## PHOENIX RISING: THE APPLICATION OF ISR FOR HIGH GRADE URANIUM MINING IN THE ATHABASCA BASIN

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# enison Mines Uranium Development & Exploration

The Athabasca Basin, Northern Saskatchewan

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#### **Qualified Persons**

The disclosure of a scientific or technical nature within this presentation, including the disclosure of mineral resources, mineral reserves, as well as the results of the Wheeler PFS and Waterbury PEA, was reviewed and approved by Chad Sorba, P.Geo, Denison's Director Technical Services, and Andy Yackulic, P.Geo, Denison's Director Exploration, each of whom is a Qualified Person in accordance with the requirements of NI 43-101.

#### **Technical Reports**

- For further details regarding the Wheeler River project, please refer to the Company's press release dated September 24, 2018 and the technical report titled "Prefeasibility Study for the Wheeler River Uranium Project, Saskatchewan, Canada" with an effective date of September 24, 2018 ("Wheeler PFS").
- For further details regarding the Waterbury Lake project, please refer to the Company's press release dated November 17, 2020 and the technical report titled "Preliminary Economic Assessment for the The Heldeth Túé (J Zone) Deposit, Waterbury Lake Property, Northern Saskatchewan, Canada" with an effective date of October 30, 2020 ("Waterbury PEA"). The PEA is a preliminary analysis of the potential viability of the Project's mineral resources, and should not be considered the same as a Pre-Feasibility Study, as various factors are preliminary in nature. The PEA includes inferred mineral resources that are considered too speculative geologically to have the economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves, and there is no certainty that the preliminary economic assessment will be realized. Mineral resources are not mineral reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability. Scheduled tonnes and grade do not represent an estimate of mineral reserves.

For a description of the data verification, assay procedures and the quality assurance program and quality control measures applied by Denison, please see Denison's Annual Information Form dated March 27, 2023. A copy of the foregoing is available on Denison's website and under its profile on SEDAR at www.sedar.com and on EDGAR at www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml.

# Outline



- Company Background
- PFS summary
  - Selection of ISR Mining Method
- Deposit Setting
- 4 Year De-risking Plan
  - 2019 through 2022
  - Focus on Containment, Permeability and Leaching
  - Optimizations and Trade-Off Studies
    - Freeze Containment
    - UBS Head Grade

# **Diversified Athabasca Basin asset base** with superior development leverage

**95%**<sup>(1)</sup>

### effective interest in Flagship Wheeler River project

PFS stage development project<sup>(2)</sup>

Largest undeveloped uranium project in the infrastructure rich eastern Athabasca Basin

Feasibility Study in progress<sup>(3)</sup>

**Draft Environmental Impact** Statement ("EIS") submitted<sup>(7)</sup>

# 22.5% interest in

Strategic McClean Lake Uranium Mill

Strategic regional asset

+11% of global uranium production

Participating interests in key development-

stage assets operated by uranium "majors"

Includes 22.5% in McClean Lake (Orano), 25.17% in Midwest (Orano), and

an effective 15% in Millennium (Cameco) through 50% ownership of ICU<sup>(6)</sup>

Excess licensed annual capacity

Licenced for expansion of tailings management facility ("TMF")<sup>(4)</sup>

# 67.41%

### interest in Emerging Waterbury Lake project

PEA stage development project<sup>(5)</sup>

Tthe Heldeth Túé ("THT") deposit (formerly J Zone) highlights potential for future development project pipeline

# ~300,000

hectares of exploration ground

#### Aerial view of Denison's 22.5% owned McClean Lake mill facility NOTES: (1) Denison increased its effective interest in Wheeler River as part of the acquisition of 50% of JCU (Canada) Exploration Company, Limited. See Denison's news release dated August. 3, 2021. (2) Refer to the Wheeler

PHOTO:

**River Technical Report** titled "Pre-feasibility Study Report for the Wheeler River Uranium Project, Saskatchewan, Canada" dated September 24, 2018.

(3) See news release dated September 22, 2021.

(4) See news release dated January 19, 2022.

