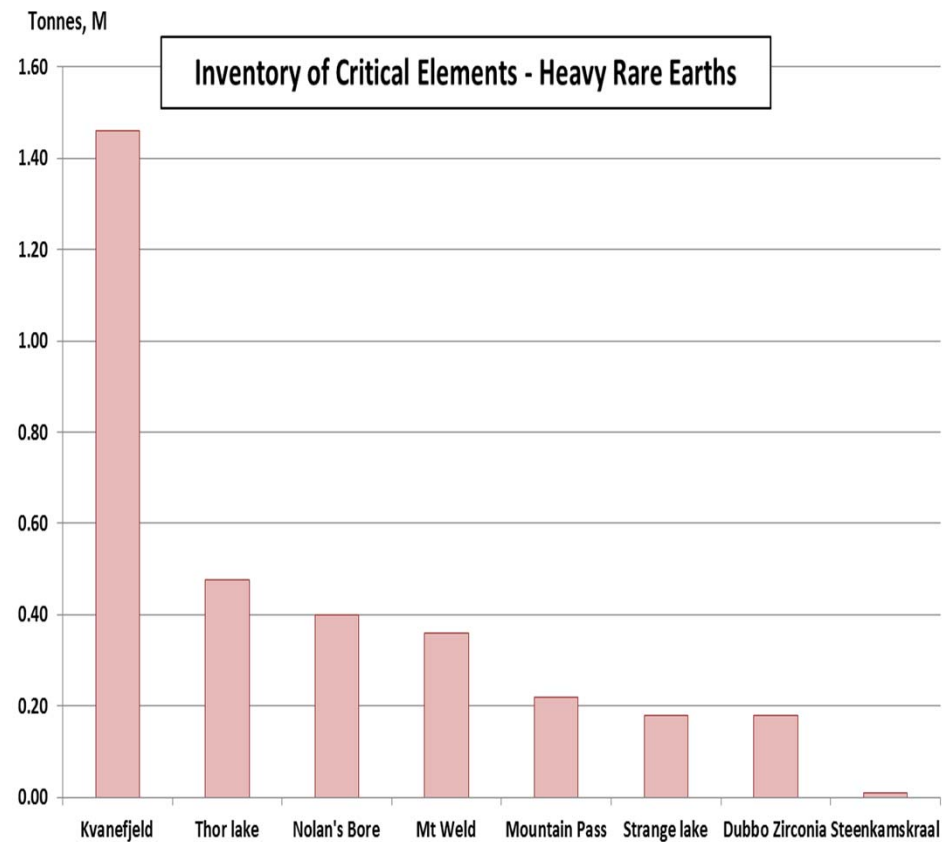
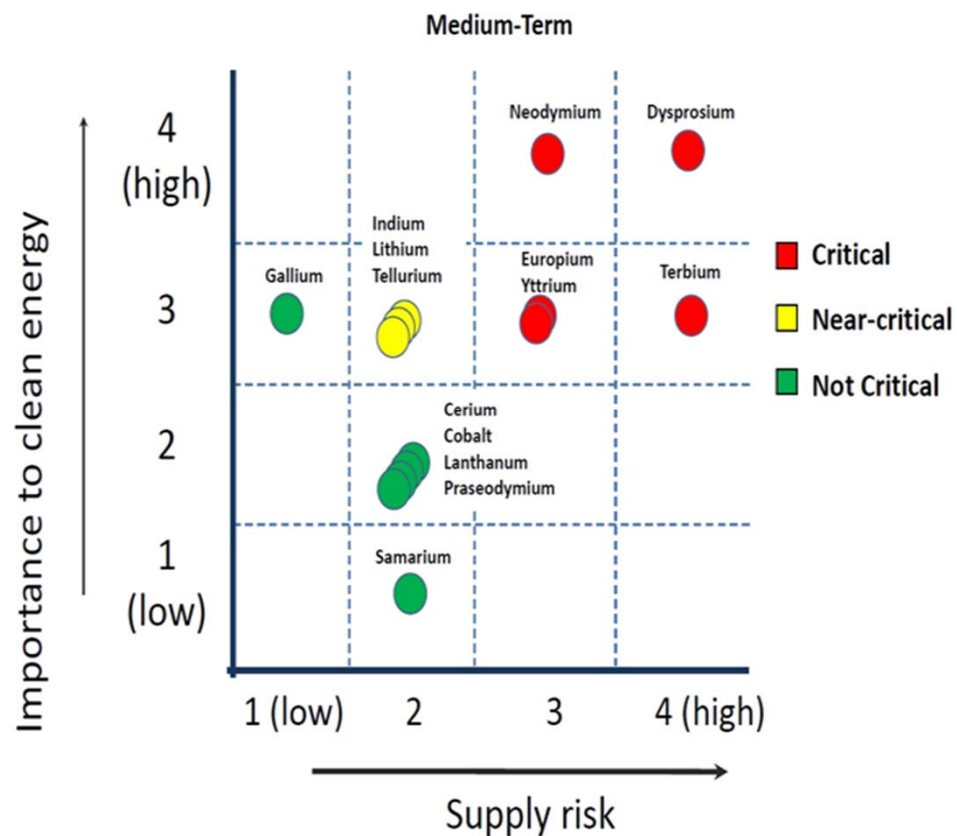
- GME has invested over \$75M over past 6 years in exploration and research
- Overall Project JORC-code compliant resource inventory is 956Mt containing 10.33 Mt TREO and 575 Mlbs U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>

Deposit Name	Tonnage (Mt)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> Grade (ppm)	REO Grade (%)	Contained U3O8 (Mlbs)	Contained REO (Mt)
Kvanefjeld	619	257	1.06	350	6.55
Sorensen	242	304	1.10	162	2.67
Zone 3	95	300	1.16	63	1.11
Total	956	273	1.08	575	10.33



