



Uranium SA completes building of leach columns

UraniumSA has advised that the building of leach columns has been completed.

UraniumSA said Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisations (ANSTO), Sydney based metallurgical consultants, have completed the building of leach columns, which are being charged with mineralised drill core from the Blackbush deposit.

Final laboratory checks are being carried out and the circulation of leach liquors has commenced.

UraniumSA said the mineralised material used to charge the columns had been separately subject to further bottle roll tests to confirm parameters for the column leach trials.

The liquors from these bottle rolls are being used to further screen the candidate resins which have been identified as effective in the extraction of uranium from acidified saline solutions.

The present intention is that the best of the resins from this screening procedure will be trialled against the liquors produced from the column leach trials.

This work will be a continuation of the identification and development of metallurgical processes for the project.

Information generated from the column leach trials will be used to build process flowcharts for the design of the field trial facility, which is to be constructed at the Blackbush deposit.

UraniumSA managing director Russell Bluck said the leach columns was an ongoing laboratory process.

"The purpose of the column leach trials is to sort through the chemistry of the interactions and the precipitation of yellowcake, this is the last part of that process."

Mr Bluck said the last part of "mapping out the chemistry" was to precipitate the yellowcake.

"It's not the objective of the test process, it's just the last part of it," he said.

"This is a bit like building a motor car.

"We're building the different parts of the process."

Mr Bluck said currently the operation was going well.

"Everything is going very well, and according to the schedule we've had in place," he said.

"We haven't encountered anything unexpected and everything is going pretty much as well as we could hope it to be."

While Mr Bluck said the completion of building of leach columns was a positive step, it

Fact file

The present schedule for the development of the Blackbush deposit to production is:

- 3rd Qtr. 2011 - submission of application for Retention Lease for an ISR field trial.
- 4th Qtr. 2011 - issue of Retention Lease for an ISR field trial.
- 1st Qtr. 2012 - commencement of ISR field trial.
- 1st Qtr. to 2nd Qtr. 2012 - run ISR field trial for resource upgrade and mine design.
- 2nd Qtr. to 3rd Qtr. 2012 - submission of mining proposal.
- 3rd Qtr. to 4th Qtr. 2012 - commencement of site works.
- 4th Qtr. 2012 to 1st Qtr. 2013 - first 100tpa production module.
- 2nd Qtr. to 3rd Qtr. 2013 - production ramp up to 400tpa.

was not a major event.

"These are not major events," he said.

"It really is like we're getting together all the parts of the car and just testing each part of it before we try and assemble all the bits."

The purpose of the field is to provide a proof-of-concept for the production of yellow-cake in-situ recovery.