

Equity Research April 28, 2021

#### Metals & Minerals

**Uranium Weekly: Wait and See** 

The Ux Consulting (UxC) weekly spot price indicator, published earlier this week, declined to US\$28.65/lb (down \$0.55/lb), or -1.9% versus the previous week. Year-to-date, the spot price is now down 4.7%. According to UxC, spot market activity since the start of April has slowed significantly versus the torrid pace set in March. Just 1.7 million pounds of uranium have been transacted so far in April, which compares with ~10.9 million pounds in March. Over the past five years, excluding 2020, an average of ~5.0 million pounds had been transacted in the spot market in April. April 2020 was highly unusual, coinciding with the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary closure of the Cigar Lake operation due to COVID-19 restrictions; total spot market volume in April 2020 was ~27.5 million pounds.

The uranium market appears to have taken a "wait and see" approach to both the spot and term markets over the past several weeks, following the buying frenzy in March led by pre-producers and uranium physical funds (Exhibit 1). We believe that market participants have stepped to the sidelines waiting to see where the next round of buying emerges - and how much supply is waiting in the wings. With near-term utility demand limited, we expect producers to drive the next round of buying with Cameco, Orano, and Kazatomprom all indicating that that they will be buyers, to various extents, this year.

Canada slipped to the fourth spot among primary uranium producers in 2020, according to UxC's production data for last year. The closure of McArthur River in 2018 and the extended closure of Cigar Lake during 2020 from April to August and again in December, resulted in Canada producing only ~10 million pounds, or about 8% of global production. Kazakhstan was the largest producer last year at ~51 million pounds (40.6% of global production). Australia was No. 2 at ~16 million pounds and Namibia was No. 3 at 14 million pounds. UxC estimates that total global primary uranium production in 2020 was ~125 million pounds, slightly higher than our previous estimate of 119 million pounds. We are projecting 2021 primary production at 126 million pounds, which compares with UxC's forecast of 127-131 million pounds.

We believe that the missing piece of the puzzle for a sustained upward move in the uranium term price remains the resumption of a term-contracting cycle. Uncovered utility demand is quite low for 2021 and 2022; uncovered demand for 2021 appears to be only several million pounds. Utilities seem to be prepared to meet this demand on a discretionary basis, while continuing to manage inventories.

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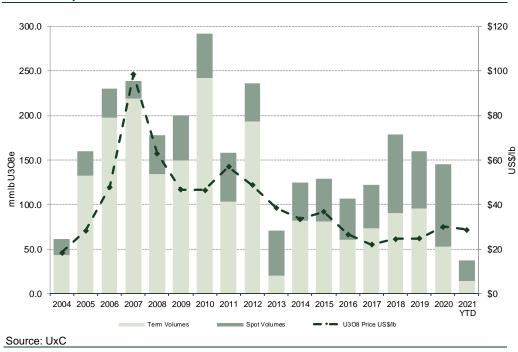
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Exhibit 1. Uranium company equity offerings and uranium purchases

	Date Equity Offering		Uranium Purchased or	Estimated Average Price of Uraniun			
Company	Announced	Equity Offering (US\$ millions)	Planned to Purchase (million pounds)	Purchases (Planned or Actual) (US\$/lb)			
Yellow Cake	25-Feb-21	140.0	3.5	28.95			
Denison Mines	15-Mar-21	86.0	2.50	28.50			
Uranium Energy	17-Mar-21	30.5	1.4	29.00			
Boss Energy	29-Mar-21	46.0	1.25	30.15			
Uranium Energy	6-Apr-21	12.0	0.705	31.70			
Total/Average		302.5	9.355	29.20			

Source: Company reports; TD Securities Inc. estimates

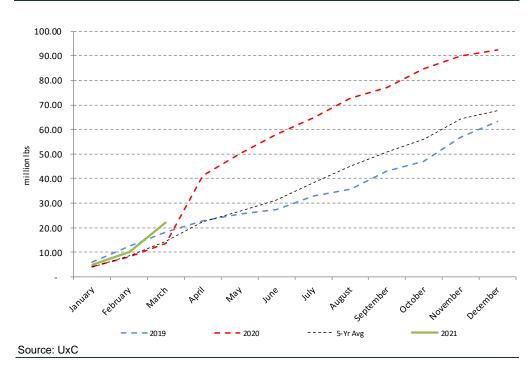
**Exhibit 2. Spot and Term Volumes** 



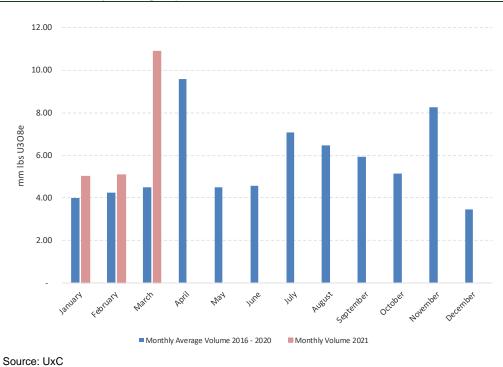


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Exhibit 3. Historical versus 2021 Cumulative Monthly Spot Volumes