(5) Refer to the Waterbury Lake Technical Report titled "Preliminary Economic Assessment for the Tthe Heldeth Túé (I Zone) Deposit, Waterbury Lake Property, Northern Saskatchewan, Canada" dated October 30, 2020.

(6) See news release dated August. 3, 2021.

(7) See news release dated October 26, 2022.

# Large land position in the infrastructure-rich eastern portion of the Athabasca Basin<sup>(1)(2)</sup>





# **Wheeler River Project**

McArthur River Mine

10 km



**Gryphon Deposit** *Discovered 2014* 

> Phoenix Deposit Discovered 2008

Key Lake Mill

PHOTO:

Aerial view of Denison's 95.0 % owned Wheeler River Project. Highlighting the Phoenix and Gryphon deposits relative to existing infrastructure.

## Summarized History of the Wheeler River Project<sup>(1)(2)</sup>: Approaching two decades of investment and management by Denison





## 2004-2007

Denison earns 60% ownership interest and becomes project operator

## 2008-2014

Phoenix is discovered by testing resistivity anomaly drill targets Deposit is delineated



completed in 2016



## 2016-2022

Project PFS is completed in 2018, including selection of the ISR mining method for Phoenix

Denison increases ownership to 90% (and subsequently to 95%)

Initiation of permitting and commencement of systematic technical de-risking

#### PHOTOS (Left to Right):

Drill rig carrying out exploration at the Wheeler River site in the mid 2000s; Core logging from discovery of Phoenix; Drill core and handheld scintillometer from discovery of Gryphon; monitoring of commercial scale ISR test wells at Phoenix in 2021.

#### NOTES:

(1) See Denison's current Annual Information Form for additional details regarding the history of the Wheeler River project.

(2) The source for uranium price data included on this slide is UxC LLC.

## **Phoenix Geology:** Unique uranium deposit with exceptionally high grades

- Highlights<sup>(1)</sup>:
- Mineralization is situated at or immediately above the unconformity("UC")
- Two distinct zones Phoenix A + B
- Approximately 400m below surface
- World's highest-grade undeveloped uranium deposit
- 70.2 million pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> @ 19.14% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>
  Indicated mineral resources (166,400 tonnes)<sup>(2)</sup>
  - Zone A High-Grade Core contains an estimated 59.9 M lbs U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> @ 43.2% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (62,900 tonnes)
  - Cut-off grade of 0.8%  $U_3O_8$
  - 1.1M lbs U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> in Inferred mineral resources
    (8,600 tonnes @ 5.8% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>)<sup>(3)</sup>
- Geological setting expected to be amenable to ISR mining, with ~90% of the mineral resource (contained metal) hosted in sandstone



# **Phoenix ISR De-Risking:** First principles of successful ISR mining in the Athabasca Basin





- **1. Containment:** ability to contain the mining solution injected into the formation
- 2. Permeability: ability to establish hydraulic connections between injection and recovery wells to move the mining solution throughout the deposit
- **3. Leachability:** ability to complete leaching of the uranium mineralization while it is in the ground (in-situ);
- **4. Processing:** ability to recover a suitable finished product from the uranium bearing solution recovered from the wellfield.

# **Phoenix De-Risking:**

Conventional freeze wall design adopted for Phoenix ISR to replace novel freeze cap / dome design

- Post-PFS trade-off study supports decision to adopt freeze wall design to provide hydrogeologic containment<sup>(1)</sup>
- Parallel vertical cased holes drilled from surface and anchored into impermeable basement rock surrounding the Phoenix deposit
- Circulation of low-temperature brine solution through cased pipes will freeze groundwater in sandstone surrounding the deposit
- 10-metre-thick freeze wall, together with basement rocks will encompass Phoenix vertically from surface to basement rock underlying the deposit
- Eliminates common environmental concerns with ISR mining and facilitates controlled reclamation



# **Phoenix De-Risking:** Freeze wall design shows potential for significant advantages<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

Unconformity

С



- Full hydraulic containment of ISR well field to surface
- Defined area for reclamation

