

Peninsula Energy Limited

Specialty Minerals and Metals

Australian Equity Research
17 December 2020

Rating
SPECULATIVE BUY

Price Target
A\$0.15

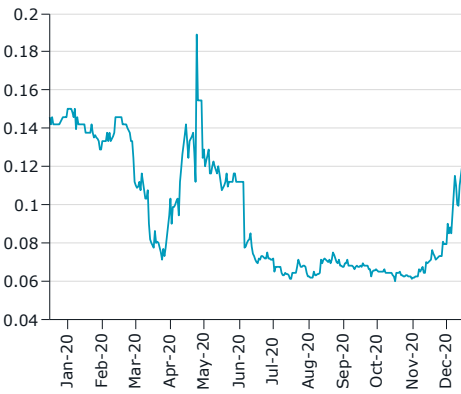
PEN-ASX

Price
A\$0.11

Market Data

52-Week Range (A\$) :	0.06 - 0.19
Avg Daily Vol (M) :	6.3
Market Cap (A\$M) :	101.4
Shares Out. (M) :	882.1
Dividend /Shr (US\$) :	0.00
Dividend Yield (%) :	0.0
Enterprise Value (A\$M) :	92.6

FYE Jun	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
EBITDA (US\$M)	(1.9)	(1.9)	(2.0)	(2.0)
Net Debt (Cash) (US\$M)	(11)	(9)	(5)	4
Net Income (US\$M)	(7.7)	(1.7)	(1.6)	(1.5)
Sales (US\$M)	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0



Source: FactSet

Priced intraday 16 December 2020

Peninsula Energy Limited is a uranium focused development company which is seeking to restart the Lance Uranium Projects in the Powder River Basin in Wyoming, US

Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited has received a fee as Lead Manager to the Peninsular Energy Limited Capital Raising announced 28 May 2020.

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US uranium leverage

Peninsula Energy (PEN) is focused on transitioning to a low pH operation at its uranium Lance Projects located in Wyoming, US which currently has a Mineral Resource totalling 51Mt at 479ppm U₃O₈ for 53.6Mlb U₃O₈. PEN is planning on increasing its production via a three stage development that will ultimately increase production to 3Mlb/year; it is currently awaiting results from its demonstration program and improvement in U₃O₈ prices prior to sanctioning conversion to low pH operations at Lance. We initiate coverage of PEN with a SPECULATIVE BUY rating and \$0.15/share risked price target.

Low capex, short lead time restart potential

While not at the bottom of the cost curve, PEN's feasibility study highlighted a robust development assuming a recovery in uranium prices. Key highlights included:

- Capex of US\$5.3mn in Stage 1, US\$40.0mn in Stage 2 and US\$73.4mn in Stage 3.
- Stage 1 AISC US\$40.6/lb, LOM AISC US\$31.8/lb.
- NPV8 of US\$156.5mn at US\$49/lb.
- 17-year life of mine (heavily dependent on conversion of inferred resource).

We model a US\$47/lb breakeven for Stage 1 predicated on a 10% cost of capital.

No longer just Biden our time

In August the US Democrats endorsed nuclear energy for the first time in 48 years as part of its 'technology neutral' approach to decarbonising the power sector. This position appears to have been further strengthened by the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passing a bill which approves the establishment of a national uranium reserve which could benefit US based supply projects. While this reserve would only add 3-4Mlb of incremental annual U₃O₈ demand (global demand is ~170Mlb) the fact that it received bipartisan support is likely, in our view, to encourage US utilities to feel more confident regarding political support and thus start contracting material volumes (inventory levels have dwindled to ~2.5 years coverage).

Positioning for a uranium recovery

After almost a decade of underinvestment, frailties in U₃O₈ supply are becoming evident, a situation which has been accelerated by COVID-19-related shutdowns (we forecast a 28Mlb deficit in 2020), just as the demand outlook for nuclear improves. All up we expect U₃O₈ demand to grow to 252Mlb (+45%) by 2035 on the back of tailwinds from three key megatrends:

- **Electrification of everything:** Major forecasters expect electricity demand to grow an incremental 55% by 2035 as electric vehicle penetration (CGe 14% by 2030) shapes as an emerging influence.
- **Decarbonisation:** With many countries below Paris-ratified targets, we expect there to be a renewal of interest in nuclear as a viable source of emissions-free energy. We note that many nations are now targeting COVID-19 recovery infrastructure funds that include carbon-free sources of energy.
- **Non-OECD demand growth:** We expect China (currently at 4% nuclear) to have a significant nuclear reactor build-out to meet its 2030 clean energy target of 20%.

Valuation and balance sheet

We have valued PEN using a SOTP methodology, deriving a price target of \$0.15/share which has been risked for the staged development of Lance (75% Stage 1, 50% Stages 2 and 3). We have applied a discounted cash flow (DCF) valuation for Lance, the contract book and the company's corporate costs. Nominal value has been applied to exploration potential. We utilise a LT U₃O₈ price of US\$50/lb (inflating at 1% p.a.). The company has US\$12.7mn in net cash.

Figure 1: Financial summary

FY Jun 30	2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E		2019	2020	2021E	2022E	2023E
PROFIT & LOSS (US\$m)											
Revenue	6.6	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	KEY ASSUMPTIONS					
Operational Costs	-9.5	-1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	Spot U3O8 (US\$/lb)	26.5	32.0	38.3	40.2	42.7
Royalty	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	A\$/US\$	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.70	0.70
Other COGS	-3.4	-4.5	-4.5	-4.5	-4.5	REALISED PRICES					
Other Income	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	U3O8 (US\$/lb)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Devt & Expl	0.0	0.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	PRODUCTION FORECASTS					
Corporate & Other	-29.3	-2.7	-1.4	-1.5	-1.5	U3O8 (klbs)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBITDA	-35.5	-1.9	-1.9	-2.0	-2.0	Total (klbs)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DD&A	-1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	RESOURCES					
EBIT	-37.4	-1.9	-1.9	-2.0	-2.0	Lance Measured (Mlbs)		3.9			
Net Financing	-3.3	-4.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	Lance Indicated (Mlbs)		11.9			
NPBT	-40.7	-6.2	-1.7	-1.9	-2.1	Lance Inferred (Mlbs)		38.1			
Tax	-0.3	-1.5	0.0	0.3	0.6	Total (Mlbs)		53.9			
Reported NPAT	-40.9	-7.7	-1.7	-1.6	-1.5	PER SHARE DATA					
Non-Controlling Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Average Shares (Diluted, M)	41	328	784	882	882
Sig Items, Discon Ops & Mins	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	EOP Shares (Diluted, mn)	247	882	882	882	882
Normalised NPAT	-40.9	-7.7	-1.7	-1.6	-1.5	Normalised EPS (US¢/sh)	-99.4	-2.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Effective income tax rate	-1%	-25%	0%	15%	30%	CF PS (US¢/sh)	-16.8	-2.4	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
CASHFLOW (US\$m)						FCF PS (US¢/sh)	-12.7	-2.5	-0.3	-0.4	-1.0
Cash receipts	8.2	7.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	RATIOS					
Payments to suppliers	-14.9	-13.9	-7.9	-8.0	-8.0	Dividend Yield	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Interest received	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	PE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Interest paid	-0.2	-2.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	PCF (Debt Adj)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other	0.0	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	EV / EBITDA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Operating Cashflow	-6.9	-8.0	-0.3	-1.7	-2.0	Gearing (ND / ND + E)	21%	n/a	n/a	n/a	6%
Payments for PP&E	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Net Debt / EBITDA	-0.3x	5.9x	n/a	n/a	n/a
Payments for Development	-1.1	-0.2	-2.2	-2.2	-6.9	Interest Cover	-11.3x	-0.5x	0.0x	0x	-43.1x
Payments for Exploration	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	ROE (Reported Profit / Av Equity)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Asset Sales / (Purchases)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	ROIC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other	2.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	ROACE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Investing Cashflow	1.7	-0.1	-2.2	-2.2	-6.9	FCF Yield	-111%	-21%	-3%	-4%	-9%
Share Issuance / (Buyback)	0.0	33.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	DIVIDEND AND FRANKING					
Drawdown / (Repayment) of Debt	-0.8	-16.9	0.0	0.0	8.9	Dividend (US¢/sh)	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Payout ratio	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	-0.6	-1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	Franking Balance (US\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Financing Cashflow	-1.5	14.7	0.0	0.0	8.9	VALUATION (A\$)	Risked				
Surplus / Defect	-6.7	6.7	-2.5	-3.9	0.0	PRODUCTION ASSETS	0.02				
BALANCE SHEET (US\$m)						DEVELOPMENT ASSETS	0.10				
Current Assets	10.3	16.3	12.3	8.4	8.4	EXPLORATION	0.01				
Non-Current Assets	60.1	66.0	68.1	70.3	77.2	EV adjustments	0.02				
Total Assets	70.3	82.3	80.5	78.8	85.7	TOTAL	0.15				
Current Liabilities	19.1	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.4	PREMIUM/(DISCOUNT)	0.0				
Non-Current Liabilities	10.6	12.9	12.9	13.4	21.9	PRICE TARGET	0.15				
Total Liabilities	29.6	15.4	15.4	15.4	24.3						
Net Assets	40.7	66.9	65.1	63.4	61.4						
Total Cash	5.3	11.9	9.5	5.6	5.6						
Total Debt	16.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	9.5						
Net Debt	10.8	-11.3	-8.9	-5.0	3.9						

