

# Denison Mines Corp. (DML-T, C\$0.76, DNN-US, US\$0.60)

Rating	BUY	
Target Price	\$2.00	(from \$1.80)
Return	163%	
<b>Overall Risk Rating</b>	Very High	

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# Wheeler River PFS Rethinks Development Approach - Shows Huge Value Potential

#### **Company Profile**

Website – <u>www.denisonmines.com</u>

CEO – David Cates

About the Company – Denison is advancing its flagship Wheeler River uranium project, the largest, highest-grade undeveloped uranium project in the prolific eastern Athabasca Basin, Saskatchewan.

#### **Company Data**

52-Week High/Low	\$0.80/\$0.50
YTD Performance	10%
Dividend Yield	N/A
Shares O/S	559M (basic)/
	566M (F/D)
Market Capitalization	\$425M
Cash	US\$38M
Debt	\$nil
Working Capital	US\$33M
Enterprise Value	\$382M
Daily Volume	465,276

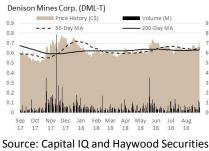
C\$ unless noted

### **Haywood Estimates**

Currency

Year	<u>2016A</u>	<u>2017A</u>	<u>2018E</u>
Revenue (US\$M)	\$13.8	\$11.1	\$7.4
U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> Production	-	-	-
EBITDA (US\$M)	(\$16.9)	(\$17.8)	(\$15.2)
CFPS (US\$)	(\$0.02)	\$0.02	(\$0.02)

### **Price Performance**



**Event** Denison has released summary results of a Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) of the Wheeler River Project (63.3%-owned\*), in the eastern Athabasca Basin, Saskatchewan. *(current ownership pending close of further consolidation to between 86.8%-90%)* 

**Impact – Positive** | The new Wheeler River PFS represents a quantum shift in both our and the prior PEA's assumptions about how the Phoenix & Gryphon deposits will be mined. The result of the innovative approach carries additional technical risk, but at a major CAPEX and OPEX reduction, which could unlock substantial additional potential value for the Project vs. the 2016 Preliminary Economic Assessment (Figure 1). The market reaction has been positive, with the stock breaking out to its January 2018 highs. We expect the stock to gain further positive momentum as DML endeavors to educate the street on the new ISR mining approach outlined for the Phoenix deposit.

- Wheeler PFS changes the development paradigm unlocking big potential. The result of the innovative approach of applying ISR mining techniques at the Phoenix deposit carries additional technical risk due to the lack of tested analogue on unconformity style deposits confined by freeze-walling, but delivers a major up-front CAPEX and LoM OPEX reduction, which unlocks substantial additional potential value for the Project. Denison's technical team is world-class and equipped to carry Wheeler forward through BFS and permitting for production.
- PFS implies very robust economics solidifying Wheeler's position among the top projects in the global uranium development pipeline. The PFS base-case used a more conservative uranium price assumption than the 2016 PEA, but still improves dramatically on most metrics delivering a pre-tax NPV of \$1.3 billion, with LoM blended OPEX of US\$7.1/lb, and pre-production CAPEX of just C\$323M (100% basis). Apples-to-Apples, at US\$44/lb uranium the PFS NPV came in at \$1.41 billion vs the 2016 PEA NPV of \$513 million, representing a 175% increase.
- Forecasts We previously attributed \$427M for DML's 63.3%-share of Wheeler in our valuation. A re-modelling of Wheeler, sequencing Phoenix ahead of Gryphon, at lower CAPEX/OPEX assumptions (but higher than detailed in the PFS), yields \$613M for DML's 63.3% share, lifting our target ~\$0.20. We expect to integrate a larger attributable share of Wheeler to DML upon close of the pending deal.
- Target Price, Ratings Our target increases \$0.20 to \$2.00 on a re-modelling of the Wheeler River Project, still at 63.3% attributable to DML pending close of acquisition of additional interest. Maintaining BUY and Very High-Risk rating.

**Valuation** | A corporate NAV sum-of-parts assessment of Denison's full suite of interests, including a DCF<sub>10%</sub> assessment of future production from Wheeler and other credits. Net of corporate adjustments, our NAV is \$1.1 billion, or \$2.00 per share.

**Catalysts** | 1) Filing of the recently released Wheeler River Preliminary Feasibility Study of Wheeler River Uranium project, 2) Closing of the agreement with Cameco to increase interest in the Wheeler River Project, and 3) Disclosure on timing of Feasibility Study, progress on EA and plan for Wheeler River.