# Rare Earths Market – Focus on Strategic Elements

## Kvanefjeld's Endowment of Critical Rare Earths



Source: US DoE Critical Materials Strategy Report November 2011



# Greenland – An Important New Minerals Region

Pro-mining government looking to foreign investment and expertise



- Greenland moved from *'Home Rule'* to *'Self Rule'* in 2009, and assumed full authority over its mineral and hydrocarbon resources, formerly shared with Denmark
- Looking to mining as a cornerstone of its future economy; the key to economic independence
- New government elected in March 2013; three party coalition headed by Siumut Party

## Why is this of particular significance??

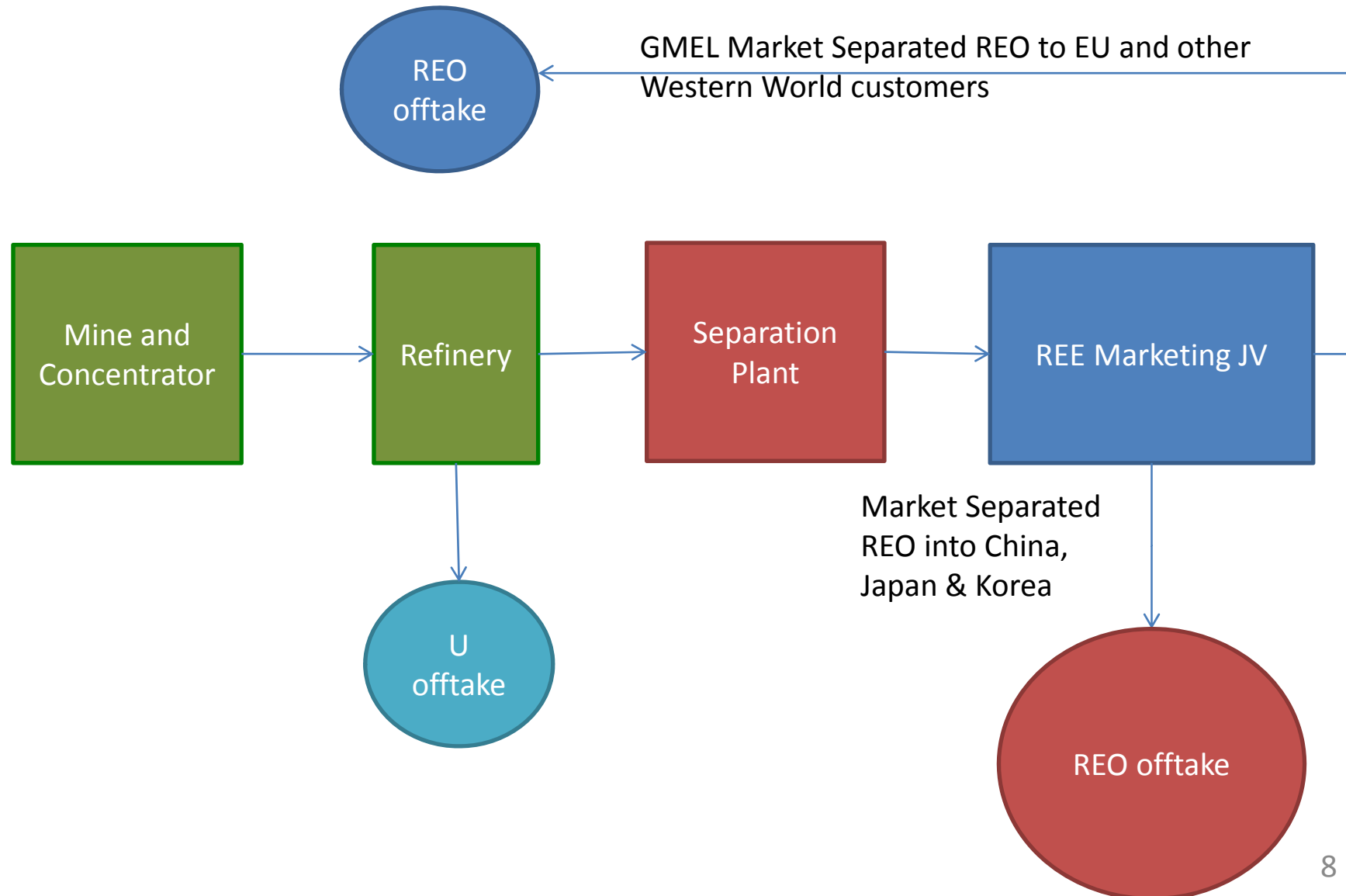
- Greenland Government has lifted the ban on uranium mining (24 Oct 2013)
- Looking to finalise regulations and prioritise the development of the Kvanefjeld project
- This pivotal move will be a critical step in opening up one of the world's largest resources of both rare earth metals and uranium to mine development; a move that could change the dynamics of global REE supply