Source: Company reports, Canaccord Genuity estimates

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US-based uranium leverage

Peninsula Energy (PEN) has a 100% interest in the uranium Lance Projects in Wyoming, US which is in transition from an alkaline in-situ recovery (ISR) to a low pH ISR operation. With a feasibility study (FS) completed in September 2018 (the 2018 FS) and a field demonstration having commenced in August 2020 the company is reasonably well positioned to take advantage of an expected increase in U₃O₈ market activity.

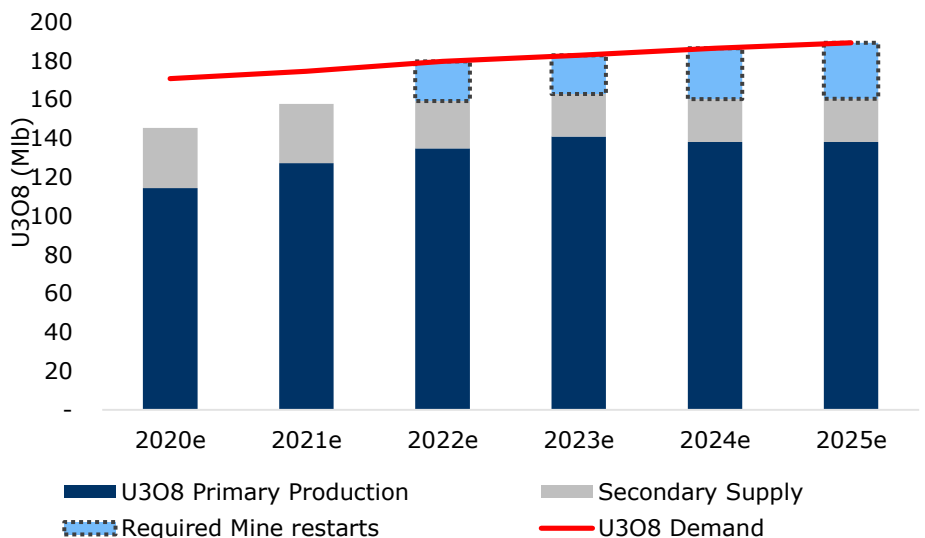
To be clear, PEN does need a 'rising-tide' in terms of uranium prices to monetise Lance (we model US\$47/lb break-even for Stage 1 versus current spot of US\$30/lb) but we note that: 1) this project offers a staged production build development which allows for performance targets to be achieved thereby giving increasing confidence to the low pH operation before committing to subsequent stages; and 2) the potential tailwind of the establishment of a US strategic uranium reserve. PEN expects Stage 1 of the proposed development expected to cost a relatively modest US\$5.3mn.

A year of supply disruptions

2020 has been an unprecedented year for a number of sectors and this has definitely been the case for uranium. In particular, the pandemic has highlighted a number of frailties in the U₃O₈ supply chain with COVID related shutdowns at Cigar Lake and in Kazakhstan leading to a ~28Mlb deficit and accelerated inventory drawdowns.

After close to a decade of underinvestment, we believe the uranium market is primed for a renaissance, and higher prices will be necessary to stimulate new supply.

Figure 2: U₃O₈ supply and demand (Mlb)



Source: Canaccord Genuity estimates

Fuel buyers likely to make a material return to contract market in 2021

Fuel buyers have been under-purchasing since 2014, and consistent with the recent [EIA report](#), US inventories are down 30% over the last 12 months and now represent ~2.5 years forward coverage. As a result, contracts and deliveries into utilities fall precipitously starting in 2021. With increasingly uncovered demand requirements, a decline in primary and secondary supply, and an accelerated drawdown of excess inventories, we anticipate rising concern over inventory levels; this is evident in increased near-term market activity, with 550 sales for ~90Mlb U₃O₈ transacted YTD in the spot market.

Additionally, with certainty now around the Russian Suspension agreement and bi-partisan support in the US for nuclear energy for the first time in 48 years, we believe the stage is set for big 2021 in the uranium market.

Valuation and balance sheet

We have valued PEN using a sum-of-the-parts methodology, deriving a price target of \$0.15/share which has been risked for the staged development of Lance. We have applied a discounted cash flow (DCF) valuation for Lance, the contract book and the company's corporate costs. Nominal value has been applied to exploration potential.

Figure 3: Sum-of-the-parts valuation for PEN

Asset	Equity %	Net Capacity klb	NPV A\$m	Risking %	Riskd NPV A\$m	Riskd NPV A\$ps
Existing contracts pre Lance start-up			18	100%	18.0	0.02
PRODUCTION ASSETS		0.00	18.00	100%	18.0	0.02
Lance Stage 1	100%	Variable	74.8	75%	56.1	0.06
Lance Stage 2 & 3	100%	Variable	59.7	50%	29.9	0.03
DEVELOPMENT ASSETS		0			86.0	0.10
RESEOURCES		0			0.0	0.00
Other exploration					10.0	0.01
EXPLORATION					10.0	0.01
Net Debt, Balance sheet adj. & corp. overhead					15.3	0.02
Premium / (Discount)						0.00
Price Target						0.15

Source: Canaccord Genuity estimates

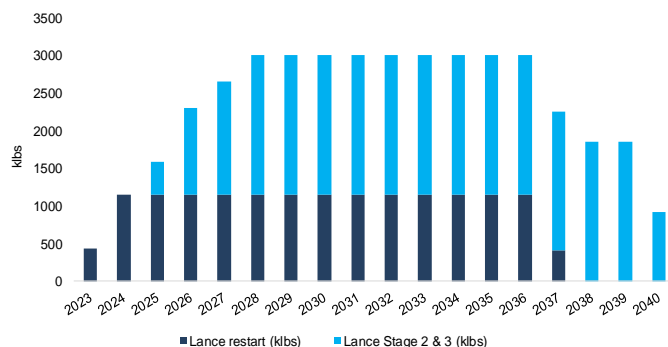
Our valuation methodology for each segment is described in further detail below.

Lance

We have used a discount rate of 10% and a risk weighting of 75% for stage 1 and 50% for Stage 2 and 3 to derive our DCF valuation of \$86m, or \$0.10/share. The risk weighting reflects the uncertainties around U₃O₈ pricing, timing, funding and equity capital requirements. As the project moves forward it will progressively be de-risked and our assumptions revised accordingly.