Please see page 12 for Analyst Certification, and pages 12 to 14 for Important Information, Legal Disclaimers, Rating Structure, and notes.



enison Mines Corp.			Price: Price:			Shares O/S (M) MCap (CDN\$ M)	559.2 \$425.0	Та	Ratii rget (CDN	ng: Buy \$): \$2.00	Return:	163%
	d on becoming	ng the pree	eminent ex	xploration	company	in the Athabasca Basin. Follo	wing the sale o	of its U.S. assets	s, the Compa	ny has continued	to expand its p	ortfolio of
vestment Highlights	any, and throu	Ign strate	gic acquis	ation and	Investmen	t in mainly in the eastern Atha Denison Mines Corp. Chart (Cl		baskalchewan. I	Jenison nas a	a 22.5% Interest II	I the McClean	Lake mill.
Denison is focused on building on its div	verse strateg	ic asset b	ase makir	ng up its p	ortfolio	\$2.25	·					5.0
uranium development assets in Canada	ł.					Denison Mines Co	orp. (TSX:DM	IL) Prio Da	ce ly Volume		Duri	
Depicen's 2018 evaluration programs	vill focus outs	ancivaly o	n Athaha	co Docin		\$2.00		100	-day EMA		————Виу,-3	\$2.00
Denison's 2018 exploration programs w operties. The Company has announced e					the	\$1.75 Buy, \$1.80			, Target			4.0
.3%-owned Wheeler River project of: 20			100/01	50313101	the				d, Target	1		
						\$1.50			i,-i aigei			. 3.0
Denison's is seeking to increase its inte		<b>·</b>				\$1.25						
.3% currently to up to 90% through prev pected to close in the near future. DMI												
e value implied by the Sept. 2018 Pre-Fe						\$1.00						- 2.0
accretive to the Company.	···· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,				\$0.75	M-A	+				-
						and the second second		North Contraction	and the second s			
talysts: Results from 2018/19 exploration wor						\$0.50 -				a della d		- 1.0
Filing of the recently released Wheele		minary Fe	asibility s	Study of V	Wheeler	\$0.25 -	ha thill a	ահերդի հետ	1   1	ւմ Մինսել է	l I I I I I I I	սկել
ver Uranium project	i laver i lenn	initial y i c	usionity s	luuyor	meeter	a that a little		MAR LA JAYA	M & W &	JUNELINEN,	.100 w.80	WW
Closing of the agreement with Cameco						\$0.00	17 - 18 -	18	9 2	8 8	18-	₩₩₩ ₩
Disclosure on timing of Feasibility Stud	ly, progress o	on EA and	plan for	Wheeler	River	Sep-17 Oct-17 Nov-17	Dec-17 Jan-18	Feb-18	Apr-18	May-18 Jun-18	Jul-18 - Aug-18 -	Sep-
nancials												
ar End 12/31)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	52 Week High/Low	\$0.80 /\$			e Daily Volume (90 da	y)	46
recast U308 Spot Price, US\$//b	\$33	\$37 \$47	\$26	\$22 \$21	\$26	Ownership	Management / In:			hareholders	1.64	4.0%
recast U3O8 LT Contract Price, US\$/lb \$/US\$ FX Rate	\$47 1.10	\$47 1.28	\$40 1.33	\$31 1.35	\$36 1.33	Shares (million) % O/S	3.40 0.6%	108.70 19.4%		oodman & Company		4.9% 4.5%
VUS\$ FX Rate	1.10	1.04	1.10	1.33	1.34	Last Financing	0.070	10.770				
ares O/S, millions	494.5	518.4	537.2	537.2	537.2		deal PP - 5.8M co		8.5M FT (tranch	he A) shares at \$1.12		he B) at\$1.
wenue, US\$M ne Site Expense	\$9.6 \$11.7	\$12.7 \$12.4	\$13.8 \$10.6	\$11.1 \$10.6	\$7.4 \$0.0	Shares O/S - Basic, F.D.	۸.,	559.2	(14)	ITALLER (A)	566.4	Decession
rporate G&A	\$11.7 \$15.1	\$12.4 \$23.0	\$10.6	\$10.6	\$0.0 \$0.0	(C\$M) Working Capital	AV	Strike (C\$) Unit	5 (IVI)	ITM Units (M)		Proceeds \$38
ITDA	(\$50.3)	(\$98.3)	(\$16.9)	(\$17.8)	(\$15.2)	Options		\$1.07 7.	21	4.61		\$4
/ EBITDA	-	-	-	-	-	Convertible Bonds						
&A nings	\$2.1 (\$49.8)	\$3.6 (\$97.4)	\$0.0 (\$12.2)	\$0.0 (\$13.5)	\$0.0 (\$11.5)	Total NWC & ITM Market Cap (C\$)		7.	21	4.61		\$42 \$425
usted EPS, US\$	(\$45.6) (\$0.10)	(\$0.19)	(\$12.2)	(\$13.3)	(\$11.3)	Warker Cap (Ca)						φ423
rrent Price / EPS	-	-	-	-	-	NAV Summary, Target Generati	on and Sensitivi	ity	-20%	-10%	+10%	+20%
rget Price / EPS	-	-	-		-	Average Realized U3O8 (US\$/lb)			69 \$55	\$62	\$76	\$83
