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## **The Role of Exploration in the Coming Uranium Boom**

Exploration has always been an important primary function in past uranium booms. Whether it was the prospector with his hundred-dollar Geiger counter or the team of highly educated, well-paid geologists analyzing depositional basins and programming dozens of drill rigs simultaneously in several states. They did their work well. So well, that in the coming uranium boom they have worked themselves out of a job.

Those explorationists found and delimited more than 200 million pounds of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> resource that was never, or only partially mined. The exploration companies that made those unmined discoveries are, for the most part, now gone and ownership of those uranium resources have generally reverted back to the original owner. In some cases the original owner is the U. S. Government.

Exploitation of those uranium resources in the New-Boom will require a landman acquiring known resources that the geologist has researched from the literature, various government agencies and the stored exploration data developed by the exploration geologist of the past. This last source of uranium resource data is scattered in numerous warehouses, largely forgotten, and rapidly deteriorating if not being destroyed.

These data may include original electric logs. They may even contain a report of the property defining uranium resource outline, drill hole location, in-place grade, depth, thickness and contained pounds. Finding these data will be the challenge.

The coming boom geologist will have to be adept at research in the field, not on the World Wide Web. He will be required to search out the previous geologist, to chase down company records that have already passed through numerous mergers. He must know when to quit the false trail and find a new lead. Then he must have the ability to interpret data that was generated fifteen, twenty or even forty years ago.