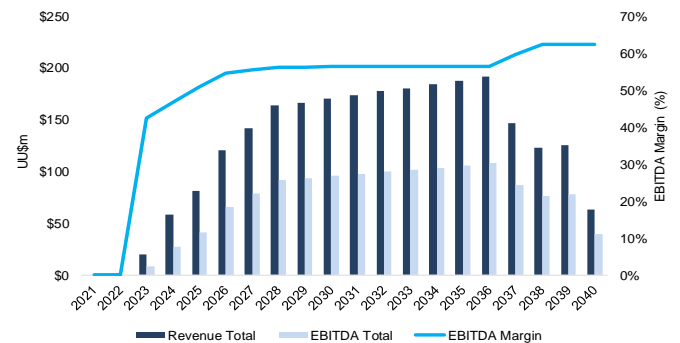
Figure 4 and Figure 5 below illustrate our assumed production profile at Lance, along with modelled revenue and EBITDA profile out to 2040 (17-year life used for valuation).

Figure 4: Lance production profile



Source: Canaccord Genuity estimates

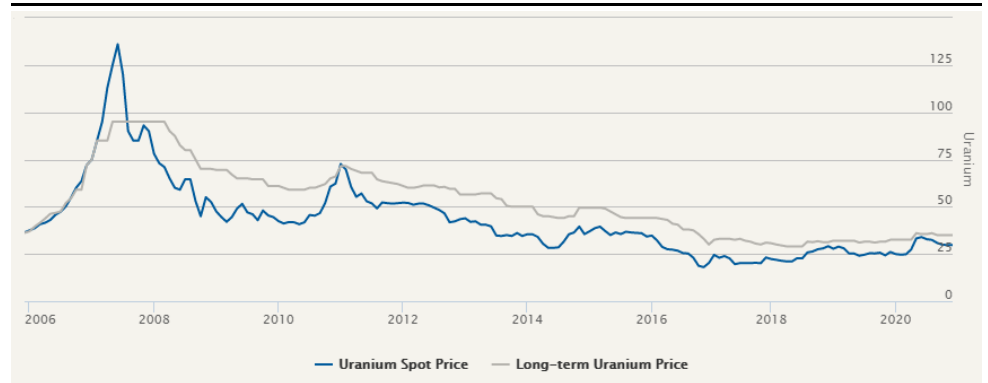
Figure 5: Lance revenue and EBITDA profile as modelled



Source: Canaccord Genuity estimates

In deriving our valuation, we utilise a LT U₃O₈ of US\$50 (inflating @ 1.0% p.a.). As discussed previously, we see a robust outlook for uranium pricing underpinned by a steady demand growth trajectory. We remain of the view that our price outlook is reasonable but note that previous uranium cycles have seen prices well in excess of this (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Historic U₃O₈ prices (US\$/lb)



Source: Cameco

Figure 7: Key model input assumptions

	DFS	CG forecast
Mine life once ramped up	17 years	17 years
Low PH transition capex	US\$5.3m	US\$5.3m
Stage 2 & 3 expansion capex	US\$113.4	US\$114.0
Wellfield replacement and sustaining capex	US\$342.4	US\$343.0
All-in sustaining cash cost (LOM)	US\$31.7/lb	US\$32.0/lb
First production (expansion)	2024	2025
LOM recovery	62%	62%
Uranium price	US\$49/lb	US\$50/lb

Source: Company reports, Canaccord Genuity estimates

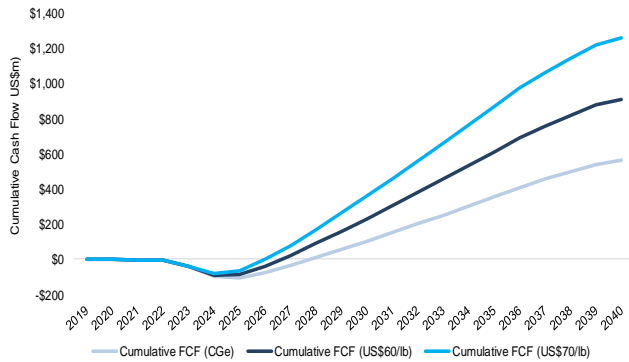
Figure 8: Sensitivity to U₃O₈ price and FX – grey = CGe LT deck

		Average U3O8 Prices					
		US\$40/lb	US\$45/lb	US\$50/lb	US\$55/lb	US\$60/lb	US\$65/lb
AUD/USD	\$/ps						
	0.60	0.06	0.11	0.16	0.21	0.27	0.32
	0.65	0.05	0.11	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30
	0.70	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.19	0.24	0.28
	0.75	0.05	0.10	0.14	0.18	0.22	0.26
	0.80	0.05	0.10	0.13	0.17	0.21	0.25
	0.85	0.05	0.09	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.24

Source: Canaccord Genuity estimates

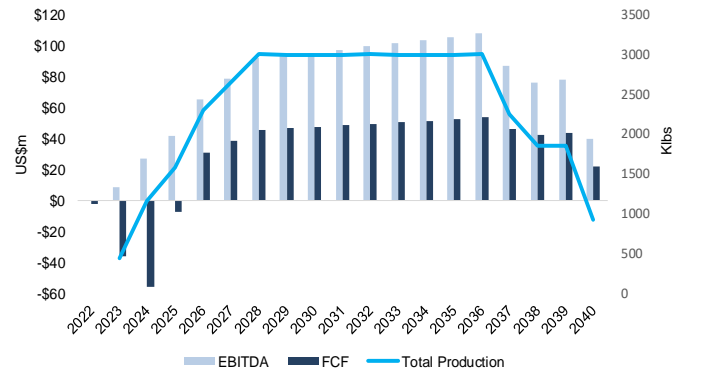
As noted previously, our modelled assumptions are essentially an extension of the 2018 FS, and underpin our forecast cash flows for the project. Our post-tax project cash flow estimates out to 2040 are shown in Figure 10. After a restart and construction period starting in 2022, we forecast sales to commence in mid-2023. We forecast free cash flows to become positive in 2026, ramping up to approximately ~US\$50m p.a. by 2028 and maintained through the remainder of the ~17-year project.

Figure 9: CGe PEN cumulative cash flow



Source: Canaccord Genuity estimates

Figure 10: CGe free cash projections



Source: Canaccord Genuity estimates

Strong balance sheet

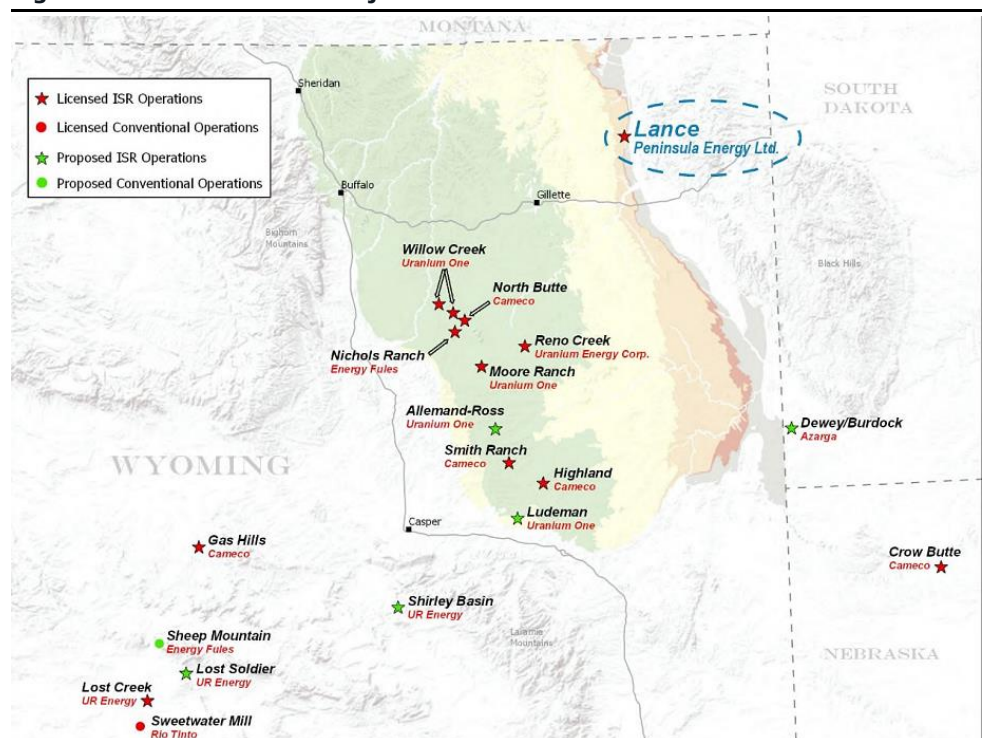
Having recently completed a fully underwritten A\$40m share entitlement offer in June, PEN is term debt free after repaying the balance of a convertible note agreement executed in 2016. PEN now has sufficient cash (US\$12.7m at the September quarter) to meet all ongoing low pH ISR optimisation activities into CY22, in our view.

