# TURNING SWU INTO U

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## **URANIUM & SWU IMBALANCE**

- ■World Uranium Production Substantially Below Apparent Requirements
  - Commercial Optimal Tails ~ 0.34% U-235
  - Uranium Production ~ 36,000 tU
  - Apparent Requirements ~ 70,000 tU
- □SWU Supply Substantially Above Apparent Requirements
  - SWU Supply (Primary & HEU) ~ 47,000 tSWU
  - Apparent Requirements ~ 35,000 tSWU

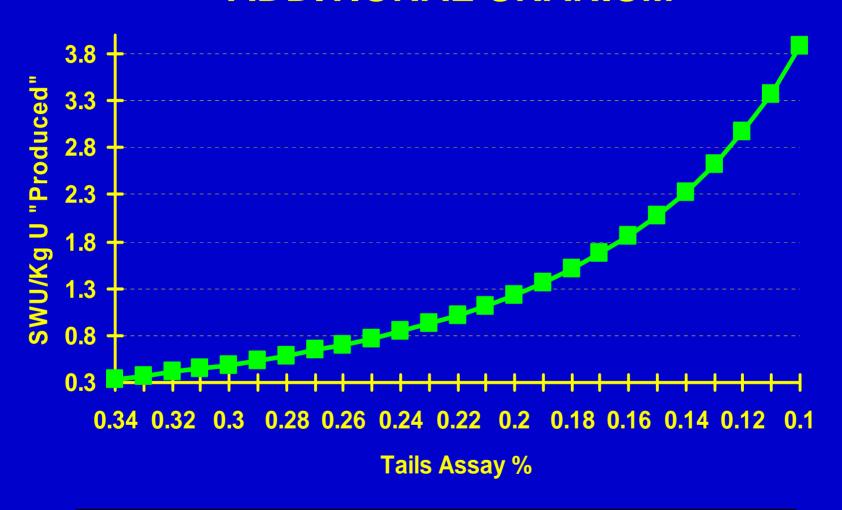


# SWU SUBSTITUTES FOR U

- □ Transaction Tails Vs. Operating Tails
  - In 1970s, Overfeeding Made U Disappear
  - Underfeeding Now Makes U Appear
- ■Examine Quantitative Tradeoffs Between U & SWU
  - SWU/kg U
  - Cost/kg U
  - Volumes
- Specific Sources of Uranium From SWU