# Our Goal: Build Global Rare Earth Business

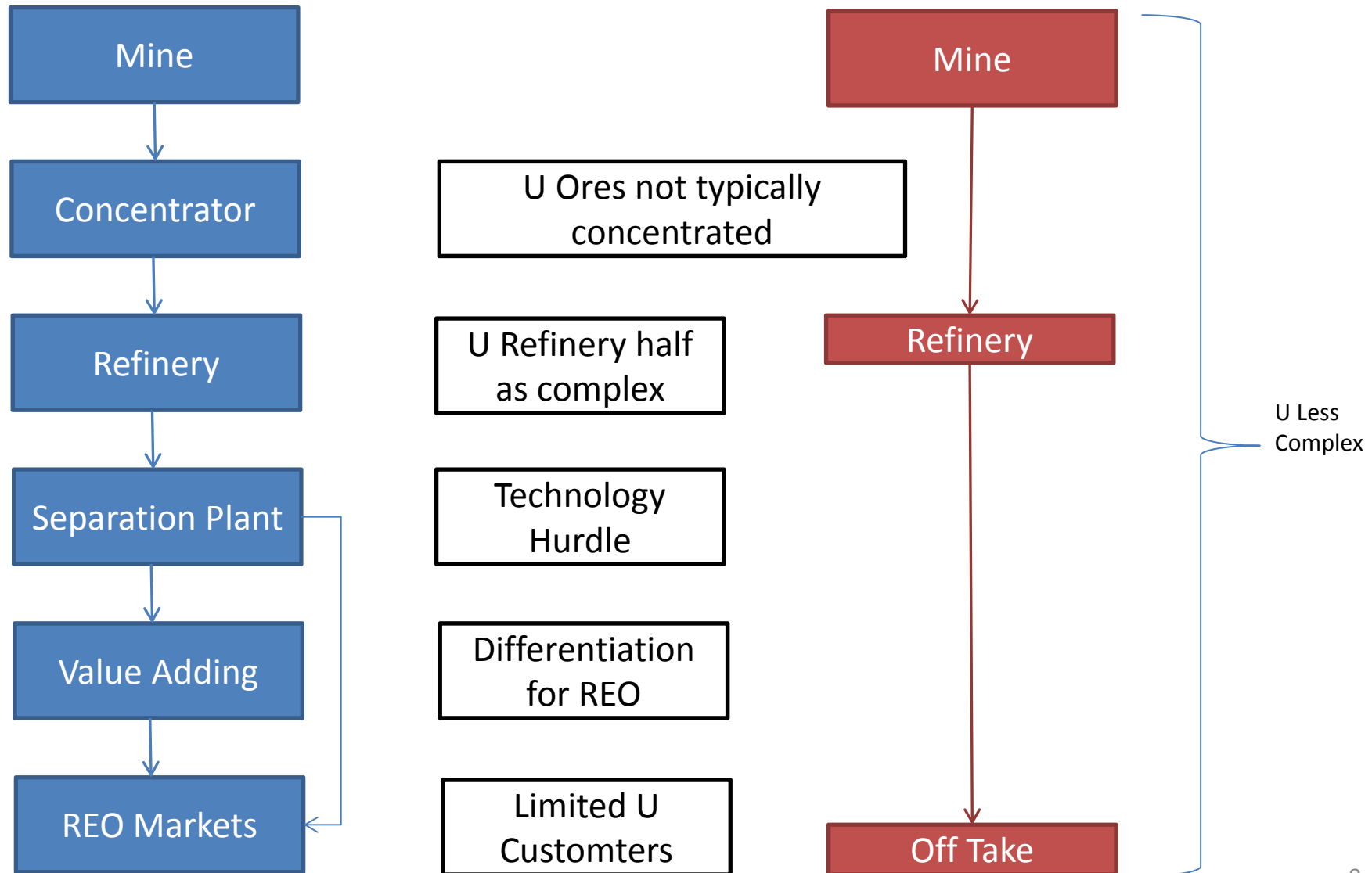
MOU Recently Signed with Established REE Producer – Non Ferrous China (NFC)





# Comparison of REE Project with U Project

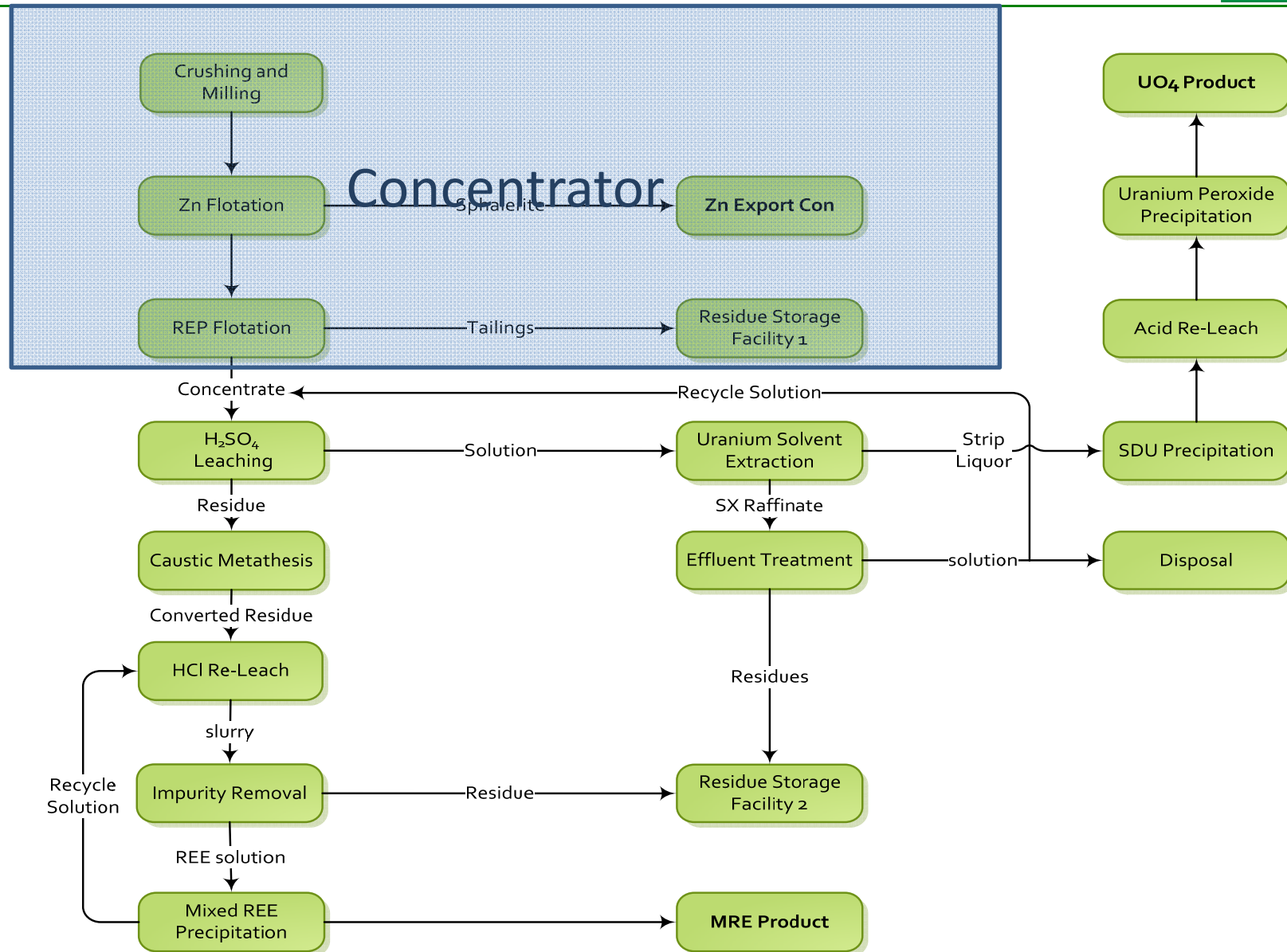
Kvanefjeld will be more complex than a uranium project