Lance Projects overview

The wholly-owned Lance Uranium Projects in Wyoming, US is PEN's flagship development. It includes the Ross Central Processing Plant (CPP) within the Ross Permit Area, which is one of the six uranium ISR plants in the US that are either currently producing or have recently been producing.

In our view there are two key advantages to Peninsula's project being located in Wyoming, US: 1) The Powder River Basin in Wyoming is in an established uranium and mining jurisdiction (uranium mining for ~70 years and coal mining for ~150 years); and 2) The company has direct exposure to the US Government uranium purchase programme as recommended by the US Nuclear Fuel Working Group.

Figure 12: Lance Uranium Projects location



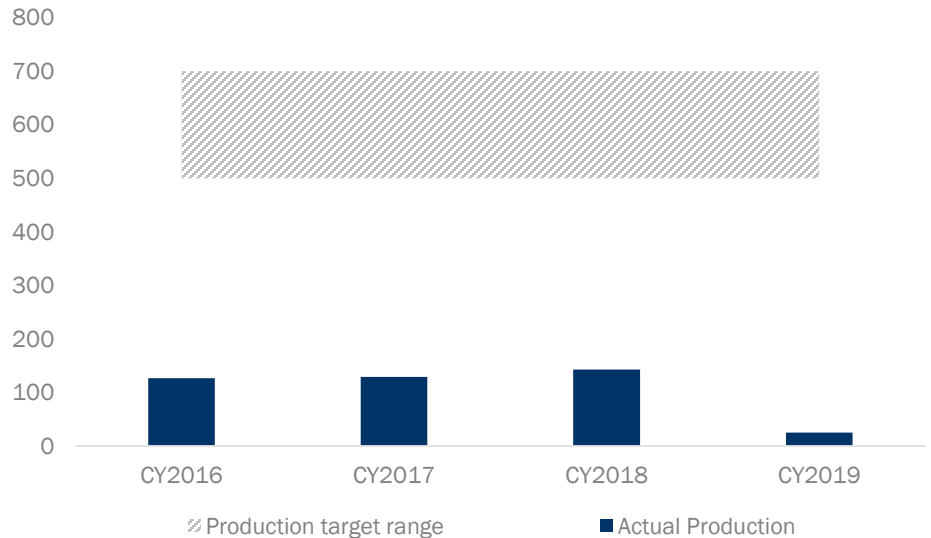
Source: Company reports

Project history

PEN commenced ISR operations at Lance in December 2015 using an alkaline-based lixiviant. To minimise initial capex, the CPP was constructed with only ion exchange facilities, with PEN outsourcing the elution, precipitation, drying and packaging processes to a nearby CPP that had available capacity. Outsourcing will continue until PEN elects to spend the capex to bring these functions in-house.

In short, production performance using the alkaline-based lixiviant was disappointing, with the project never getting close to its Stage 1 annual production target of 500-700klb.

Figure 13: Lance actual production performance versus target (U₃O₈ klb)



Source: Company reports, Canaccord Genuity estimates

Low pH transition

In 2017, PEN announced the outcomes of an initial research initiative that investigated the reasons alkaline-based production was proving to be less effective than what was anticipated in the pre-construction feasibility studies undertaken between 2011 and 2014. The outcome of the research initiative was a recommendation to change the project from an alkaline-based ISR project to an ISR project using a low pH (mild sulphuric acid) lixiviant.

Since late 2017, PEN has been steadily progressing the additional technical testwork and permit/license amendments required to enable the use of low pH lixiviants at Lance. This included laboratory tests using a low pH extraction solution that were conducted on Lance core samples. The test protocols were designed to simulate the successful low pH ISR processes utilised in Australia and Kazakhstan. Initial agitation leach tests with low pH solutions at Lance produced positive results, which led to a programme of column leach tests being conducted in 2018 and 2019. Column leach tests require a significantly longer time duration and are more costly than agitated leach tests, however, the design of the column test is regarded as more representative of the in-situ environment.

Overall, the laboratory testing results indicated that a low pH process would significantly benefit the Lance resource recovery rates, while also potentially improve the overall project cost profile. The 2018 FS which supported this conclusion.

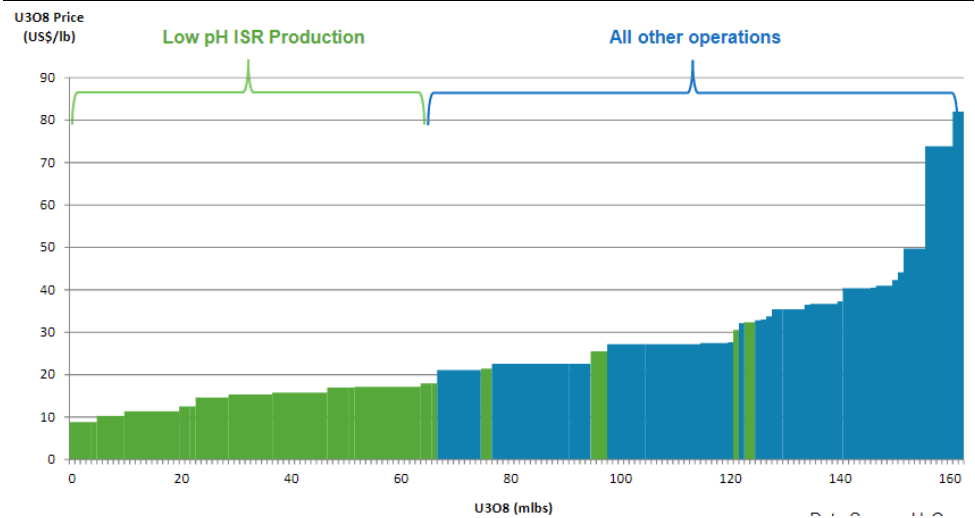
The outcomes of this FS showed that at a production rate of approximately 1.15Mlb U₃O₈ p.a., all-in sustaining cash costs would be US\$41/lb U₃O₈, decreasing to US\$31/lb U₃O₈ at a production rate of 2.0Mlb U₃O₈ p.a.

The laboratory work was further validated in CY19 by the positive results of a field leach trial (2019 FLT) conducted in an already mined area of Lance. The 2019 FLT focused on the impact of the acidification and neutralisation stages on mining and aquifer restoration, rather than technical optimisation.

As a consequence of this work in July 2019 PEN idled its alkaline-based production in order to focus on a low pH transition and ongoing low pH field demonstrations. In mid-2019, Lance became the only uranium ISR project in the United States authorised to use low pH lixiviant for ISR operations. Low pH ISR operation are globally recognised as the most cost competitive form of uranium mining (see Figure 14).