#### Lower technical complexity and operational risk

- Existing diamond drilling • methods
- Reduction of intersection of freeze holes and ISR wells<sup>(1)</sup>

#### **Expected reduction in initial capital**

- Lower cost drilling
- Phased mining approach

### Strengthened project sustainability

- Diamond drilling widely employed in northern Sask.
- Ability to leverage existing skilled workforce
- Drilling over life of mine



NOTES:

(1) For additional information on horizontal freeze cap design included in PFS, refer to the Wheeler **River Technical Report** titled "Pre-feasibility Study Report for the Wheeler River Uranium Project, Saskatchewan. Canada" dated September 24, 2018

(2) See Denison's news release dated December 1, 2020 for additional information on the freeze wall design for Phoenix.



## **Phoenix ISR Field Test Program** Preliminary Test Work



#### Phoenix Zone A Plan View – ISR Field Test Areas



#### Initial ISR Field Test work (2019-2020)

### De-risking permeability

**ISR** production

Installation of several small
 diameter wells ("SMWs") utilizing existing exploration boreholes

Athabasca Basin's first largediameter **Commercial Scale Wells** ("CSWs") designed for commercial

Long-duration **hydrogeological tests** allowed for the

 characterization of fluid flow under conditions similar to an envisioned commercial production environment NOTES:

(1) ) See Denison's news release dated August 27 2019, September 19 2019 and October 31, 2019 for additional information on the ISR field test work.

# **Phoenix ISR Field Test Program:** Installation of Small Diameter Wells<sup>(1)</sup>





PHOTO:

ISR field testing at Wheeler River Phoenix Deposit, Summer 2019

#### NOTES:

(1) ) See Denison's news release dated August 27 2019, September 19 2019 and October 31, 2019 for additional information on the ISR field test work.

# **Phoenix ISR Field Test Program:**

Advancement to installation of Commercial Scale Wells<sup>(1)</sup>





**ALTA** 2023**6** 

PHOTO:

CSW being installed at Wheeler River Phoenix Deposit, Summer 2901

#### NOTES:

(1) ) See Denison's news release dated August 27 2019, September 19 2019 and October 31, 2019 for additional information on the ISR field test work.

# **Phoenix ISR De-Risking:**

2019 and 2020 ISR field test programs<sup>(1)(3)</sup>





~ <b>35</b> small- diameter wells
installed into and around the Phoenix deposit

All holes generally equipped with a down-hole pressure transducer or vibrating wire piezometer ('VWP') to measures hydraulic pressure during test work **Two largediameter commercialscale wells** First installed in the history of the Athabasca

### **Containment:**

Basin

Tests show minimal vertical travel of injected fluids

Support decision to adopt "Freeze Wall" design<sup>(4)</sup>

# ~40 Pump and injection tests

completed to collect extensive data for development of hydrogeologic

model

# Permeability:

Hydrogeologic model build and calibrated by third-party

Achieved ISR "**Proof of Concept"**<sup>(2)</sup>

#### PHOTOS:

ISR field testing at Wheeler River Phoenix Deposit, Summer 2019.

Inset photo shows close up view of downhole pressure transducer.

#### NOTES:

(1) See Denison's news release dated Dec.18, 2019.

(2) See Denison's news release dated June 4, 2020.

(3) See Denison's news release dated Oct. 28, 2020.

(4) See Denison's news release dated Dec. 1, 2020.

# **"Proof of Concept"** Achieved for Application of ISR Mining Method at Phoenix<sup>(1)</sup>

- **Comprehensive hydrogeologic model:** Developed, using 2019 ISR Field Test data
- **Calibrated:** models compared to actual 2019 Field Test data, such that the "head" changes resulting from simulations in the models were similar to observed changes in the actual field tests
- Parameters: 18 extraction / recovery wells and 33 injection wells modelled across Test Area 1 and Test Area 2, nearly balanced operational flow; 180-day simulation was completed with approximately 80% of the injected fluids estimated to be captured during the simulation period
- **Report Conclusions:** modelling provided <u>"Proof of Concept"</u> for application of ISR to Phoenix with respect to potential extraction and injection rates
- **2020 ISR Field Test Program:** Developed to further validate the model completed by Petrotek, and to prepare for field tests in future years, using existing test wells in Test Area 1 and Test Area 2