# Kvanefjeld Multi-Element Project Flowsheet

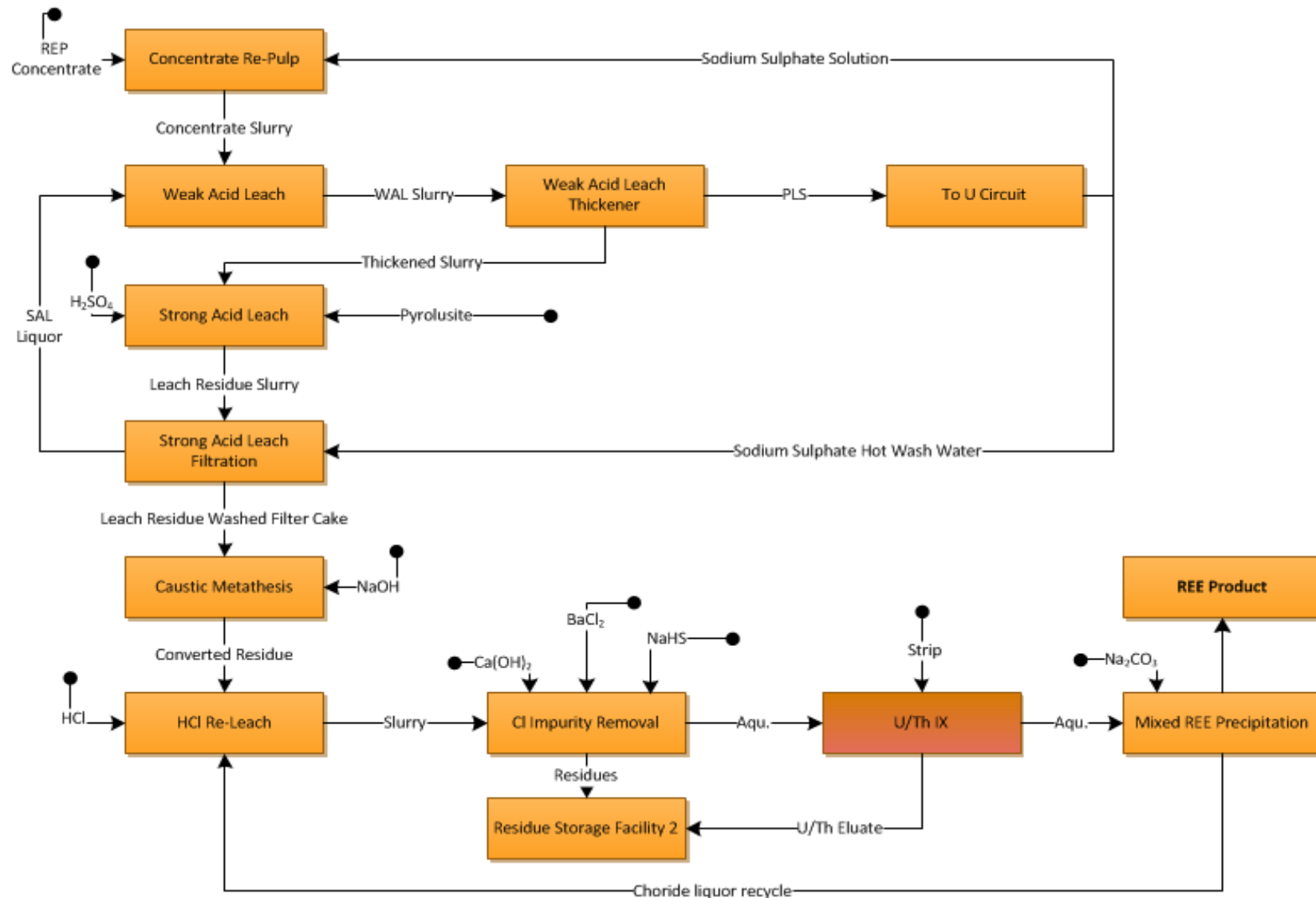
Concentrator and Refinery in Greenland.





