

NexGen Energy Ltd. (NXE-T, \$2.67)

Rating	Buy	Colin Healey, MBA 604-697-6089 chealey@haywood.com
Target Price	\$6.00	Aazan Habib 604-697-6030 ahabib@haywood.com
Return	125%	
Overall Risk Rating	Very High	

Summer Exploration Commences at Rook 1 in Advance of Resource Update and PFS

Impact - **Neutral** | **NexGen has announced commencement of its \$8.3 million, 20,400m 2018 summer drilling and exploration program** (Ex. 1) designed to advance its understanding of the Arrow deposit, prove up the strike and lateral extents of Arrow, follow-up on newly discovered zones, and drilling in support of the Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) infrastructure layout.

- Summer Drilling & Exploration a Prelude to Major Catalysts in 2018: The delivery of a resource update and Pre-Feasibility Study later in 2018 (Q3/4) is a core focus for investors, and will serve to further increase confidence in Arrow's potential economics, which already appear extremely robust by our estimates and by NXE's PEA. We expect the PFS will improve upon PEA data, further solidifying Arrow as one of the best undeveloped mining projects globally, in any commodity.
- Testing New Targets: The summer drill program will deploy 4 core rigs, in part dedicated to testing promising results obtained this past winter. Specifically, NXE will follow-up on hole AR-18-208c1, which intersected 10.5 metres of total composite radioactivity (up to 32,800 cps on the scintillometer) 160 metres northwest of the AO shear zone in the last hole of winter drilling in what may prove to be a previously-undiscovered zone, representing resource expansion potential.
- Drilling in Proximity to Arrow: NexGen will drill some "wide-spaced step-outs" from the Arrow deposit targeting areas of the A1 and A2 shear zones along strike to the southwest (of hole AR-16-090c3) and to the northeast (of hole AR-18-189c4). Both of these holes intersected strong results and with Arrow still open along strike, laterally, and down-dip, aggressive step-out drilling should help to zero-in on the extent of the deposit and eventually show its true size.
- Technical Studies ahead of PFS Generating Strong Results: Metallurgical work has demonstrated that high-purity U₃O₈ can be produced from Arrow ore, with net recoveries of greater than 97% achieved from leaching (97.6%) and solvent extraction (99.6%). Results of strength tests on paste-backfill partially composed of representative Arrow uranium tails came back positive, with unconfined compressive strength exceeding PEA specs. Geotechnical work has confirmed the mining style (long-hole stoping), level spacing (30m) and stope lengths (15m-30m). Hydraulic conductivity was also consistent with expectations indicating that the presence of water declines with depth and is predicted to be lowest at mining depths, likely confirming that capital and opex intensive freeze-walling isolation techniques will <u>not</u> be required to mine Arrow.

Valuation Our 12-month target of \$6.00 is based on a 1.0x multiple of our estimated corporate net asset value (NAV) per share of \$6.17, based on a discounted cash flow ($DCF_{10\%}$) analysis of our conceptual uranium mining operation at Arrow.

Risks We assign a Very High Risk rating given NexGen's status as a pre-resource exploration play with no certainty of cashflow generation or exploration success. We expect the Company to rely on future equity financing to fund operations.

Catalysts 1) Drill results from Rook 1 – H2/18; 2) Installation of exploration shaft at Arrow – Q3-4/18; 3) Resource update and Pre-feasibility Study (PFS) results from Arrow – Q3-4/18.

Target Price Current Price Return (incl. dist' YTD Performance Dividend / Yield	,		\$6.00 \$2.67 125% -17% N/A	52-Week High / Low Shares O/S Market Capitalization Cash Debt	\$3.58 / \$2.12 343M (basic) 391M (F/D) \$917M \$145M US\$120M	Price Performance NexGen Energy Ltd. (NXE-T)
Haywood Estima	ites			Working Capital * (est)	\$135M	4 1.5
	F16A	<u>F17E</u>	F18E	Enterprise Value	\$942M	1 2
U₃O ₈ Prod.(lb)	0.0	0.0	0.0			0.5
Revenue(C\$M)	0.0	0.0	0.0	Daily Volume (3 month avg) 772,934	Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun
EBITDA (C\$M)	(17.2)	(21.0)	(21.1)	Website <u>www.nex</u>	genenergy.com	17 17 17 17 17 17 17 18 18 18 18 18 18
Net Inc. (\$CM)	(56.0)	(31.0)	(31.2)	CEO Currency	Leigh Curyer C\$ unless noted	Source: Capital IQ and Haywood Securities

Please see page 6 for Analyst Certification, and pages 6 to 8 for Important Information, Legal Disclaimers, Rating Structure, and notes.



Exhibit 1: Summer 2018 Drilling at Rook 1 Project



Source: NexGen Energy



Investment Thesis

We believe NexGen is peerless in the Athabasca Basin and globally as an exploration / developer play, as it controls a large, world-class, high-grade uranium deposit in a proven operating district, with the scale (301.6 Mlb U₃O₈) to be standalone economic right from the maiden resource.