ISh Flow Before W/C Changes	(\$21.8) (\$0.05)	(\$18.3) (\$0.03)	(\$9.9)	\$13.5 \$0.02	(\$10.6) (\$0.02)	McClean Lake/Midwest DCF (C\$M) Wheeler River DCF (C\$M)	(@10.0%) (@10.0%)		8.7 13.3			
urrent Price / CFPS	(40.00)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.02) -	24.4x	(#U.UZ) -	NPV of Corporate CF	(@10.0%) (@10.0%)		8.1			
rget Price / CFPS	-	-	-	64.1x	-	Total Project NAV - Net of Corporate	CFs	\$6	70.2			
	(*****)	(640)	(60)	640	(644)	McClean Lake Mill 22.5% Value (C	6M)		37.5			
perating Cash Flow, US\$M nancing Cash Flow, US\$M	(\$24) \$14	(\$18) \$12	(\$8) \$9	\$12 \$14	(\$11) \$0	Canada - Waterbury, others (C\$M) Equity interest in Goviex (C\$M)			0.5 5.5			
vesting Cash Flow, US\$M	\$8	(\$5)	\$6	(\$36)	(\$0)	Corporate NAV Subtotal (CDN\$)			103.7 \$842	.5 \$972.8	\$1,233.5	\$1,363
nange in Cash, US\$M	(\$3)	(\$13)	\$6	(\$9)	(\$11)	Working Capital (est. year end 2018)			3.1 \$13.		\$13.1	\$13.1
orking Capital Irrent Ratio	\$23 2.7x	\$13 2.7x	\$20 3.7x	\$10 2.4x	(\$1) 0.9x	Dilutive Capital		\$	3.7 \$3.7	7 \$3.7	\$3.7	\$3.7
Debt, US\$M	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Corporate NAV (CDN\$)		\$1.1	20.5 \$859	.3 \$989.6	\$1,250.3	\$1,380
bt as % of Capitalization	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Corporate NAVPS			.00 \$1.5		\$2.24	\$2.47
						Current P/NAV		0.			0.3x	0.3x
omberg Consensus Data (excluding Haywood estim	rates)			2018	2019	Target P/NAV		1. •	0x 1.0x	a 64.00	1.0x	1.0x
-P5 5				(\$0.01) (\$0.01)	(\$0.01) (\$0.01)	l arget (CDN\$)		γZ	.00 \$1.5	0 \$1.80	\$2.20	\$2.5
ect Sensitivities						Peer Group Comparables	Symbol	Price (C\$) M.C.	NPC\$ EVU	S\$ EV / Ib Res(1)		
						Denison Mines Corp.	TSX:DML		125 \$284			
.60 CAPEX		erating Cos	, TS	\$2.4	17	NexGen Energy Ltd.	TSX:NXE	\$2.71 \$9	40 \$733	.5 \$2.43		
- Uranium Price	••••• Tax	Rate		2.4		Fission Uranium Corp.	TSX:FCU		316 \$213			
.40		Ś	52.24	-		UEX Corporation Average	TSX:UEX	\$0.21 \$	71 \$47.	3 \$0.55 \$1.61		
\$2.26 .20 - \$2.21 .21 - \$2.14			-			(1) Reported or Haywood estimate of r		erg Consensus				
\$2.15 \$2.10	eren	-				Wheeler River Project Production						
.00 - \$2.08	\$2.00	•••••	\$1.93		-	40 Production Phoe Production Gryph	10n (lb U3O8)					20,0
	92.00		\$1.92 1.86	\$1.8 \$1.8		Production Cost 30 Cash Operating C	incl. tax & sust. ca	apex (US\$/lb)				15,0
.80 -		÷.		\$1.7		50 Cash Operating C						10,01
\$1.77						20						10,00
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.60 - \$1.54			15%	%	25%	10						5,000
.60 - \$1.54		5%	132									
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.60 \$1.54 -25% -15% -5%				2027	2020-	0 2024 2025 2026	2027 2028	2029 2030 3	031 2032	2033 2034 203	35 2036 203	0 37
.60 .40 -25% -15% -5% s & Production Profile	2024	2025	2026	<b>2027</b> 5.9	<b>2028</b> 5.9		2027 2028	2029 2030 2	031 2032	2033 2034 203	35 2036 203	
.40				<b>2027</b> 5.9 5.9	<b>2028</b> 5.9 5.9		2027 2028	2029 2030 2			35 2036 203	
1.60         \$1.54           1.40         \$1.54           -25%         -15%           -5%           es & Production Profile           Juction Atrib. Wheeler River U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (MIb)           is Atrib. Wheeler River U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (MIb)	<b>2024</b> 2.0 <b>2.0</b>	<b>2025</b> 5.9 5.9	<b>2026</b> 5.9 5.9	5.9 5.9	5.9 <b>5.9</b>	2024 2025 2026 Corporate Contact Website: www.denis	onmines.com	2029 2030 2 Tel:			35 2036 203	
.40 -25% -15% -5% es & Production Profile fuction Attrib. Wheeler River U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (MIb)	<b>2024</b> 2.0	<b>2025</b> 5.9	<b>2026</b> 5.9	5.9	5.9	2024 2025 2026 Corporate Contact	onmines.com vid			9-1991	35 2036 203	37