# Rare Earth Hydrometallurgy Flowsheet

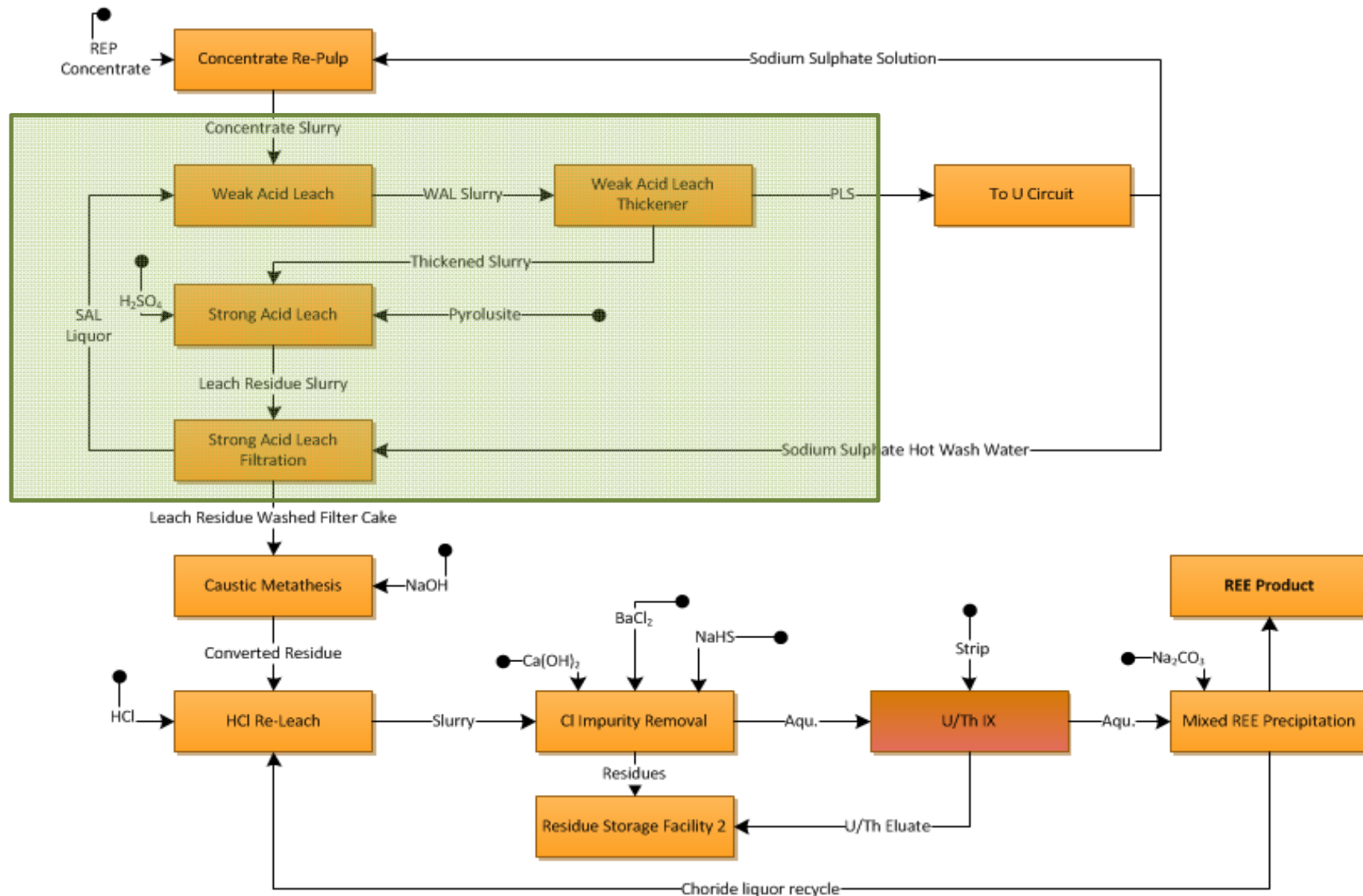
Simple Equipment and Elegant Chemistry





# Sulphuric Acid Atmospheric Leaching

## Two Stage Counter Current Leaching of Concentrate





# Sulphuric Leaching Chemistry

Simple Equipment and Elegant Chemistry

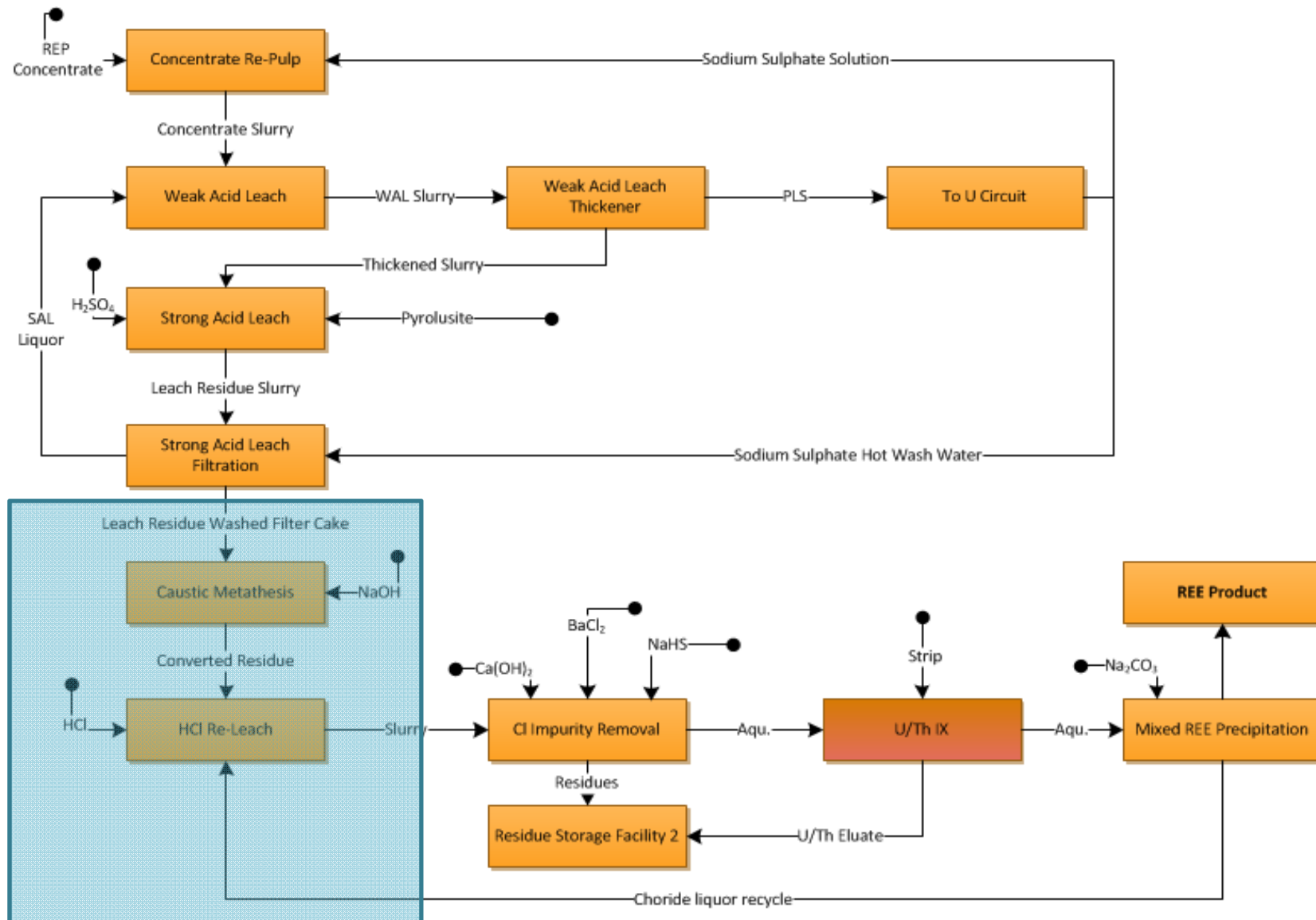


- Atmospheric Leaching at 98°C
- Two stage leaching reduces acid consumption
- Steenstrupine main mineral
  - $\text{Na}_{14}\text{REE}_6\text{Mn}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{Zr,Th})(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})_2(\text{PO}_4)_7(\text{OH})_2\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Standard uranium leach chemistry
  - $\text{UO}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3^{4-}$  formed
- REE Leach then precipitate as double salts
