# Uranium Exploration, Resources and Production in South Africa 2009

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Nuclear Fuel Cycle

South Africa

South African Nuclear, Energy Corporation



# CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Deposit types
- Exploration
- Reserves and Resources
- Production
- Future



# INTRODUCTION

- Manhattan Project investigators visit South Africa 1944
- Formation of the Atomic Energy Board (AEB) in 1948
- Geology Dept formed to assess and monitor uranium resources
- First uranium production in 1952
- Formation of the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) in 1983
- AEB & AEC reported to Red Book till 1999
- Formation of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Dept in 2007



# **DEPOSIT TYPES**

- Quartz-pebble conglomerate
- Karoo sandstone
- Karoo coal
- Alkaline complexes
- Surficial deposits
- Heavy mineral sands
- Alaskites and granites
- Marine phosphates



### SOUTH AFRICAN URANIUM PROVINCES



### WITWATERSRAND BASIN

![](_page_5_Figure_1.jpeg)

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# EXPLORATION

- Virtually no "greenfields" exploration
- Extensions to Known Orebodies
  - AngloGold Ashanti Vaal River Operations
  - Uranium One Dominion Reef Uranium Mine (care & maintenance)
  - First Uranium Ezulwini Mine
  - Mintails old West Rand Cons Mine
- Tailings Dams
  - First Uranium Mine Waste Solutions
  - Mintails West and East Rand
  - Rand Uranium Randfontein Estates Mine
  - Gold Fields West Wits Mines (14 dams investigated)
- Known non-Wits Mineralisation
  - Uramin, Brinkley Mining and Signet Karoo sandstones
  - Holgoun Investments Coal-hosted
  - Niger Uranium Surficial
  - Acclaim Exploration Mozaan quartz-pebble conglomerates/

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# AngloGold Ashanti

	Ore	Ton	nage	Gr	ade	U	3 <b>O</b> 8							
Operation	Reserve		(It)	(k	g/t)	(0	00t)							
Sec. 1	Category	2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008							
Vaal River	Proven	100		18.16	-	1-1								
Operations	Probable	35.3	47.21	0.33	0.41	11.8	19.20							
Tot	al	35.33	47.21	0.33	0.41	11.8	19.20							
and the second		The	-	Sec. 1	Martin	1	Operation	Mineral Resource	Tonna	ge (Mt)	Grade	e (kg/t)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	(000t)
							operation	Category	2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008
							1.1.1.1.1.1	Measured	2.7	2.64	0.54	0.75	1.4	1.98
							Vaal River	Indicated	53.0	118.43	0.78	0.41	41.6	47.97
							Operations	Inferred	7.1	16.48	0.77	0.59	5.5	9.93
								Sub-total	62.8	137.55	0.77	0.47	48.5	59.89
							Sales in the	Measured	a anti-	CARLE IN	110 64	Call Par	-	
		-	Lin	-			West Wits	Indicated	28.8	181.01	0.32	0.11	9.1	19.83
			PRANK.	-			Operations	Inferred	1.5	18.65	0.33	0.19	0.5	3.45
-		-					Contraction of the	Sub-total	30.3	199.66	0.32	0.12	9.6	23.28
							and the second	Total	93.1	337.21	0.63	0.30	58.1	83.17
					T	100	ML SAL	- INGENERAL OF THE	- THE	T	1			
			-			-	-		C. C. C.		-	-	icant	
المستحققات والمسا	-					1000	and the second s					-	-	-
1 11-70-		-	10.00	-	The state		and the second		-			-	F	1

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# **First Uranium**

Project	Mineral Reserve Category	Tonnage (Mt)	Grade (kg/t)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (000t)
Mine Waste Solutions	Proven	99.40	0.08	8.31
	Probable	226.0	0.07	16.53
	Total	325.4	0.08	24.84

![](_page_8_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Picture_3.jpeg)

	Mineral	Tonnage		Gra	ade	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (000t)	
Project	Resource	(N	It)	(kg/t)			
	Category	2007	2009	2007	2009	2007	2009
	Measured	69.48	99.4	0.097	0.08	6.77	8.31
Mine Waste	Indicated	228.56	235.7	0.065	0.07	14.88	16.98
Solutions	Inferred	64.66	21.2	0.098	0.10	6.33	2.16
	Sub-total	362.70	356.3	0.077	0.08	27.98	27.45
	Measured	2.45	1.52	0.72	0.67	1.77	1.02
Ezulweni	Indicated	1.37	2.87	0.95	0.77	1.31	2.22
	Inferred	132.10	112.81	0.75	0.74	99.27	92.62
	Sub-total	135.92	117.20	0.75	0.74	102.35	95.86
	Total	498.62	473.50	0.26	0.24	130.33	123.31

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### **Uranium One and Mintails Resources**

#### Mintails

Project	Mineral Resource	Tonnage (Mt)		Grade (kg/t)		U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	(000t)
	Category	2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008
	Measured		40.58		0.050		2.02
West	Indicated		97.45		0.048		4.65
Rand	Inferred		139.43		0.036		4.93
	Sub-total		277.46		0.042		11.60
	Measured		171.1		.033		6.76
East	Indicated	138		.048		6.67	
Rand	Inferred	185		.038		7.07	
	Sub-total		171.1		0.033	13.74	6.76
	Total	323	448.56		0.039	13.74	18.36