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The major shift in the Wheeler River PFS compared to its 2016 PEA primarily relates to its mining method and sequencing which drives dramatically better economics – the Phoenix deposit will be prioritized and mined first using ISR techniques with first production expected in mid-2024. The PFS models cash flow from Phoenix used to fund capex for mining Gryphon using conventional underground methods. We note that the result of the innovative approach of utilizing ISR mining techniques at the Phoenix deposit carries additional technical risk due to its lack of tested analogue on unconformity style deposits confined by freeze-walling, but at a major up-front CAPEX and LoM OPEX reduction, which unlocks substantial additional potential value for the Project.

The new PFS outlined total Probable Reserves at the Wheeler River project of 1.398 Mt grading 3.5%  $U_3O_8$  for 109.4 Mlb  $U_3O_8$  within the established resources, including:

- Phoenix Probable Reserves of 141 kt grading 19.1% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> for 59.7 Mlb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>; and,
- Gryphon Probable Reserves of 1.257 Mt grading 1.8% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> for 49.7 Mlb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.

The base-case used in the PFS uses a different, more conservative uranium price assumption than the 2016 PEA, but improves dramatically on most metrics, with a pre-tax NPV of \$1.3 billion (vs 2016 PEA base-case of \$513 million). For an apples-to-apples comparison, at US\$44/lb  $U_3O_8$  (the base-case uranium price for the 2016 PEA) the new PFS generates a \$1.41 billion pre-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub>, a 175% improvement over the 2016 PEA at \$513 million at the same uranium price. OPEX at Phoenix falls from US\$22.15/lb under the conventional underground mining approach of the PEA to just US\$3.33/lb in the new PFS implementing ISR. Mine sequencing now puts Phoenix ahead of Gryphon in the development and production plan, with upfront CAPEX to production falling to \$322.5 million from \$560 million in the PFS, as Phoenix is much less capital intensive under the new paradigm that Gryphon.

The major differences embedded in the new PFS vs the 2016 PEA are highlighted in the table below.

	2018 PFS Base Case	2016 PEA Base Case			
Mine Life (y)	14 years	16 years			
LoM Production (lb)	109.4 Mlb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	104.8 Mlb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>			
Phoenix	(years 1-10): 59.7 Mlb $U_3O_8$	(years 8-16): 64.0 Mlb U₃O <sub>8</sub>			
Gryphon	(years 8.5-14): 49.7 Mlb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	(years 1-7): 40.7 Mlb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>			
Avg. Annual Production (lb)	7.8 Mlb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	6.55 Mlb U₃O <sub>8</sub>			
Phoenix	6.0 Mlb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>				
Gryphon	7.6 Mlb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>				
Up-Front CAPEX (\$M)	C\$322.5 million	C\$560 million			
Phoenix	C\$322.5 million				
Gryphon	C\$623.1 million				
Sustaining CAPEX (\$M)	C\$186.2 million	C\$543 million			
Phoenix	C\$103.5 million				

### Figure 1. Differences between 2018 PFS and 2016 PEA



Gryphon	C\$82.7 million	
LoM OPEX (\$/lb)	US\$7.13/lb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	US\$19.01/lb U₃O8 (C\$25.67)
Phoenix	US\$3.33/lb U₃O8	US\$22.15/lb $U_3O_8$ for the last 9 years
Gryphon	US\$11.70/lb U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	US\$14.28/lb $U_3O_8$ for the first 7 years
Base Case Financial Valuation	At US\$29-45/lb $U_3O_8$ for Phoenix (y 1-10) At US\$50/lb $U_3O_8$ flat for Gryphon (y 8.5-14)	At US\$44/lb U₃O <sub>8</sub>
IRR (%)	Pre-tax: 38.7%	Pre-tax: 20.4%; Post-tax: 17.8%
NPV <sub>8%</sub>	Pre-tax: C\$1.31 billion	Pre-tax: C\$513 million; Post-tax: C\$343 million
Payback (y)	~ 2 years	3 years

Source: Haywood Securities Inc., Denison Mines Corp.