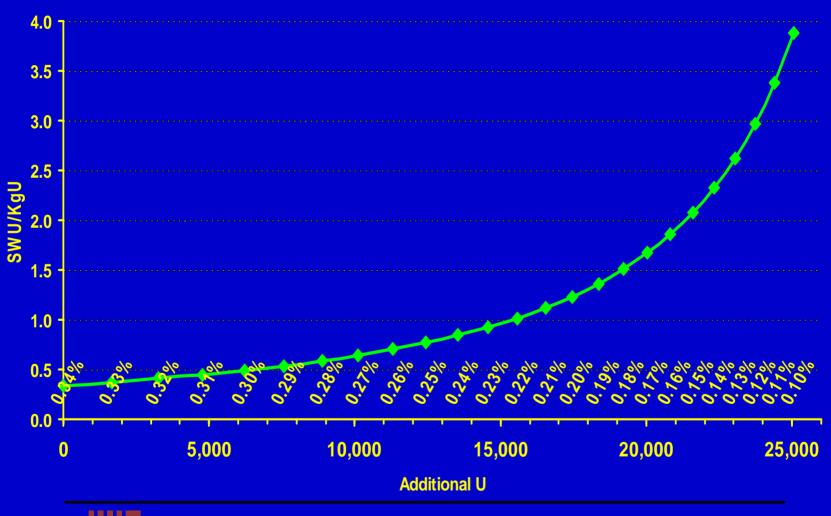


# SWU REQUIRED TO EXTRACT ADDITIONAL URANIUM



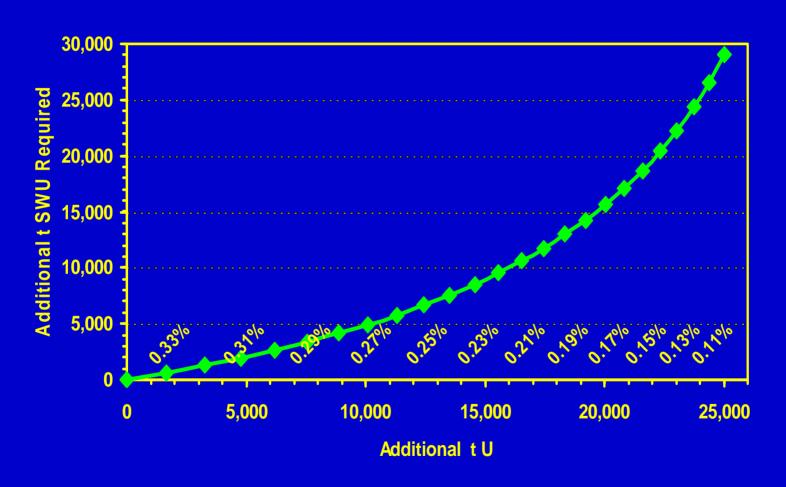


# URANIUM "PRODUCED" AS TAILS ASSAY DECREASES





# ADDITIONAL SWU REQUIRED TO "PRODUCE" U AT VARIOUS TAILS ASSAYS





## **ENRICHMENT SOURCES OF URANIUM**

- Underfeeding
- ☐HEU Split Tails
- European Tails Upgrading
- □HEU and Its Blend-Stock
- Russian Tails Stripping



### **ENRICHMENT PLANT UNDERFEEDING**

#### □ Enricher Contracts to:

- Sell 5.0 million SWU to Enrich @ 0.34% Tails
- Utilities Deliver 9,650 t U
- Utilities Receive 861 t EUP (@ 4.5%)

# □ Enricher Actually:

- Uses 5.37 million SWU to Enrich @ 0.30% Tails
- Feeds 8,800 t U to Make EUP
- Resells 850 t U
- Delivers 861 t EUP (@ 4.5%)



### **HEU SPLIT TAILS**

- □USEC Receives From Tenex:
  - 885 t EUP (Avg. 4.5%) from 30 t HEU Containing:
    - 5,500 t SWU @ 0.30% Tails
    - 9,040 t U @ 0.30% Tails
  - Utilities Deliver 9,920 t U
- **USEC** Delivers
  - 885 t EUP (Avg. 4.5%) to Customers Containing:
    - 5,140 t SWU @ 0.34%
    - 9,040 t U to Tenex
- □USEC Retains 880 t U to Re-Sell



## **EUROPEAN TAILS UPGRADING**

- □ European Enrichers "Underfeeding"
  - Stripping Tails In Russia Same as Underfeeding
  - Use 1.2 1.6 Million Russian SWU
  - Receive Back About 2,600 t U
  - Savings on Tails Disposal
- □ Russia Utilizes Residual Tails
  - HEU Blend-Stock
  - Other Uses



## **RUSSIAN HEU & BLEND-STOCK**

- □EUP From HEU Contains 9,000 t U (@0.30%)
  - Nearly 30% of U From Blend-Stock
  - U.S. Quota Sales 4,600 t U in 2003
  - Russia Takes 2,580 t U/Yr. For Blend-Stock
  - Remainder Put In "Monitored Inventory" (Russia and U.S.)

#### □HEU Blend-Stock

- Russia Actually Uses Tails Not Natural U
- 6,000 Tonnes Tails (0.30% Stripped to 0.10%)
- 4.3 Million Russian SWU



#### **CONCLUSIONS I**

- SWU Is Already Used to Meet U Demand
  - Low Cost SWU Competes With Uranium Production
  - 10 to 12 Million SWU Used
  - If Used Efficiently, Could Yield 15,000 tU @ World Avg. Tails of 0.23%
  - But Not Used Efficiently
  - Net Change in U Demand 7,000 9,000 tU
  - Effective World Tails Assay 0.28 0.29%



## **CONCLUSIONS II**

# Utility Nomination of Lower Transaction Tails

- Would Not Change U Supply/Demand
- Enrichers Already At Lower Effective Tails
  - USEC Underfeed
  - European Effective Underfeed via Russia
  - Russian Tails Stripping
- Uranium Already In Market via Enrichers
- Enricher "Recycle" Already Reduces Demand on Primary Uranium Production



# **OUTLOOK I**

#### Russian SWU Utilization to be Rationalized

- Russia Rich in SWU, Poor in Uranium
- Russian Conventional SWU Use Growing
- Higher Costs for New SWU Capacity
- Ultimately, Better Integration With World Market
  - Conventional Uranium Enrichment Exports
  - Less Tails Stripping
  - Import Uranium



### **OUTLOOK II**

- ■No Extension or Addition to HEU Deal
  - Russia Already Using HEU for Domestic Needs
  - Hold For Strategic Defense and Fuel Purposes
  - Tails Stripping for Blend-Stock Ends 2013—Frees
     4.3 Million Russian SWU
  - Reduces Supply to Western Markets by 5.5 Million SWU
  - Reduces World Uranium Supply by 9,000 Tonnes