NOTES:

(1) See Denison's news release from June 4, 2020 for details

PHOTO:

ISR field testing at Wheeler River Phoenix Deposit, Summer 2019

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## **Phoenix ISR De-Risking:**

Commercial-scale test pattern and tracer test<sup>(1)</sup>





# **5-spot** largediameter commercial scale test pattern

installed in expected Phoenix mining Phase 1 **Test** First known completed ion tracer test for ISR mining in the history of the Athabasca Basin

**Tracer** 

Permeability Enhancement Tools Tested

On a larger-scale than previous tests, verifying increased hydraulic connection where needed

*Highlights of highly successful tracer test:* 

- ✓ Achieved commercial-scale production flow rates
- ✓ Demonstrated hydraulic control of injected solution
- ✓ Established breakthrough times consistent with hydrogeological modelling
- ✓ Completed 'clean-up' phase consistent with hydrogeological modelling

#### PHOTOS:

ISR test pattern and commercial scale wellhead (inset) at Phoenix during field tests / tracer test completed in 2021.

LINKS:

2021 ISR Field Test Video

NOTES:

(1) See Denison's news release dated Oct. 28, 2021

## **Phoenix ISR De-Risking:**

Validating in-situ leachability through specialized metallurgical testing





Core Leach Testing

Saskatchewan Research Council ('SRC') uses a specialized 'core leach' machine to simulate in-situ leach conditions by forcing the leach solution through the natural permeability of multiple representative in-tact core samples

# 50% increase in ISR mining head grade<sup>(1)</sup>

Core leach test results support decision in 2021 to increase the mining head grade assumed in the 2018 PFS

## Hydrometallurgical test work

Progressing to support water effluent quality for ongoing environmental assessment.

## Plant design advancing

Metallurgical testing using roughly 1000L of uranium bearing solution to support benchscale evaluations for plant design is well advanced



#### PHOTOS:

Specialized 'Core Leach" apparatus at the SRC labs in Saskatoon.

Inset photo shows 9" sample of in-tact highgrade drill core from Phoenix prior to insertion into the testing apparatus.

Bottom right, shows static leaching of uranium from undisturbed core sample.

NOTES:

(1) See Denison's news release dated August, 4, 2021.

# Fully Permitted In-Situ Recovery Feasibility Field Test (FFT):

Multiple catalysts from first-of-its-kind test in the Athabasca Basin<sup>(1, 2)</sup>





**The Phoenix FFT** was designed to validate and inform various feasibility study elements for use of **In-Situ Recovery (ISR)** mining, including production and remediation profiles, and is planned to occur in three phases. The first phase commenced in **H2'2022**:

#### Leaching

<u>Completed</u> successful injection of acidic solution and recovery of uranium bearing solution using a portion of the test pattern installed at Phoenix in 2021<sup>(3)</sup>.

### Neutralization

injection of mild

leaching process

area to protective

and return test

conditions<sup>(4)</sup>.

alkaline solution to

Completed

successful

reverse the

Recovered Solution Management

Separation of recovered solution into mineralized precipitates (temporarily stored in tanks on surface) and neutralized treated solution (reinjected into sub-surface).



#### PHOTO:

Inside FFT coverall structure during commissioning – including view of commercial scale test wells, monitoring wells, and injection solution preparation module (left) and plan map of Phoenix FFT site (right).

#### NOTES:

(1) See Denison's news release dated July 12, 2022.

(2) See Denison's news release dated August 8, 2022.

(3) See Denison's news release dated October 17, 2022.

(4) See Denison's news release dated December 12, 2022.

## **Phoenix ISR Feasibility Study:**

Wood PLC selected to lead + author independent Feasibility Study in accordance with NI 43-101<sup>(1)</sup>









# Thank You