From a valuation standpoint, we previously had \$425 million attributable to Denison in our model for Wheeler River at DML's current 63.3% ownership. Today's PFS suggests a post-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> for DML's attributable share of Wheeler to be \$506.4 million, or ~19% better than our prior valuation. We note that with DML in the process of increasing its ownership of Wheeler River to up to 90%, at this level the PFS suggests DML's attributable share of Wheeler project, we impose more conservative CAPEX and OPEX assumptions than the FPS, offset by our higher long-term uranium price assumption. Technical risk is likely the biggest push-back the market may have given the modelled use of an ISR mining approach at the Phoenix deposit in combination with freeze walling required to contain and confine water flow around and within the unconformity-style deposit.

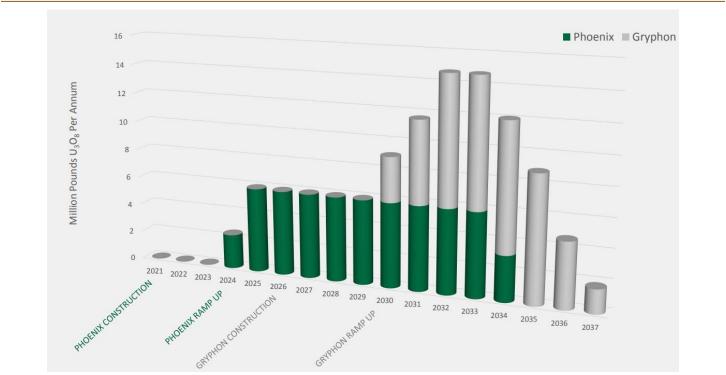


Figure 2: Wheeler River Production Profile

Source: Denison Mines Corp.



### **Phoenix Deposit**

The mining method for the Phoenix deposit considers an in-situ recovery (ISR) operation, which was selected over alternative methods to replace the Jet Bore Mining system (JBS) used in the 2016 PEA. ISR has many advantages over JBS, including lower technical risk in typical implementation (sandstone hosted roll-front style deposits), shorter construction timelines, greater flexibility, minimal surface impact, and typically lower operating and capital costs. Field and lab tests completed so far have indicated robust processing and extraction rates (98.5% and +90%, respectively) using a simple flow sheet in which uranium is precipitated directly from the solution, eliminating the need for ion exchange or solvent extraction circuits. Additionally, Denison suggests this operational concept with low capital intensity would allow DML to remain unhedged and maintain its uranium price leverage ahead of a development decision, allowing for greater exposure to upside potential in uranium prices. The study estimates an initial capital cost of \$322.5M, average cash operating costs of \$4.33 (US\$3.33)/lb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, and all-in costs of \$11.57 (US\$8.90)/lb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. It also estimates total production of 59.7M lb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> over mine life of 10 years (6 Mlb/year), and sales price assumptions ranging from US\$29 to US\$45/Ib U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, resulting in a pre-tax NPV of \$930.4M and a pre-tax IRR of 43.3%.

Phoenix to be the first ISR exploited deposit in the Athabasca Basin due to its host rock permeability.

The ISR process involves pumping a solution through the orebody via an injection well. The solution dissolves the uranium in the orebody and this uranium bearing solution is then pumped back to the surface through a recovery well to be processed on-site. The solution and the uranium are chemically separated at the plant and then the solution is returned to the well field. This method is environmentally advantageous as it avoids tailings, may potentially have no water discharge to surface water bodies, and may use the existing provincial power grid. The freeze wall to contain the mining solution also minimizes the environmental impact and allows for controlled reclamation. This should be viewed favourably from a permitting standpoint and management's initial consultations with regulators and stakeholders regarding this are reportedly encouraging.

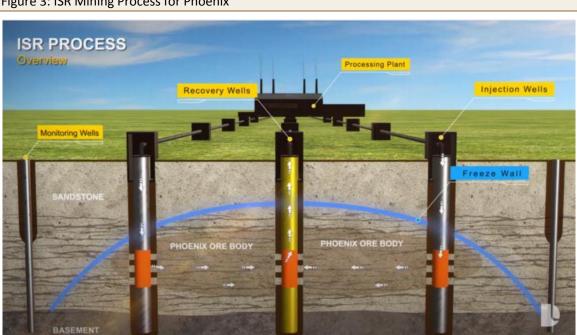
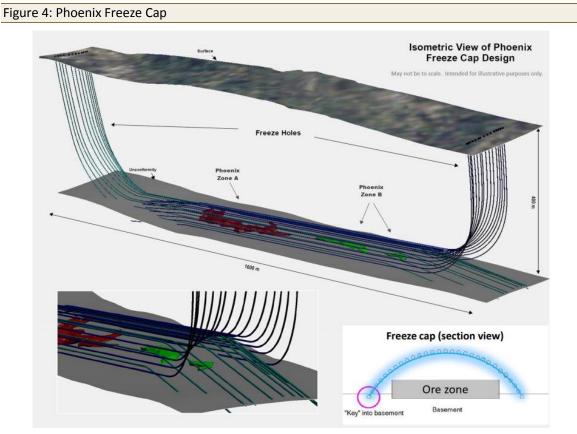


Figure 3: ISR Mining Process for Phoenix

Source: Denison Mines Corp.



