

# URANIUM EXPLORATION IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (JULY 2005).

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8 July 2005

Main Reference: Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD). Titles Information System, NT Government, Darwin.

See link from <http://www.minerals.nt.gov.au/>

## OVERVIEW – The Rush is On!

### *Exploration Licence Applications*

As of 8 July 2005, there are 70 Exploration Licence Applications in the Northern Territory from companies with a stated interest in uranium – Aldershot Resources, Afmeco, Cameco, Compass Resources, Deep Yellow, Rio Tinto, Arafura Resources, Uranium Exploration Pty Ltd, Koongarra Ltd, and Bullion Minerals.

It can be said with a reasonable degree of surety that approximately 59 of these are primarily being applied for with uranium as a significant target mineral. The other 11 are applications from Rio Tinto in West Arnhem Land which may be targeting minerals other than uranium (need to check this).

I have also not included Koongarra Ltd's application for EL 3479 as from my current knowledge it seems to have been superseded by the more recent application for EL 10082.

Nine of these 70 applications are currently under a traditional owner veto.

35 new uranium-prospective exploration licences have been applied for by the companies listed above since the beginning of 2004, with 27 of these applied for since the beginning of 2005.

The total area under application is 18,061 square kilometres (or 1.8 million hectares). Only 1682 square kilometres of this is under an active veto.

11,962 square kilometres have been applied for since the beginning of 2004 (9,975 sq km since the start of 2005).

### *Granted Exploration Licences*

As of 8 July 2005, there are 40 exploration licence areas granted to companies with an interest in uranium in the Northern Territory. Three of these belong to Rio Tinto in West Arnhem Land and again may not be primarily targeting uranium.

Ten of these licences have been granted since the beginning of 2004 (this would climb to 16 if December 2003 is also included).

The total area under granted exploration licences is 9,819 square kilometres (or 981,893 hectares).

3,232 square kilometres has been granted for exploration since the beginning of 2004 (with 694 sq km since the start of 2005).

*Table1. Overview of Exploration Licence Areas in the NT – companies with uranium interests*

Company	No. of Applications	Total Area under Applications (sq km)	No. of applications under current veto	No. of granted licences	Total Area under granted licences (sq km)
Aldershot Resources	11	717.4	0	0	0
Afmeco	1	25.8	1	0	0
Cameco	29	4946.0	4	25	7015.1
Compass Resources	6	146.5	0	7	128.4
Deep Yellow	2	1223.7	0	2	913.4
Rio Tinto	11	2823.2	4	3	338.5
Arafura Resources	1	1572.0	0	3	1423.5
Uranium Exploration Australia	5	1648.7	0	0	0
Koongarra Ltd	1	45.0	0	0	0
Bullion Minerals	3	4903.0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>18061.3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>9818.9</b>

***This means that, as of 8 July 2005, there is a total area of 27,880 square kilometres (or 2.79 million hectares) in the NT being targeted by companies with interests in uranium i.e. this area is either under application for an exploration licence or a licence has already been granted.***

***Uranium exploration is already occurring every dry season in West Arnhem Land on a number of Cameco's granted licences. Deep Yellow and Arafura Resources have also identified uranium prospects in Central Australia.***