#### **Exhibit 4. Monthly Average Spot Volumes**





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#### Exhibit 5. Historical Spot Price and Market Impacting Events (US\$/lb)

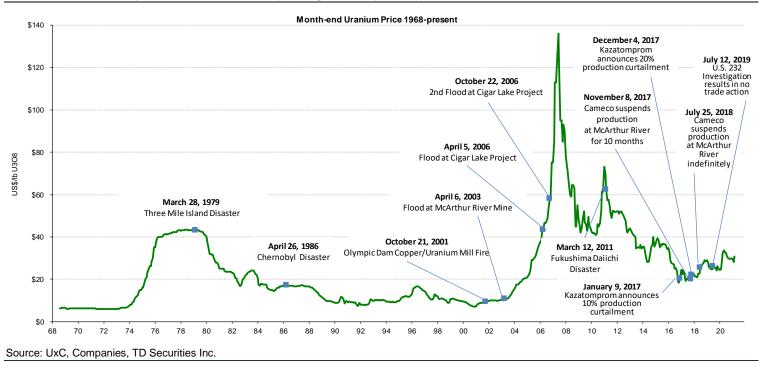




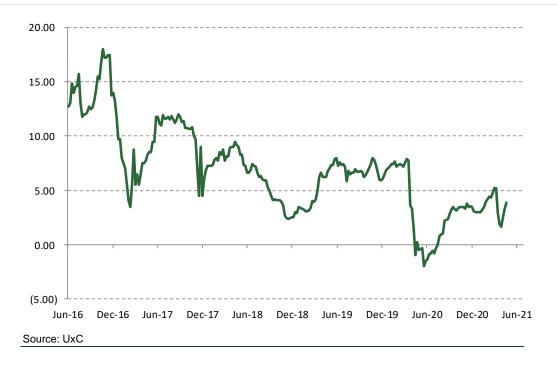


Exhibit 7. Uranium Term Price Premium to Spot (US\$/Ib)

# TD

# **Industry Note**

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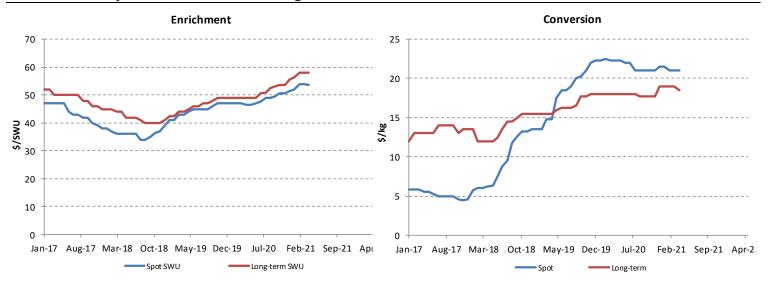


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Exhibit 9. Fund Implied Price (FIP) and Spot Price



**Exhibit 10. Monthly SWU and Conversion Pricing** 



Source: UxC



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Exhibit 11. TD Securities' Uranium Supply/Demand Model

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Mine Supply - Western World (Mlb U3O8)									
Total Mine Supply - Western World	100	83	85	81	73	80	85	88	86
Net Eastern Mine Supply (lbs U3O8)	54	54	55	44	52	53	60	66	72
Total World Mine Supply (Mlb U3O8)	154	138	140	125	126	132	145	154	158
YoY % change	-7.6%	-10.2%	1.7%	-10.9%	0.7%	5.3%	9.1%	6.8%	2.6%
Secondary Supply									
Global underfeeding and tails re-enrichment*	19	18	18	16	16	15	15	14	14
Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX)*	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	7	8
US government sales (DOE Proposed)*	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Additional Russian secondary supply*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Secondary Supply (MIb)	27	24	26	24	22	21	21	21	21
Secondary supply as % of global reactor demand	16%	14%	15%	13%	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%
Mobilization of Commercial Inventory	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Total Supply	187	169	173	156	155	161	173	183	187
Total World Demand									
Total World Nuclear Generating Capacity (MWe) *	358.819	368,571	372.978	374,420	384,508	385,211	389,242	394,906	398,885
Uranium requirements per MWe	472	472	472	472	472	472	472	472	472
Uranium demand (mmlb)	169	174	176	177	181	182	184	186	188
First Core Requirement (2 year lead)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total World Demand (MIb U3O8)	169	174	176	177	181	182	184	186	188
YoY % change	1.7%	2.7%	1.2%	0.4%	2.7%	0.2%	1.0%	1.5%	1.0%
Supply / Demand Balance (MIb)	18	-5	-3	-21	-27	-21	-11	-4	-2
Spot Uranium Price (US\$/lb U3O8)	\$22.12	\$24.82	\$25.94	\$29.52	\$32.99	\$36.00	\$38.00	\$40.00	\$45.00

<sup>\*</sup> Source: World Nuclear Association - Nuclear Fuel Report 2019-2040 Reference Case

Note - TD LT price assumption starts in 2025; a flat US\$45/lb price is assumed for 2025 and beyond.

Source: UxC, Bloomberg, World Nuclear Association, TD Securities Inc.

#### TD Securities Inc.

### **Industry Note**



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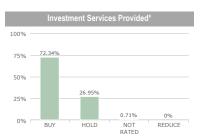
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