**Freeze cap to address key concerns associated with ISR operations.** As the Phoenix deposit is hydraulically connected the regional groundwater system, a 10-metre thick freeze wall will combine with basement rocks to encapsulate the deposit and contain the mining solution. This will require drilling parallel cased holes from surface and using directional drilling to establish the horizontal axis through which a low temperature brine solution will be used to freeze the groundwater within the sandstone.

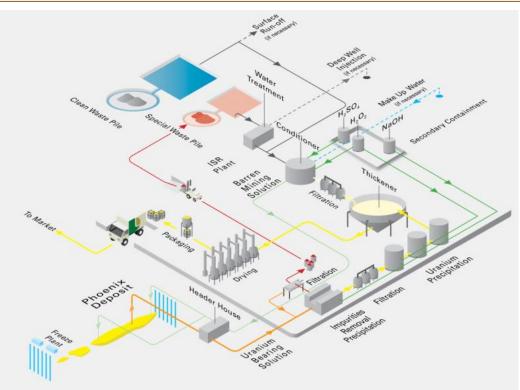


Source: Denison Mines Corp.

**Well field design and simple closed loop processing plant contributes to strong economics.** The Phoenix ore is confined to a 1 km x 50 metre zone, which will result in relatively low infrastructure and operating costs compared to conventional ISR operations that have wider spaced wells. The PFS proposes a total of 310 wells (94 recovery, 199 injection, and 17 monitoring) for a total of 133,300 drill metres. The on-site processing plant has been designed to have throughput of 500 litres/minute, which will drive annual production of 6M lbs U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> at reserve grade. The plant will have a closed loop system, which allows for reconditioning the mining solution for reinjection after the uranium has been precipitated. Metallurgical testing indicates high recovery rates (98.5%) with insignificant impurity levels using an acid leaching solution, which will also contribute to lower OPEX.



Figure 5: Phoenix ISR Processing Plant

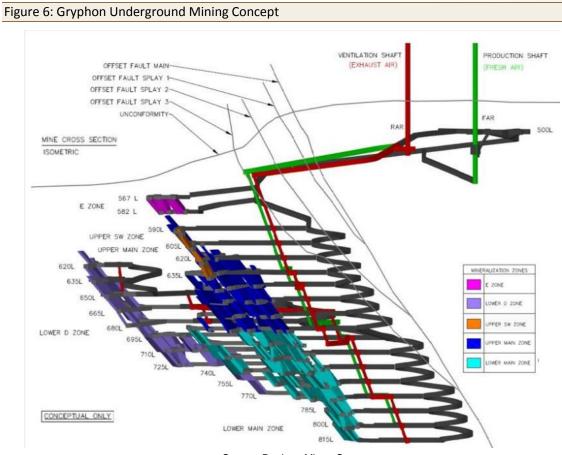


### Source: Denison Mines Corp.

### **Gryphon Deposit**

The mining method considered in the PFS uses conventional underground mining with long-hole stoping. Based on the new mine sequence, production is anticipated to commence its ramp up phase in 2030 and have a 6.5 year mine life with average annual production of 7.6M lbs  $U_3O_8$  (600 tonnes per day). The PFS assumes a flat selling price of US\$50/lb, initial capital costs of \$623.1M, sustaining capex of \$82.7M, and total OPEX of \$15.21 (US\$11.70)/lb  $U_3O_8$ , which results in a \$560.6M pre-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> and 23.2% pre-tax IRR. The PFS assumes processing at the McClean Lake mill (22.5% owned by Denison), which will require upgrading to handle the volume expected from Gryphon. As such, mill capacity will be a constraint for Gryphon. Initial met work using the existing McClean Lake flowsheet indicated an estimated recovery rate of 98.2%.





Source: Denison Mines Corp.

Figure 7: Gryphon Site Infrastructure



Source: Denison Mines Corp.

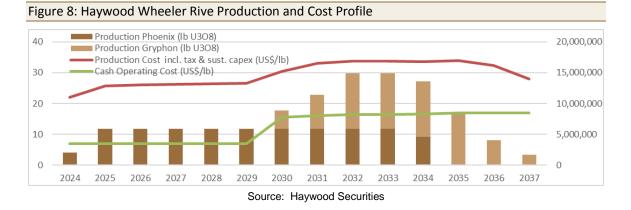


# Valuation & Target Price

We have modelled the Wheeler River project under our own more conservative assumptions for CAPEX / OPEX and discount rate, offset by our higher long-term uranium price assumption of US\$70/lb  $U_3O_8$ . We largely replicate the production profile and development timeline outlined in the PFS, and continue to attribute DML's current 63.3%-ownership of the project to our valuation pending finalization of share structure and ownership percentage outcome of the previously announced deal with Cameco. We expect that any additional ownership in the project at the disclosed deal price point would be further accretive to our target price on DML. Please see our <u><Sept 5<sup>th</sup> Radar Flash></u> for commentary on DML's plan to further consolidate Wheeler River.