![](_page_9_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Uranium One

Resource Category	Reef Unit	Tonnage (000t)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> Grade (kg/t)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (000t)
	Rietkuil Upper	11.22	0.86	9.66
	Rietkuil Lower	2.05	0.76	1.56
ated	Dominion Upper	13.74	0.74	10.23
ndic	Dominion Lower	9.38	0.86	8.05
-	Dominion Dumps	3.38	0.16	0.54
	Total Indicated	39.77	0.76	30.04
	Rietkuil Upper	48.33	0.55	26.73
p	Rietkuil Lower	44.83	0.42	18.95
erre	Dominion Upper	71.66	0.32	22.87
Inf	Dominion Lower	54.55	0.27	14.93
	Fotal Inferred	219.38	0.38	83.47
Total	Resources	259.15	0.44	113.51

![](_page_9_Picture_6.jpeg)

### **Other Companies**

- Rand Uranium Feasibility study in progress
- Gold Fields Feasibility study in progress
- Holgoun Investments Investigating Springbok Flats deposits
- Uramin Investigating the Rystkuil Channel, Karoo
- Brinkley Mining Investigating Karoo deposits
- Signet Mining Investigating Karoo deposits
- Niger Uranium Investigating Henkries surficial deposit
- Acclaim Exploration Investigating Denny Dalton Mine

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# Published South African Uranium Reserves and Resources

#### 2007

		TOTALS				
CATEGORY	AngloGold Ashanti	Uranium One	First Uranium	Mintails	000t U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	
RESERVES						
000t U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>						
Proven	-	-	-	-	-	
Probable	11.80	14.24	-	-	26.04	
Total Reserves	11.80	14.24	-	-	26.04	
RESOURCES						
000t U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>						
Measured	1.40	-	8.54	-	9.94	
Indicated	50.70	30.04	16.19	6.67	103.60	
Inferred	6.00	83.47	105.60	7.07	202.14	
Total Resources	58.10	113.51	130.33	13.74	315.68	

- Reserves have increased by 69 %
- Resources have increased by 7%
- Both should increase significantly when Rand Uranium and Gold Fields feasibility study results are announced.

#### 2009

		TOTALS			
CATEGORY	AngloGold Ashanti	Uranium One	First Uranium	Mintails	000t U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>
RESERVES 000t U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>		1	1	1	
Proven	-	-	8.31	-	8.31
Probable	19.20	-	16.52	5-1	35.72
Total Reserves	19.20		24.84		44.03
RESOURCES 000t U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>			1	1	
Measured	1.98	-	9.33	8.78	20.09
Indicated	67.80	30.04	19.20	4.65	121.69
Inferred	13.39	83.47	94.73	4.96	196.55
Total Resources	83.17	113.51	123.26	18.39	338.33

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## South African Uranium Production

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_2.jpeg)

### **Historical Production**

- Major producer since 1952 when 1st plant started
- Peak of 4950 tU in 1960 for West's military needs
- 6146 tU in 1980 third after USA and Canada
- 13 Mines producing uranium in 1980
- Many mines ceased production in 80s and 90s
- Only one mine still producing uranium by 2002
- Single remaining U plant produced 534 tU in 2006
- SA declined to 11<sup>th</sup> in world production in 2006

![](_page_13_Picture_9.jpeg)

### **Future Production Plans**

- AngloGold Ashanti Refurbished uranium plant and doubling capacity.
- Dominion Reef Care & maintenance, up for sale
- First Uranium One plant producing yellowcake. The second in 3 to 6 months
- Mintails Plans slowed. Not before 2012
- Rand Uranium Feasibility study. 2012 if favourable
- Gold Fields Feasibility study. 2013 if favourable

![](_page_14_Picture_7.jpeg)

### **Future South African Uranium Production**

COMPANY	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
AngloGold Ashanti	650	950	1 250	1 250	1 250
Uranium One	90	?	?	?	?
First Uranium		350	650	850	1 050
Rand Uranium					250
TOTAL ( t U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	740	1 300	1 900	2 100	2 550

![](_page_15_Picture_2.jpeg)

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### Nuclear Energy Policy for South Africa

- Exercise control over un-processed uranium ore for export purposes for the benefit of the South African economy
- South Africa shall endeavour to use uranium resources in a sustainable manner
- Government shall be responsible for:

Acquiring and managing strategic uranium stockpiles

- Government shall ensure that the exploitation of our mineral resources and the securing of a long term supply of these resources is balanced in a sustainable fashion.
- The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA) shall be encouraged to participate in the uranium value chain, beneficiation thereof and will be responsible for storing of uranium supplies acquired by the State.

![](_page_16_Picture_7.jpeg)

# CONCLUSIONS

- South Africa has enough uranium to supply its own needs for the foreseeable future
- Planned production will be well in excess of projected requirements
- Stockpiling may become necessary to ensure security of supply
- Studies are underway

![](_page_17_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_1.jpeg)