

## **Update on Uranium Reclamation in Wyoming**

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### **Abstract:**

The Wyoming Environmental Quality Act was passed in 1973. It allowed for eventual regulation over all mining in the state, including coal and non-coal operations which includes uranium. Since that time, several uranium booms have come and gone in the state based on market conditions. Active mining is regulated under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division (WDEQ, LQD). Abandoned uranium mines are reclaimed as part of the severance tax money that is paid to the federal government on coal production and a portion passed back to the state through the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund.

Much information has been learned on the reclamation side of surface and in-situ uranium mining, its regulations and state programs since its passage. In addition to knowledge gained during actual reclamation of active and abandoned uranium mines, research surrounding this industry has also supplemented the direction of regulation. This presentation will discuss some of the basic changes made in reclamation programs for uranium since the passage of the Environmental Quality Act in the State of Wyoming.

<sup>1</sup>Oral paper was presented at the 2017 U2017 Global Uranium Symposium, Casper, WY, August 20-25, 2017. Hosted by the Central Wyoming Section of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME).

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