The main assumptions underpinning our Wheeler River DCF NAV are outlined below:

- Mine Life: 14 years
- LoM Production: 108 Mlb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
- Average Annual Production: 7.7 Mlb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
- Uranium Price: US\$70/lb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
- **Financing:** 100%-debt modelled at 10% interest rate, pre-production interest on CAPEX accrues to the loan, amortized over first 6-years of production.
- Up-front CAPEX: US\$400 million (Phoenix)
  - plus, US\$480M for Gryphon over 4 years commencing toward the end of year 2 of production from Phoenix
- Sustaining CAPEX: Phoenix over LoM, US\$105 million; Gryphon over LoM, US\$80 million
- Cash OPEX: Phoenix LoM avg. of US\$7.0/lb; Gryphon LoM avg. of US\$17.0/lb
- NPV10%: \$970 million (100%-basis), \$613 million attributable to DML on 63.3% basis



**Change to Valuation:** We previously attributed \$427M for DML's 63.3%-share of Wheeler in our valuation. A re-modelling of Wheeler, sequencing Phoenix ahead of Gryphon, at the above-noted assumptions, yields \$613M for DML's 63.3% share, lifting our target ~\$0.20. We expect to integrate a larger attributable share of Wheeler to DML upon close of the pending deal.

**Target Price, Ratings** – Our target increases \$0.20 to \$2.00 per share on a re-modelling of the Wheeler River Project, still at 63.3% attributable to DML pending close of acquisition of additional interest. Our updated valuation is based on a corporate NAV sum-of-parts assessment of Denison's full suite of interests, including a DCF<sub>10%</sub> assessment of future production from Wheeler and other credits. Net of corporate adjustments, our NAV is \$1.1 billion, or \$2.00 per share. We maintain our BUY Rating and Very High-Risk Rating.



### **Stock Price Catalysts**

Going forward, we expect sustained momentum in DML shares to be primarily driven by the uranium commodity price and sentiment for uranium equities. Company specific catalysts include 1) Filing of the recently released Wheeler River Preliminary Feasibility Study of Wheeler River Uranium project, 2) Closing of the agreement with Cameco to increase interest in the Wheeler River Project, and 3) Disclosure on timing of Feasibility Study, progress on EA and plan for Wheeler River.

Figure 9. Wheeler River Project NI 43-101 Resource Estimate (January 2018)									
NI 43-101 Resou	rces Wheele	r River (100	9%-Basis) - (Jan. 31,	, 2018)				Change vs Nov. 2015	
Project	Denison	Deposit	Category	tonnes	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> Grade (%)	Contained U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	Cut-off Grade	Contained (lb)	
		Phoenix	Indicated	166,400	19.1%	70.2	0.8%	0.0%	
		Gryphon	Indicated	1,643,000	1.7%	61.9	0.2%	new / converted	
			Total Indicated	1,809,400	3.3%	132.1		88.3%	
Wheeler River	63.3%								
		Phoenix	Inferred	8,600	5.8%	1.1	0.8%	0.0%	
		Gryphon	Inferred	73,000	1.2%	1.9	0.2%	-95.5%	
			Total Inferred	81,600	1.7%	3.0		-93.1%	
			Total M & I	1 891 000	3.2%	135.1	18.2%	18.2%	

Source: Denison Mines Corp., Haywood Securities calculations and presentation

Wheeler River Project Remains Largest Undeveloped high-grade uranium project in the eastern Athabasca. The Wheeler River project is, as Denison would put it, "right on main street" in the prolific eastern Athabasca basin, where years of successful mining have left substantial well-developed infrastructure. The Wheeler River project is expected to benefit in development from Denison's 22.5% interest in the operational McClean Lake mill, which currently processes 100% of the Cigar Lake mine's ore, but is expected to be utilized in the back half of the Wheeler River project production life to process Gryphon ore.