- We estimate NexGen controls the largest and most strategically important undeveloped high-grade uranium deposit in a world class jurisdiction, with expansion potential, as the deposit remains open in all directions. Growth potential exists within the Arrow Zone, as further infill drilling is expected to confirm further continuity along strike and upgrade a component of inferred resources, and extension drilling seeks to define the limits of the deposit. We believe summer 2017 + winter 2018 exploration work has already added substantially to the resources contained within the prior resource update.
- With the updated resource estimate for the Arrow Zone, NexGen significantly de-risked the Rook 1 project, and we anticipate the stock price will continue to progressively reflect a declining risk profile in the period leading up to publication of the preliminary feasibility study, expected in mid-2018. News flow, including results from summer 2017 work, should serve to incrementally increase market confidence in the scale and continuity of the Arrow deposit.
- We expect further exploration work at the Arrow Zone to provide incremental increases in tonnage reporting to the mining inventory forming the basis of our resource model. Sensitivity analysis of our Arrow mining concept highlights the potential for additional resource delineation (in excess of our base-case assumption) to induce positive step-changes in our estimate of project and corporate net asset value (NAV) per share. NexGen also has the potential to discover new deposits on the Rook 1 project beyond the Arrow, Bow and Harpoon zones and from elsewhere within NexGen's expansive western Athabasca land package. Our valuation does not include any credit for this discovery potential.

Standalone Development Potential: Our conceptual development and mining scenario suggests the Arrow deposit could deliver robust top-tier standalone economics at reasonable future uranium prices. Based on our analysis and interpretation of exploration work to date, we are projecting cash costs in the lower decile of current production globally (life of mine [LoM] average C1: US\$9/lb U₃O₈), and a resource of critical mass supporting a world class tier 1 uranium mining operation. We believe these attributes place NexGen among the world's most attractive acquisition targets, located in a uranium-mining-friendly jurisdiction with a long history of uninterrupted regional production and well-established regulatory oversight. We believe NexGen's Arrow Zone has the potential to navigate the environmental and permitting regulatory processes more expediently due to its expected relative technical simplicity and environmental footprint. We believe the first fully-permitted project in the region with strong economics will likely build a mill with modular expansion capacity capable of growing to serve other regional mines, with toll milling revenue potential for whomever controls this potentially strategic regional asset. NexGen is well-positioned to potentially evolve into this role.



Significant Investment Risks

The investment to which this report relates carries various risks, which are reflected in our Overall Risk Rating. We consider the following to be the most significant of these investment risks:

- Overall Risk Very High: We rank NexGen as Very High in all subcategories except Political Risk, given NexGen's early stage, with no certainty of: future exploration success, the technical feasibility of the Haywood-conceived project, eventual project development, or cash-flow generation. Significant risk considerations include:
 - Continued Exploration Success: NexGen is focused primarily on uranium exploration, with key assets proximal to Canada's Athabasca Basin. A significant component of our valuation includes continued success in exploring for, and defining, additional uranium resources at core projects. Exploration success is a fundamental risk, where failure to identify and define additional resources could materially impact our valuation.
 - Commodity Price Forecast: A material component of our valuation of NexGen includes assumed future uranium production from certain Canadian assets. A development, and eventually, a production decision would be dependent on other significant risk factors listed here, but also would likely require a uranium price materially higher than current market prices, as we have modelled. Failure of these higher commodity prices to materialize could result in the Company not meeting our production and/or cash-flow expectations.
- Technical Feasibility: In addition to other significant risk factors listed here, a development and production decision would very likely require evidence from advanced technical studies of the Arrow deposit validating certain core assumptions, including the development, mining, and processing methods assumed, or identification of similarly costed alternatives.

For further information on our Risk Rating please visit: <u>http://haywood.com/what-we-offer/research/research-policy</u>



Source: Bloomberg, Capital IQ, Company Reports, and Haywood Securities



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BUY –The analyst believes that the security will outperform other companies in their sector on a risk adjusted basis or for the reasons stated in the research report the analyst believes that the security is deserving of a (continued) BUY rating.

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Overall Risk Rating

Very High Risk: Venture type companies or more established micro, small, mid or large cap companies whose risk profile parameters and/or lack of liquidity warrant such a designation. These companies are only appropriate for investors who have a very high tolerance for risk and volatility and who are capable of incurring temporary or permanent loss of a very significant portion of their investment capital.

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Distribution of Ratings (as of June 21, 2018)

			IB Clients
	%	#	(TTM)
Buy	72.9%	70	92.0%
Hold	15.6%	15	4.0%
Sell	1.0%	1	0.0%
Tender	1.0%	1	4.0%
UR (Buy)	0.0%	0	0.0%
UR (Hold)	0.0%	0	0.0%
UR (Sell)	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dropped (TTM)	9.4%	9	0.0%

Price Chart, Rating and Target Price History (as of June 21, 2018)



B: Buy; H: Hold; S: Sell; T: Tender; UR: Under Review Source: Capital IQ and Haywood Securities

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