A low pH field demonstration commenced during the SepQ'20 and will operate over the next 12-18 months in an unmined area of Mine Unit 1 (MU1A). **We expect a material update from the company in early CY21.**

Figure 14: First quartile operations are low pH ISR



Source: Company reports

Approvals

The two overarching regulatory approvals governing the development and operation of a uranium ISR mine in Wyoming are the Permit to Mine (PTM) and the Source Materials License (SML). Both are administered by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) with the Land Quality Division administering the PTM and the Uranium Recovery Program (URP) administering the SML. While a range of other permits and licences are required, the PTM and SML set forth the majority of the regulations and operating conditions for Lance.

In April 2020, the WDEQ notified PEN that it had approved the Initial Restoration Report **bringing an end to the process of obtaining approvals to utilise the low pH method through the entirety of the Ross Permit Area at Lance**, subject only to meeting two pre-operational licence conditions (revisions to the radiation protection program and updates to the surety bond).

While the company has successfully completed the amendments to its PTM and SML to allow commercial scale low pH operations throughout the entirety of Ross Permit Area, it believes ongoing optimisation and de-risking activities may identify proposed operational enhancements that could require additional amendments to the PTM and SML.

Geology

The Lance uranium deposits are characterised as roll fronts, which form in the redox boundary at the sandstone/groundwater interface. Multiple mineralised horizons striking north-south have been identified within the complex system, of which 22 roll fronts have been mapped over 312 linear km.

The average depth of the mineralised sandstone units are approximately 160m, with the depth gradually increasing towards the west due to dipping strata and increasing surface elevation.

Uranium mineralisation is generally in the form of uraninite, coffinite or pitchblende. The deposits also contain vanadium, minor molybdenum and selenium.

Reserves/Resources

Since acquiring the project in 2007, PEN has progressively increased resources at Lance, from 15Mlb of contained U₃O₈ in 2010 to the latest estimate (as at 31 December 2018) of 53.6Mlb of contained U₃O₈ (71% inferred).

Figure 15: Lance Resource statement

Classification	Tons (million)	Grade (ppm U ₃ O ₈)	U ₃ O ₈ (Mlb)
Measured	3.4	487.0	3.7
Indicated	11.1	495.0	12.1
Inferred	36.2	474.0	37.8
Total	50.7	479.0	53.6

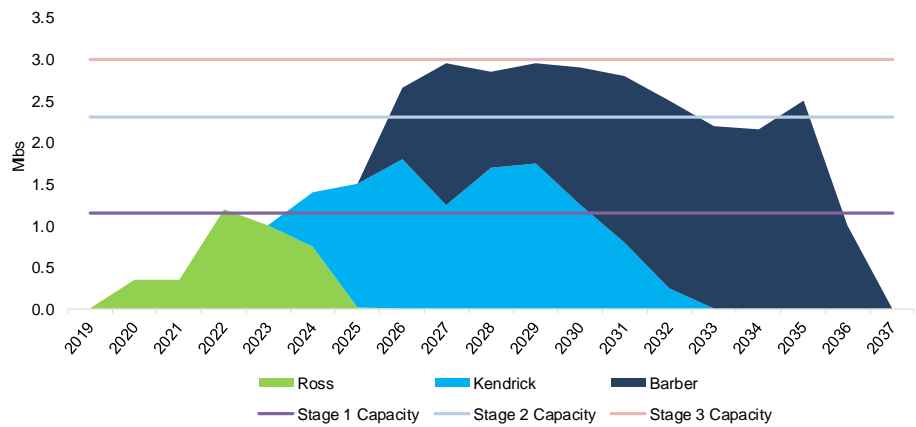
Source: Company reports

PEN's production and operating cost outlook

PEN's FS for Lance is based on a three-stage production ramp-up with an initial maximum flow rate capacity of around 3,750 gpm through the existing process plant IX circuit, once it is converted to be compatible with low pH solutions (Stage 1). Stage 2 involves expanding the plant capacity to 7,500 gpm and processing functionality of the CPP. This is then expected to be followed by Stage 3 which includes the construction of a Satellite Plant within Barber with a flow rate capacity of 7,500 gpm. More detail on the proposed stages is included below.

- **Stage 1** includes the changeover of the current facility and wellfields to utilise low pH solutions at the existing flow capacity of 3,750 gpm through the IX circuit. This is expected to result in a production capacity of 1.15Mlb p.a. U₃O₈ assuming an average head grade of 70 ppm. Head grade is currently around 10 to 20 ppm resulting in production of around 100klb p.a.
- **Stage 2** will include (1) expansion of the current facility allowing production flow to increase to 7,500 gpm from both the Ross and Kendrick Areas; (2) addition of elution systems; and (3) addition of precipitation and drying capacity. Assuming a head grade of 70 ppm, Stage 2 capacity is expected to reach 2.3Mlb p.a. U₃O₈. Stage 2 will also include the capability to produce dried yellowcake on site eliminating the need for toll milling agreements. Stage 2 will require permit approval for operation of wellfields within Kendrick.
- **Stage 3** includes construction of a satellite plant at Barber and the installation of expanded production capacity at the Ross CPP. The planned production rate at the Barber satellite plant is 2.3Mlb p.a. U₃O₈ at an average head grade of 70 ppm and the processing of the Barber satellite plant resin at the CPP. Stage 3 operations require permit approval for operation of both the associated wellfields and the satellite plant at Barber.

Figure 16: PEN's FS production profile for Lance

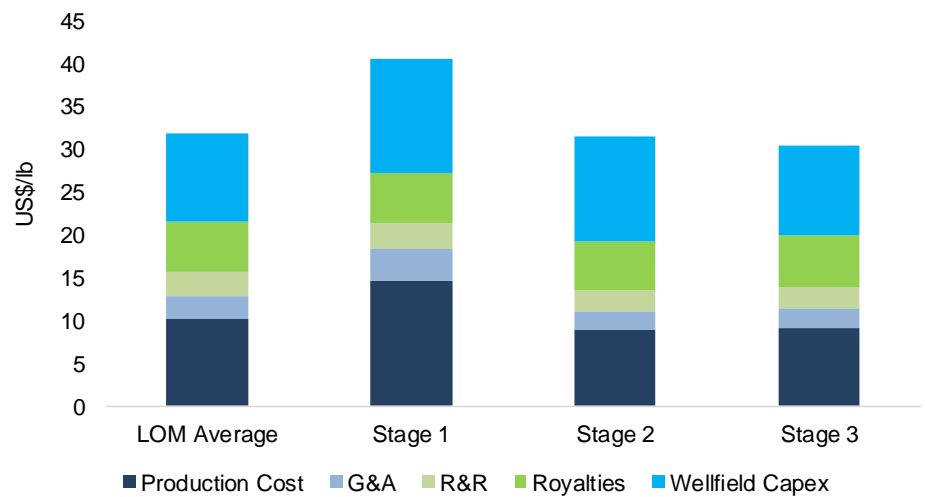


Source: Company reports

Once Lance get up to its Stage 1 output of around 1.15Mlb p.a., the AISC is expected to reduce to around US\$40/lb. This includes ongoing wellfield development (US\$10-12/lb), restoration accrual (US\$3/lb), royalties and state taxes (US\$5-7/lb). Direct operating costs are around US\$15/lb.

AISC for Stage 1 is expected to be high (US\$40.58/lb) compared to costs for subsequent stages, as shown in Figure 17. LOM AISC is forecast to be US\$31.78/lb.