# **Investment Thesis**

Denison continues to expand its suite of uranium assets of growing strategic importance in the prolific Athabasca Basin, Saskatchewan. In September of this year Denison announced a a deal with Cameco to acquire its remaining share of the Wheeler River Project. Upon conclusion of the deal, Denison will own between 86.84% and 90% of the Wheeler River Project (depending on the other JV partner's ROFR action) (See Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> Report), for a bargain price of ~C\$16M in Denison shares. Denison has a 22.5% stake in the McClean Lake high-grade uranium mill which continues processing 100% of the Cigar Lake Mine ore. Investment in DML provides an attractive array of opportunities in the uranium space, offering the potential for:

Significant resource expansion potential: With exploration success at multiple assets, most recently at both the Wheeler River Project proximal to the Gryphon Zone and at the 22.5%-owned Waterbury Lake Project where Denison continues to identify new mineralized zones through efficient exploration leveraging a strong technical team. In February 2018 Denison updated the Wheeler River Project resource estimate (135 Mlb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, avg. grade ~3.3% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) increasing total resources by >18%, with 98% of the total resources at Wheeler now defined in the higher-confidence 'Indicated' category laying the framework for a strong PFS. The September 2018 PFS outlined total Probable reserves at the Wheeler River project of 1.398 Mt grading 3.5% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> for 109.4 Mlb U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> within the established resources. Denison continues to develop and increase its ownership of what we expect to become an attractive component of an evolving production pipeline in the eastern Athabasca Basin, including a dominant stake in one of the highest-grade, largest, undeveloped uranium resources globally in a prolific uranium mining jurisdiction.



**Future Production potential** in the next 6-8 years with a strong PFS now in hand for Wheeler River and a proximal, partially owned (22.5%), permitted operating mill (McClean Lake) backstopping the Gryphon deposit, Denison continues to de-risk Wheeler River and move it up the global development pipeline with its attractive cost profile, low-risk jurisdiction, innovative approach to mining and well-developed infrastructure. Future production potential also exists with the McClean Lake Underground project, potentially using the innovative Surface Access Borehole Resource Extraction (SABRE) technique currently being developed and tested, or by conventional underground mining.

# Risks

### 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:

- **Continued Exploration Success**: Denison is primarily focused on uranium exploration with key assets in Canada. A significant component of our valuation includes continued success in exploring for, and defining, additional uranium resources at core projects. Exploration success is a core risk, where failure to identify and define additional resources could materially impact our valuation.
- Commodity Price Forecast: A material component of our valuation of Denison includes future uranium production from certain Canadian assets. A production decision would be dependent on several factors, but primarily would require a uranium price materially higher than current market prices, as we have modeled. Failure for these higher commodity prices to materialize could result in the Company not meeting our production and/or cash flow expectations.

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



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n/a

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Each company within an analyst's universe, or group of companies covered, is assigned: (i) a recommendation or rating, usually BUY, HOLD, or SELL; (ii) a 12 month target price, which represents an analyst's current assessment of a company's potential stock price over the next year; (iii) an overall risk rating which represents an analyst's assessment of the company's overall investment risk; and (iv) specific risk ratings or risk profile parameters which in their aggregate support an analyst's overall risk rating. These ratings are more fully explained below. Before acting on our recommendation we caution you to confer with your Haywood investment advisor to determine the suitability of our recommendation for your specific investment objectives, risk tolerance and investment time horizon.

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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.

**HOLD** – The analyst believes that the security is expected to perform in line with 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) HOLD rating.

**SELL** – Investors are advised to sell the security or hold alternative securities within the sector. Stocks in this category are expected to under-perform other companies 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) SELL rating.

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**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.

**High Risk:** Typically micro or small cap companies which have an above average investment risk relative to more established or mid to large cap companies. These companies will generally not form part of the broad senior stock market indices and often will have less liquidity than more established mid and large cap companies. These companies are only appropriate for investors



9/26/18

who have a high tolerance for risk and volatility and who are capable of incurring a temporary or permanent loss of a significant loss of their investment capital.

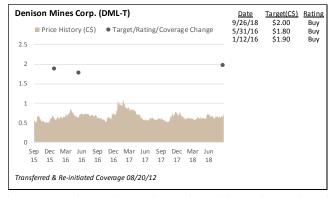
**Medium-High Risk:** Typically mid to large cap companies that have a medium to high investment risk. These companies will often form part of the broader senior stock market indices or sector specific indices. These companies are only appropriate for investors who have a medium to high tolerance for risk and volatility and who are prepared to accept general stock market risk including the risk of a temporary or permanent loss of some of their investment capital

**Moderate Risk:** Large to very large cap companies with established earnings who have a track record of lower volatility when compared against the broad senior stock market indices. These companies are only appropriate for investors who have a medium tolerance for risk and volatility and who are prepared to accept general stock market risk including the risk of a temporary or permanent loss of some of their investment capital.

## Distribution of Ratings (as of September 26, 2018)

			IB Clients
	%	#	(TTM)
Buy	75.0%	72	92.9%
Hold	12.5%	12	0.0%
Sell	1.0%	1	0.0%
Tender	2.1%	2	3.6%
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	3.6%

# Price Chart, Rating and Target Price History (as of September 26, 2018)



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