  - $\text{Na}^+ + \text{REE}^{3+} + 2\text{SO}_4^{2-} + x\text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{NaREE}(\text{SO}_4)_2\cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 
    - Effectively separates REE from U



# Simplified Hydrometallurgy Flowsheet

## Two Additional Atmospheric Treatment Stages





# Rare Earth Recovery

## Selective and High Recovery of REEs Over Metathesis and HCl Re-Leach



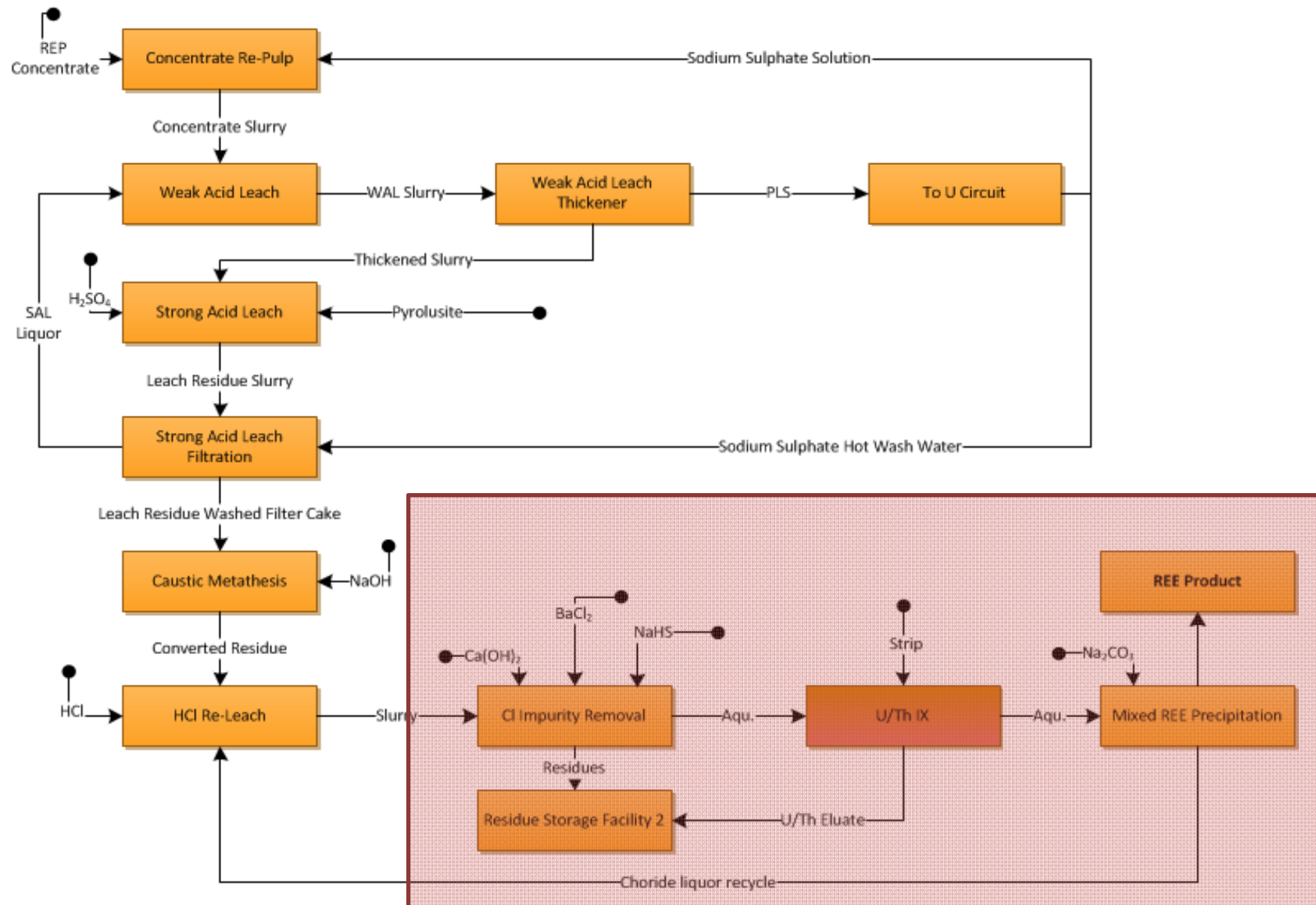
- Caustic Metathesis occurs at pH 11.5
- $\text{NaREE}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O} + 3\text{NaOH} = \text{REE}(\text{OH})_3 + 2\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 + x\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Caustic Converted Residue Leached with HCl
  - Under mild conditions
    - 25 deg C and pH 2.0.
  - $\text{REE}(\text{OH})_3 + 3\text{HCl} = \text{REECl}_3 + 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$