Figure 17: AISC at Lance



Source: Company reports

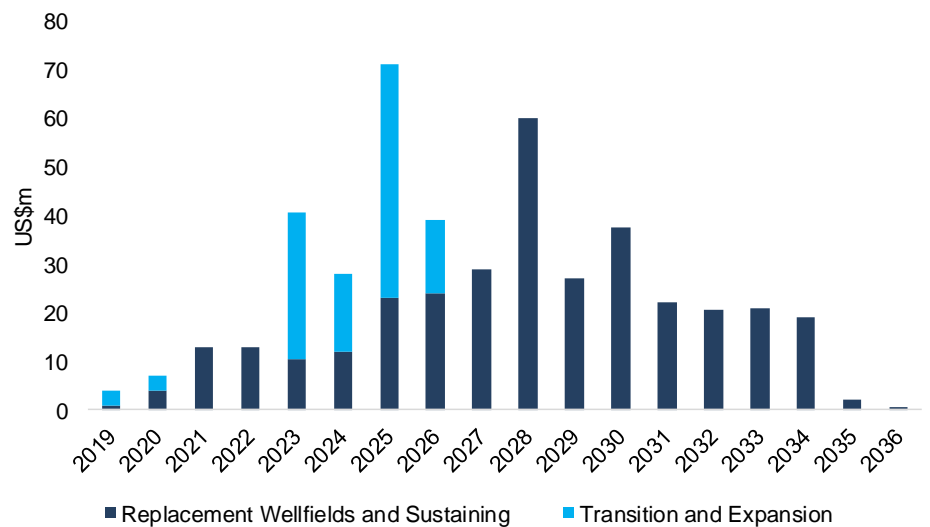
Capital required for Low pH Transition and Stages 1-3

The transition to accepting acid into the plant is estimated to cost approximately US\$5.3m plus working capital. This will be spent on converting the existing wellfield infrastructure and process plant to make it amenable for acid.

The two existing wellfields will be mined first, where US\$20m has already been invested. PEN will also need to invest in Mine Unit 3 which will cost around US\$9m and will include everything required to connect the field into the plant and 240 wells, of these around 90 will be extraction wells. This will target output of 1.15Mlb p.a. under Stage 1 of the planned plant expansion. PEN has around 700-800klb left in MU1 and MU2, so this will see approximately two years of production ramp-up in the existing mine units.

Beyond Stage 1, PEN estimates approximately US\$113.4m (US\$43.1m for Stage 2, US\$70.3m for Stage 3) in capital expenditure is required to achieve PEN's production target of 3Mlb p.a. by 2026. This includes an average contingency of 5.8%, which appears on the low side, and unlikely to satisfy potential debt lenders requirements in our view. The profile of forecast expenditures is shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Capital expenditure profile (US\$m)



Source: Company reports, Canaccord Genuity estimates

Sales agreements and sales outlook

The portfolio of uranium concentrate sale and purchase agreements held by PEN contains a combination of committed sales and optional sales. Optional sales are offered at the election of the respective customer. The remaining portfolio of uranium concentrate sale and purchase agreements held by the company is currently up to 5.5Mlb U₃O₈ (4.2Mlb U₃O₈ committed; up to 1.3Mlb U₃O₈ optional). Delivery obligations under the contracts continue through to 2030. The company's weighted average future sales price now sits at the upper end of the guided US\$51-53/lb range.

PEN has recently modified certain contracts to include delivery contract provisions that provide flexibility to the company during the time it may take to receive authorisation for and to ramp up production under the low pH operational plan. Approximately 50% of committed deliveries in CY20 can be sourced from either production or market purchases at the company's election without a price variation, meaning that PEN is not dependent on Lance production to meet its entire delivery commitments over the next few year. It has not been disclosed how much can be purchased on-market for sales in 2021-23, however we estimate it is significantly less than 50%. As a result, we expect operating costs in 2021-23 to be materially higher than in 2020.

Recently, PEN entered into a binding purchase agreement with UG USA, a subsidiary of ORANO, to procure 400klb U₃O₈ for delivery in CY21. The company currently has 450klb U₃O₈ of committed sales to its customers in CY21 and CY22 (US\$6-8m net revenue p.a.).

The in-situ recovery process

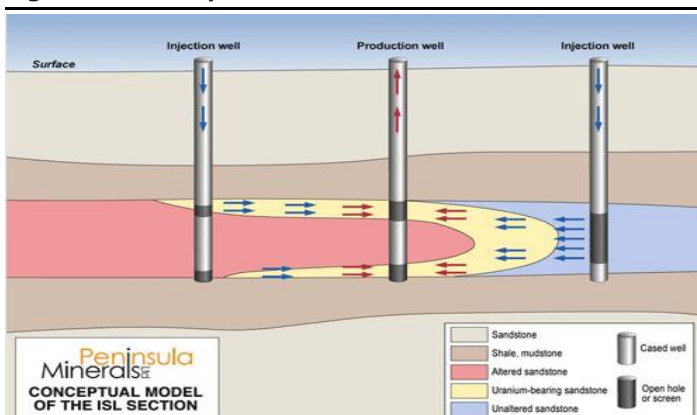
ISR of uranium is a very common uranium extraction method in both the US and globally. The ISR process works by injecting a solution (lixiviant), comprising native groundwater with reagents (alkaline, acid, and/or oxidants), into the host formation containing uranium mineralisation. The lixiviant dissolves the uranium and forms a soluble complex with the dissolved uranium, which is pumped out of the formation through a recovery well. The recovered lixiviant is typically processed using ion exchange (IX) resin, which selectively removes the uranium complexes from the solution. The lixiviant is recharged with reagents and injected back into the formation so the process can repeat. There are three primary controls to prevent the spread of lixiviant outside of the mineralised horizon. These include natural geologic confining layers above and below the mineralised horizon, injecting less lixiviant than is withdrawn in order to maintain an inward groundwater flow direction into each wellfield, and implementing a monitor well network that surrounds each wellfield horizontally and vertically.

Today, Wyoming ISR operations, including PEN's plant, and other U.S. operations currently apply alkaline leach methods, typically using a combination of carbon dioxide or sodium bicarbonate along with gaseous oxygen to dissolve and mobilize the uranium. Low pH ISR reagents are used worldwide to recover a variety of minerals, including copper in Arizona and uranium in Australia, Kazakhstan, China, Uzbekistan, and the Russian Federation. According to the World Nuclear Association, in 2017, 50% of global uranium was mined from ISR operations using low pH lixivants, and this will likely be higher when 2019 numbers become available as Cameco's underground operation at MacArthur River/Key Lake is now on care and maintenance. At present, no US uranium ISR operations use low pH lixivants, although we note that there are no regulatory prohibitions on their use in Wyoming.

US deposits tend to be higher carbonate concentration and this results in higher acid consumption and higher cost on the acid leach. One of the motivating factors for PEN pursuing acid leaching was the acknowledgement that Lance have a lower carbonate content, and therefore had the right ore body to change chemistry.

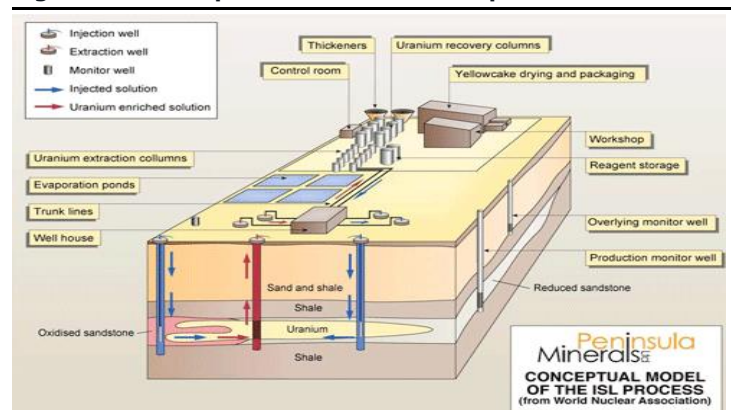
Lance has relatively good quality groundwater, with total dissolved solids (TDS) of around 1,000ppm which makes processing more straight forward as TDS up to 1,000 ppm is typically classified as fresh water by many environmental agencies. Simplistically speaking, the way the acid leach process works is the acid dissolves the uranium and complexes with the sulphates, however when the TDS is high, there are a lot of competing ions, so the process has to be more sophisticated.

