

**AAPG Annual Meeting  
March 10-13, 2002  
Houston, Texas**

Robert E. Vance<sup>1</sup> (1) Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa, ON

## **Uranium Resources in Canada**

Since the mid-1980s, Canada has been the world leader in uranium production. Total Canadian uranium resources rank fourth in the world, and Canada hosts the world's largest known high-grade uranium deposits. Canadian uranium is used to generate atmospheric emission-free electricity in several countries around the world. Canadian uranium trade is safeguarded by international agreements that are bolstered by bilateral nuclear co-operation agreements. Canadian uranium mining projects are being developed in a sustainable fashion, as significant benefits are being returned to local inhabitants as recommended by thorough environmental assessments conducted prior to development.

Canada's uranium resources of current economic interest are situated in the Athabasca Basin of northern Saskatchewan, where all operating mines and mills are located, and in the Thelon Basin of Nunavut. As of January 1, 2001, Canada's total "known" recoverable uranium resources were 437 000 tU. Canadian uranium production in 2000 amounted to 10 683 tU, up some 30% from the 1999 total, mainly due to contributions from the new McClean Lake and McArthur River mines.

Despite low prices, Canadian uranium production capability is poised to continue expanding in the province of Saskatchewan. Test mining and development continues at Cigar Lake, with the mine now expected to begin production in 2005. There is significant potential for the discovery of additional unconformity related high-grade uranium deposits in Canada.