# Simplified Hydrometallurgy Flowsheet

## Rare Earth Purification and Recovery



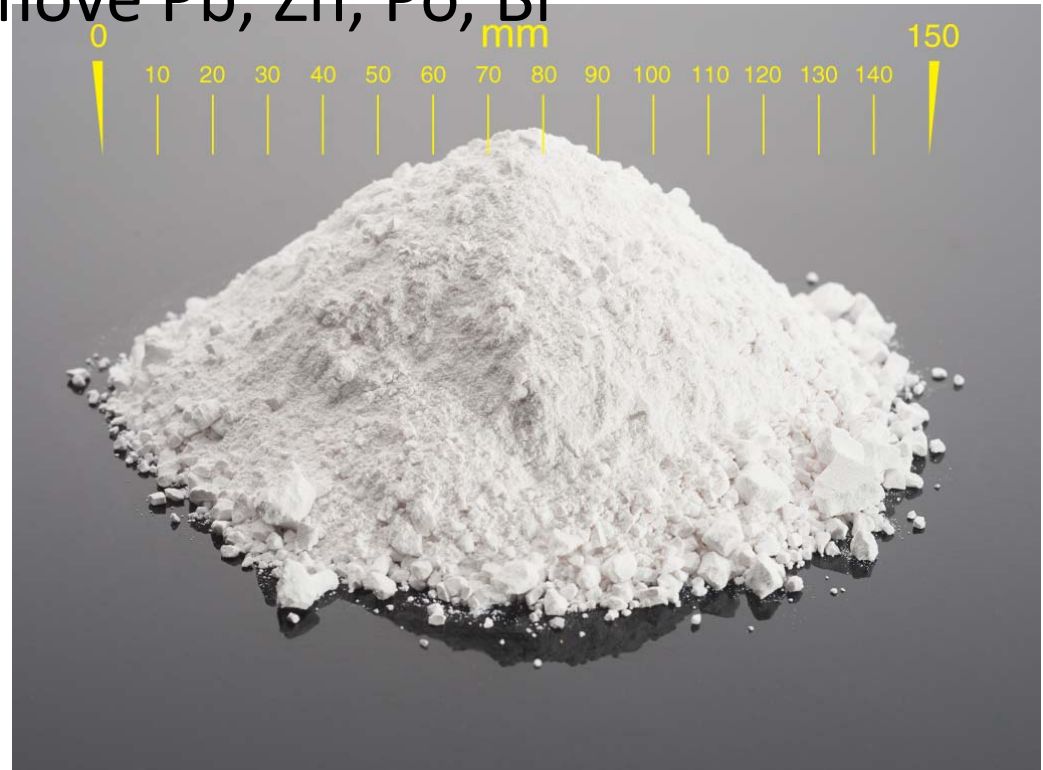


# High Purity Mixed Rare Earth Intermediate Produced

Rare Earth Carbonate is 97% REO after calcining



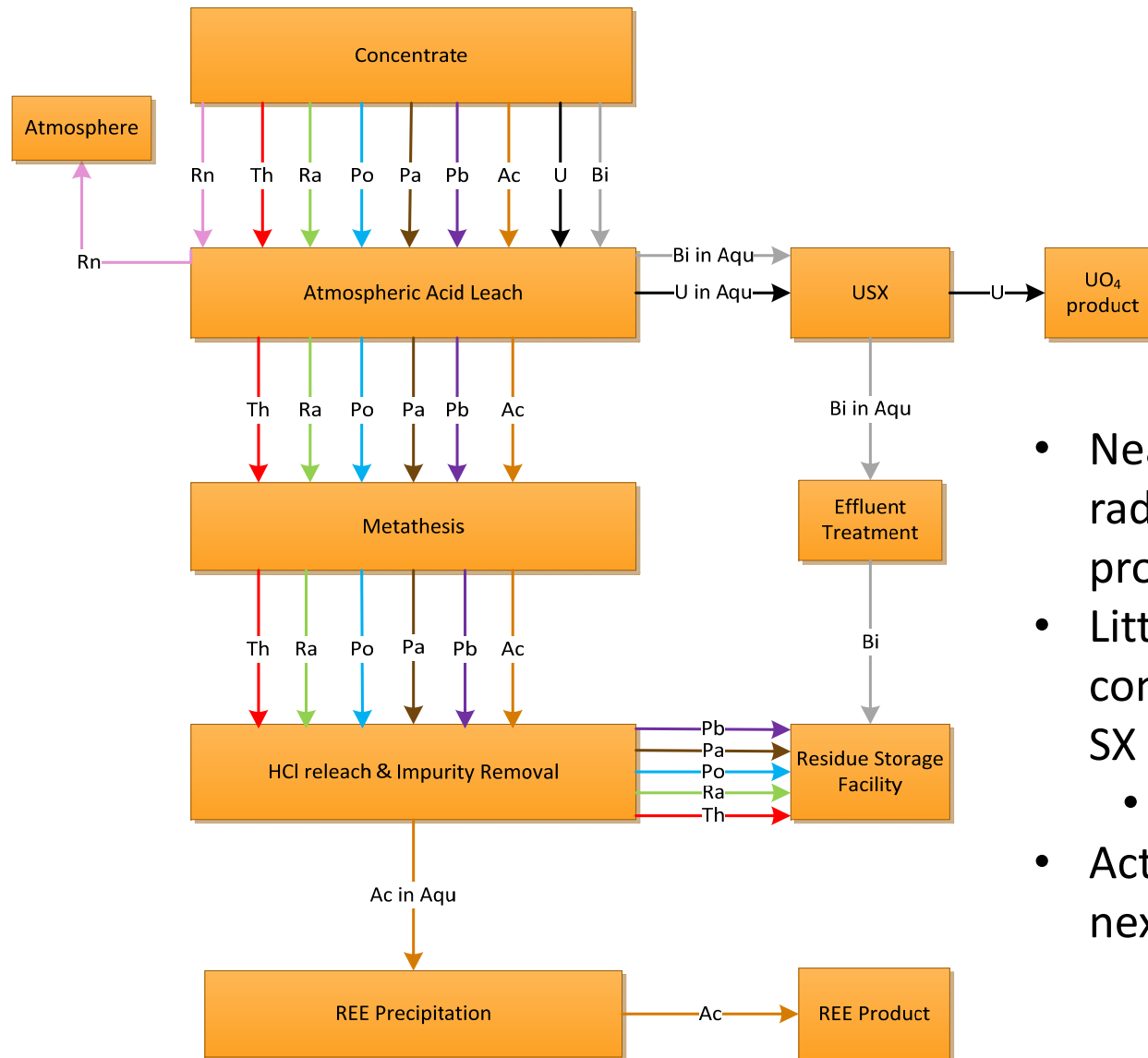
- Impurities Removed in two stages
  - pH adjustment with lime to remove Fe, Al and Th
  - Barium added to remove radium
  - Sulphide added to remove Pb, Zn, Po, Bi
- Ion Exchange
  - To remove U
- REE Precipitation
  - $\text{REE}_2(\text{CO}_3)_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$





# Radionuclide Control in the Flowsheet

## Near Complete Radionuclide Removal from REO product



- Near complete removal of radionuclides from REO product
- Little interfering contaminants in the uranium SX feed
  - Low V, Mo, Fe, Zr
- Actinium removed in the next stage of refining



# Greenland Minerals and Energy

## Key Highlights – A unique world class mining project



GREENLAND  
MINERALS AND ENERGY LTD

1

### World-class, large scale development project

- Economically robust, proven technology, large-scale, long life production of rare earths concentrate and uranium
- Large JORC resource base to produce ~7kt HREO, 37kt LREO & 3Mlbs  $U_3O_8$  per annum over 30 year mine life
- Ideally located near international airport, existing towns and potential hydro-electric power source

2

### Very attractive commodity portfolio

- Heavy rare earths and uranium are both recognised as strategically important commodities for the future
- Rare earths market characterised by limited capacity and increasing demand (particularly Dy, Nd, Tb, Eu and Y)

3

### Strong management and technical team

- Experienced management team with proven track record
- Well-respected and knowledgeable technical/project team in place with exceptional local expertise

4