Figure 19: Conceptual model of the ISL section



Source: Company reports

Figure 20: Conceptual model of the ISL process



Source: Company reports

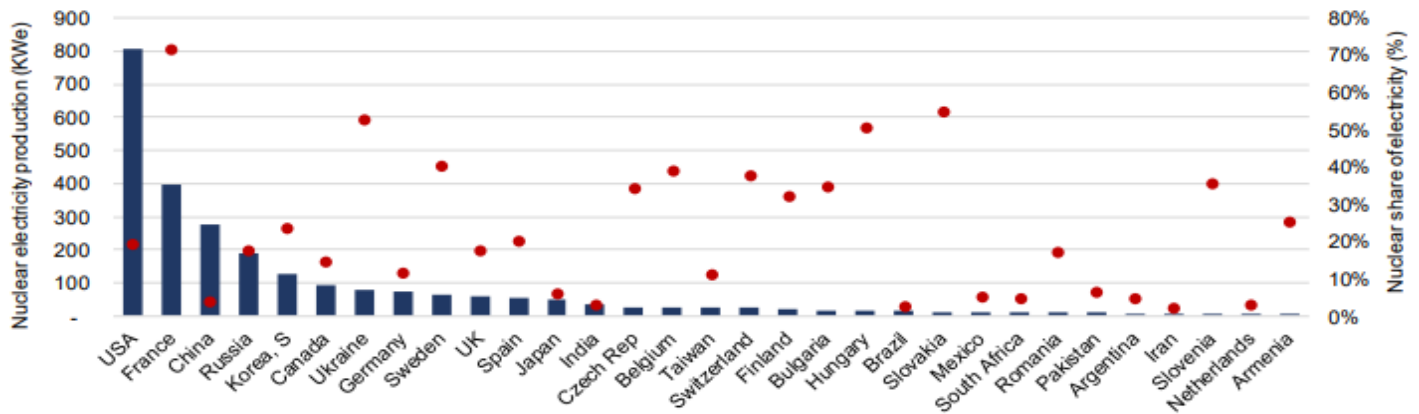
State of play in the US

The government wants more indigenous supply

With an advanced, low-cost development, and history of production, we believe PEN is well positioned to benefit from increasing US government support for nuclear energy and the domestic production of uranium.

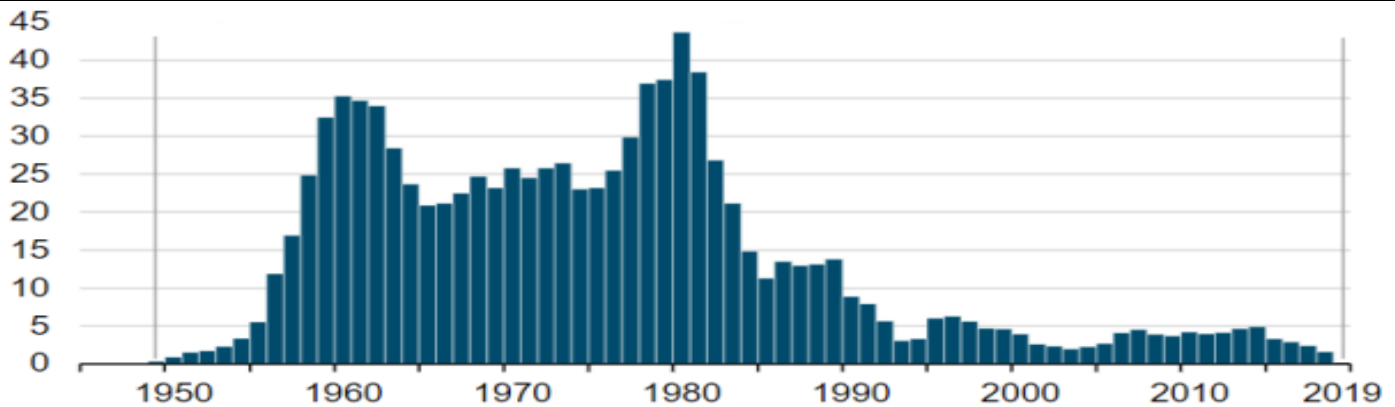
The US is the world's largest consumer of uranium, accounting for more than 30% of worldwide nuclear demand (Figure 21). Despite this, the US produced only 174 thousand pounds of U_3O_8 in 2019, representing only 0.3% of the annual fuel requirements for US nuclear reactors (~50Mlb U_3O_8 demand per year), and the country's lowest annual production since 1950 (Figure 22).

Figure 21: Nuclear electricity production and nuclear share of total electricity by our country



Source: World Nuclear Association

Figure 22: United States uranium production history (U_3O_8 Mlb)



Source: EIA: 2019 Domestic Uranium Production Report

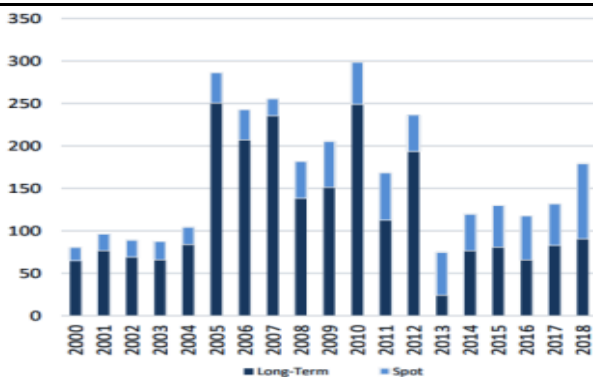
Recognising this decline in domestic production and an increasing dependence on offshore pounds, President Trump established a Nuclear Fuel Working Group (NFWG) in July 2019 to examine the current state of the domestic nuclear fuel supply chain and its implications for national security. In April 2020, the Nuclear Fuel Working Group released its recommendations (see note [here](#)), which showed strong support for nuclear power and outlined actions to revive the front-end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium mining and conversion services.

Included in these recommendations was the establishment of a \$150m annual reserve for purchases of US-mined uranium over the next 10 years. This reserve is expected to support the operation of at least two US uranium mines and the re-establishment of active domestic conversion capabilities. The likelihood of this reserve being established took a major step forward with the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passing a bill which approves the establishment of a national uranium strategic reserve

In our view, PEN is well positioned as a potential beneficiary of US government support, as a proven operator with fully permitted, reasonably low-cost project, that has a short timeline to production (six-month lead time post FID). We believe news of government support, such as funding, is potentially catalytic for PEN's shares.

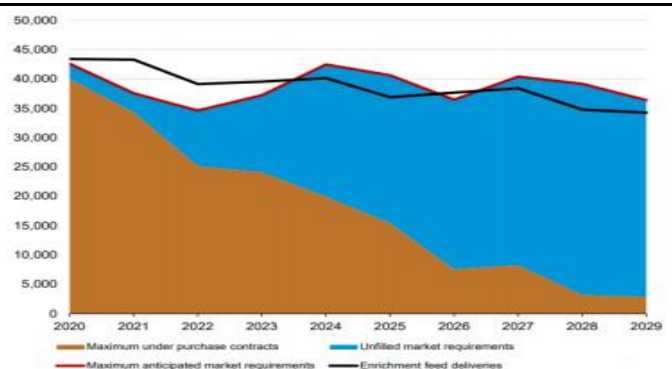
Furthermore, the US Department of Commerce and Rosatom, on behalf of the Russian government, recently signed an amendment to the Russian Suspension Agreement (RSA), originally signed in 1992, extending the agreement to 2040 and reduces the delivery of nuclear fuel into the US from Russia. Under the current agreement, Russian exports are limited to ~20% of US enrichment demand; however, under the amended agreement this percentage would drop to an average of 17% over a 20-year period. In our view, this is positive for US miners (such as PEN) as it restricts the quantity of uranium that can be delivered to US utilities at lower costs from Russia, which in turn supports increased domestic production. Clarity on the RSA is also positive for US utilities which, in our view, have sat on the sidelines over the past few years as market access and trade policy issues (Section 232, US trade tensions, NFWG recommendations, and RSA amendments) have weighed heavily on the market and increased uncertainty for utilities. However, with much of this uncertainty now resolved, we believe utilities will soon look to re-enter the term market to ensure future supply for their reactors. We note that long-term contracts from the previous uranium cycle are rolling off at increasing rates and significant uncovered utility requirements are emerging (Figure 23 and 24). We view this as advantageous for PEN, as we expect US utilities to re-enter the market looking to negotiate contracts with companies that offer responsiveness (advanced permitting and lower development capital) and security geographically.

