# Domestic Uranium – A Key Component of America's Clean Energy Future & National Security

Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission January 25, 2023

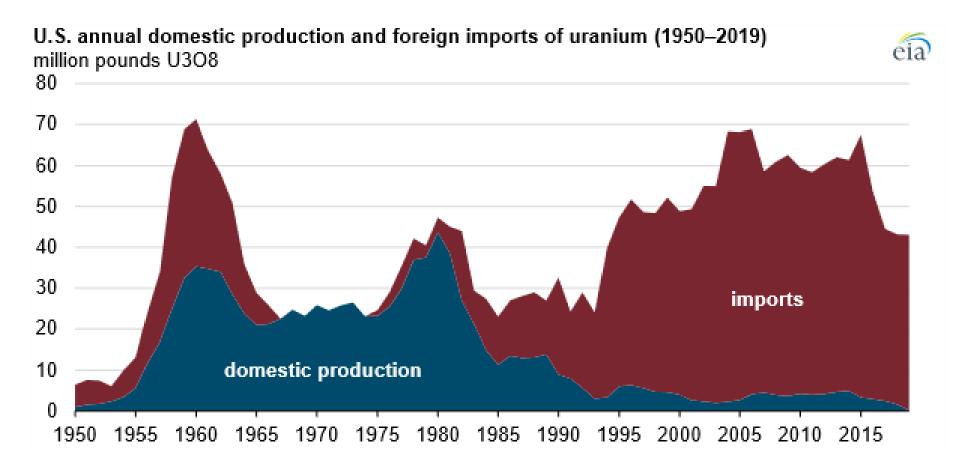


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## **Domestic Uranium Supply At Risk**

- Mine production in 2022 was at the lowest level ever recorded, and a fraction of the material needed to power even one of America's commercial nuclear reactors.
- The industry once employed more than 21,000 Americans. Today employment is down to 265 nearly 75 percent less than the industry employed in 2012.
- Exploration, a reliable indicator of future production, has also nearly completely halted.
- The domestic uranium industry needs to be rebuilt to enhance the U.S. nuclear infrastructure, create high paying clean energy jobs, and reduce dependence on foreign sources for carbon-free energy.

#### U.S. is Now Almost Entirely Dependent on Imported Uranium



## Domestic Uranium Critical for Clean Energy and National Security

- Losing U.S. uranium mining, conversion, and domestic enrichment capacity makes the U.S. entirely dependent on imports for a fuel needed to power:
  - 20 percent of the electricity in the U.S.
  - 55 percent of our carbon free power
- In 2021, uranium imports from foreign state-owned entities climbed to over 47 percent of U.S. reactor demand.
- Despite the unlevel global playing field, U.S. mines are cost-competitive on a global basis. With the right policy conditions, the U.S. industry can provide 60 percent of domestic fuel requirements, according to Energy Information Administration reported production capacity.

## **US Uranium Producer Priorities**

#### **#1) Ending US Reliance on Russia for Nuclear Fuel**

- Urge Congress to enact a ban on Russian uranium and nuclear fuel imports
- Russia has weaponized its energy resources and exposed America's dangerous reliance on Russia and its allies for Nuclear Fuel supply and services
- Russia's nuclear entity (Rosatom) aids the Ukraine war effort (*The Washington Post, January 20, 2023*)
- The US and our allies collectively hold sizable inventories to help meet short-term needs to ensure every existing reactor will be able to maintain operations

## **US Uranium Producer Priorities**

#### **#2)** Restore Uranium's Status as a Critical Mineral

- Support the designation of uranium as a critical mineral which was recognized under the Trump Administration and rescinded under the Biden Administration
- The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity.
- This dependency of the United States on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that can disrupt supply of these key minerals



Uranium Producers of America (UPA) is the national trade association representing the domestic uranium mining and conversion industries. UPA's mission is to promote the viability of the nation's uranium industry, while being good stewards of the environments in which we work and live. UPA members conduct and maintain operations in Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

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