### Highly advantageous ore-type, makes for simple cost-effective processing, highly scalable production

- High upgrade through beneficiation brings OPTIONALITY to Kvanefjeld project
- Leaching can be done in Greenland, or owing to the high-grade concentrate, can be shipped to other locations
- Allows to single concentrator in Greenland, multiple refineries/partners globally

5

### Globally significant, long life, low cost, multi-commodity asset

- Company to become one of the largest producers of rare earths globally and a significant  $U_3O_8$  mine
- Potential to supply >20% of global critical (including heavy) rare earth element demand
- Company has low cost of production due to multiple by-product opportunities

6

### Low political risk

- Stable, low-risk operating environment with government looking to develop new industries and employment
- GME fully permitted to evaluate the project, exploration licence now includes radioactive elements
- Management and board have a solid working relationship with the government and are socially aware





---














# Back Up Slides



# Greenland Minerals and Energy

## Achievements to date – Key milestones moving forward



Activity	Timing	Cost
 Exploration and Resource Definition - Kvanefjeld	2007- 2010	A\$25M spent
 Preliminary Technical Studies	2008 - 2011	A\$10M spent
 Exploration and Resource Definition -satellite deposits	2011 - 2012	A\$7M spent
 Carry out Pre Feasibility Studies	2008 - 2012	A\$16M spent
 Acquire full ownership of Kvanefjeld	2012	A\$5M (plus shares/options)
 Batch test work and Concentrator Piloting	2012	A\$4M spent
 Finalise design criteria for Concentrator and Refinery	2013	A\$1M spent
 Zero tolerance policy abolished	2013	
 REE Separation JV and Refinery location established	2014	
 Finalise EIA, SIA and FS	2014 - 2015	A\$20M Funded
 Application for Exploitation Licence	2015	
 Refinery Piloting and Detailed Engineering	2014 -2016	A\$ 30M
 Construction (Mine & Concentrator)	2017 – 2018	A\$ TBA

Completed  Pending 