Figure 23: Long-term contract volumes have been low in recent years



Source: Company reports, Canaccord Genuity estimates

Figure 24: Uncovered uranium demand requirements for US utilities are increasing



Source: Company reports, Canaccord Genuity estimates

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, for the first time in 48 years there is bipartisan support for nuclear. In its recently announced platform, the US Democratic Party changed its stance on nuclear energy, stating it now favours a technology-neutral approach that includes "all zero-carbon technologies, including hydroelectric power, geothermal, existing and advanced nuclear, and carbon capture and storage". Biden also supports nuclear; his climate change agenda plans for investment in clean energy research, including small modular reactors. In our view, this is a significant step forward for nuclear in the US.

Investment risks

Financing risks

Our analysis suggests that PEN will require additional capital to fund the development costs for the Lance project for which we have risked our valuation. PEN is reliant on equity/debt/external capital to fund capital commitments, and there is no guarantee that accessing these markets will be achieved without dilution to shareholders.

Furthermore, accurate estimates of capital costs for the project remain subject to completion of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, which may see capital requirements exceed our model assumptions. There is no guarantee that studies will result in a positive investment decision for the project.

Operational risks

Once in production, the company will be subject to risks such as plant/equipment breakdowns, metallurgical (noting flowsheet changes to address previous challenges), geological and other technical issues. An increase in operating costs could reduce the profitability and free cash generation from the operating assets and negatively impact valuation.

Further, the yellow cake product specifications may differ from initial test work interpretations which can also materially impact product acceptance by customers and therefore earnings from forecast production.

Implementation risks

We note the compressed development schedule will require concurrent plant commissioning of Stage 1 followed soon after by the installation of Stage 2 equipment and then Stage 3. This sequence presents a natural risk that delays in Stage 1 could impact Stage 2 and therefore Stage 3 which present downside risk to our cash flow projections.

Market risks

PEN's sales revenue is dependent on being able to secure term contracts for its proposed level of production and priced with the required mechanisms that will enable proactive capital and budgetary management. We note the protracted nature of negotiating uranium product offtake with the potential that timelines could be prolonged to ensure than an acceptable order book is agreed on.

Commodity price and currency fluctuation

The company as a near-term uranium producer is exposed to commodity price and currency fluctuations, often driven by macro-economic forces including inflationary pressure, interest rates and supply and demand of commodities. These factors are external and could reduce the profitability, costing and prospective outlook for the business.

Geological and resource risk

The actual characteristics of a mineral deposit may differ significantly from initial interpretations and expectations. PEN's plan incorporates Mineral Resources whose actual economics are yet to be determined. Grades and tonnages for Exploration Targets are conceptual in nature.

Directors and key management

John Harrison – Non-Executive Chairman

John has had a 45-year career which includes broking, corporate finance and 20 years of investment banking experience. During this time, John has advised companies across a range of commodities (including uranium), as well as related engineering and service businesses, in both an M&A and equity capital markets context. John founded the UK coking coal company, West Cumbria Mining Pty Ltd, and is currently a Non-Executive Director of that company. He is also a Non-Executive Director of Newscape Capital Group Ltd, a diversified UK fund management and advisory group based in St James's, London.

Wayne Heili – Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer

Wayne has spent the bulk of his 30-year professional career in the uranium mining industry. He most recently served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Ur-Energy, Inc. where he oversaw the design, construction, commissioning and ramp-up of the Lost Creek in-situ uranium project in Wyoming, US. Prior to joining Ur-Energy, Inc., Wayne served as Operations Manager of the Christensen/Irigaray in-situ uranium mines in Wyoming and also has experience on conventional uranium mines in Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical Engineering from Michigan Technological University and is a past President of the Uranium Producers of America.

Harrison (Hink) Barker – Non-Executive Director

From 1992 until 2015, Hink had been the manager responsible for Dominion Resources' procurement of nuclear fuel and the related processing steps of conversion from U_3O_8 to UF_6 , enrichment of UF_6 , and fabrication of nuclear fuel assemblies. He is a former chair of the Nuclear Energy Institute's Utility Fuel Committee, and a past member of the World Nuclear Fuel Market Board of Directors (Chairman for two years). From 1975 to 1984 he worked as an engineer and supervisor in the areas of nuclear fuel quality assurance, nuclear core design, nuclear fabrication contract administration, nuclear fuel procurement, spent fuel transportation and disposal planning during a period when Dominion was building its regulated nuclear operating fleet in Virginia. Hink holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, and a Master's in Nuclear Engineering Science both from the University of Florida.

Mark Wheatley – Non-Executive Director

Mark is an experienced resources company CEO, Non-Executive Director and Chairman with a career spanning more than 30 years in mining and related industries. Mark's uranium experience includes the roles of Chairman and CEO of Southern Cross Resources Inc, the operator of the Honeymoon ISR uranium project, Non-executive Director of Uranium One Inc and Uranium Resources Inc. His other board roles have included Non-Executive Chairman of Xanadu Mines Ltd, Gold One International Ltd, Goliath Gold Mining Ltd, Norton Gold Fields Ltd and directorship of St Barbara Ltd.

David Coyne – Finance Director/Chief Financial Officer

David has over 20 years' experience in the mining, and engineering and construction industries, both within Australia and internationally. Prior to joining Peninsula, David held senior executive positions with Australian listed companies Macmahon Holdings Limited and VDM Group Limited, and with unlisted global manganese miner Consolidated Minerals. Over the past 10 years, Wayne has been directly involved in a number of equity and debt raising transactions and has been the project director on a company-wide systems implementation project. Wayne has previously served on the board of listed iron ore miner, BC Iron limited, where he also held the role of Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee.

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Investment Recommendation

Date and time of first dissemination: December 17, 2020, 00:00 ET

Date and time of production: December 17, 2020, 00:00 ET

Target Price / Valuation Methodology:

Peninsula Energy Limited - PEN

Our target price is derived from a DCF-based sum of the parts valuation, comprising our NPV10% of the stage Lance project, a nominal value for exploration, and net cash.

Risks to achieving Target Price / Valuation:

Peninsula Energy Limited - PEN

Financing risks: Our analysis suggests that PEN will require additional capital to fund the development costs for the Lance project for which we have risked our valuation. PEN is reliant on equity/debt/external capital to fund capital commitments, and there is no guarantee that accessing these markets will be achieved without dilution to shareholders.

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Distribution of Ratings:

Global Stock Ratings (as of 12/16/20)

Rating	Coverage Universe		IB Clients
	#	%	%
Buy	566	63.24%	57.95%
Hold	166	18.55%	41.57%
Sell	9	1.01%	33.33%
Speculative Buy	135	15.08%	80.00%
	895*	100.0%	

*Total includes stocks that are Under Review

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Peninsula Energy Limited Rating History as of 12/16/2020



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note price history refers to actual past performance, and that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future price and/or performance.

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