# The Miriam case: A new type of uranium deposit within the Carboniferous sandstone-hosted Uranium Mineralisation of the Arlit Agadez province, Tim Mersoi Basin, Niger

- Henri Sanguinetti, Exploration Manager, GoviEx Niger SA
- Tiemogo Mahaman, Chief Geologist, GoviEx Niger SA
- Ibrahim Awouami, Project Manager, GoviEx Niger SA
- Daniel Guibal, Corporate Consultant, SRK Consulting (Aus)
- Robert Bowell, Corporate Consultant, (Geochemistry)
- Peter Gleeson, Principal Consultant, SRK Consulting (UK)

Presented at The AuslMM Bulletin International Uranium Conference 2013, Darwin, 11-12 June 2013



#### **Disclaimers and Cautionary Statements**

This presentation includes certain "forward-looking statements". All statements other than statements of historical facts, are forward looking statements that involve various risks and uncertainties. There can be no assurances that such statements will prove accurate and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Such information contained herein represents management's best judgment as of the date hereof based on information currently available. The company does not assume the obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

Information contained in this presentation regarding Areva and its mines and mineral projects in Niger has been derived from publicly available information. The company does not assume any responsibility or liability for the accuracy of any such information.

Disclosure of a scientific or technical nature in this presentation relating to GoviEx's mineral properties was prepared by, or under the supervision of, Mr Henri Sanguinetti, GoviEx's Head of Exploration and a "qualified person" as defined in NI 43-101.

#### Summary – GoviEx Niger SA

GoviEx is a private exploration and development company with 10 tenements totaling approximately 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> of exploration ground in Niger, the world's sixth largest uranium producer. As of August 2012, GoviEx's properties contained more than 121 million pounds of NI 43-101-compliant uranium resources.

GoviEx's technical team has completed more than 550,000 m of drilling and radiometric logging on its tenements.

This presentation is focused on some of the exploration and development results of the 2010-Q1 2013 exploration drilling program which led to the discovery of new uranium mineralisation in the Tim Mersoi Basin.

The mineralisation is hosted either within the Guezouman (Mad1 South, Miriam) or within the Madaouela formation, which represents a transitional term between the reduced sediments of the Carboniferous period, and the continental red beds of the Permian era.

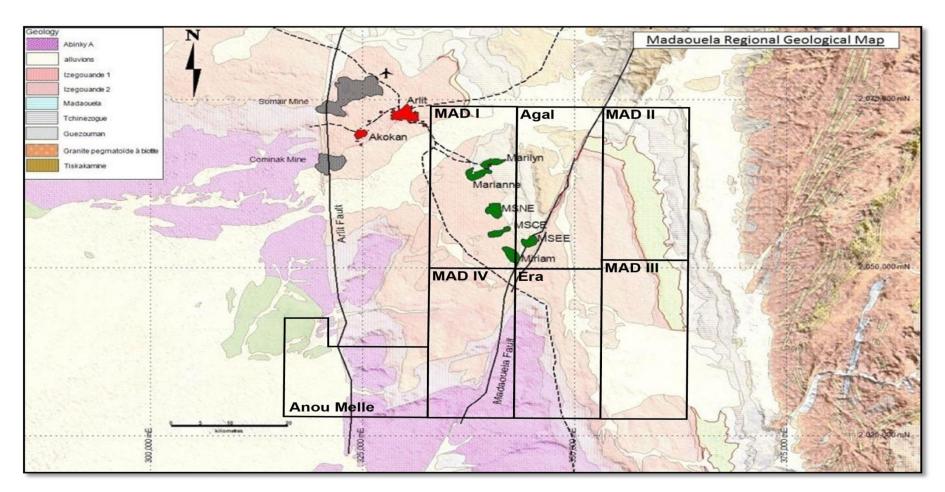


#### Key development points

- 2010-2011: NI 43-101 Technical Report on Resources and Preliminary Economic Assessment of Madaouela 1, conducted by SRK Consulting, processing tests SGS, Canada
- All main objectives of 2011- Q1 2013
  - Increase Inferred Resource and run active exploration drilling on the permits MAD2-MAD3 and MAD1, east of Madaouela Flexure
  - Development works to transfer Inferred Resource into Indicated Resource (100 m infill drilling) on MAD1 permit on the western flank of the Madaouela flexure
- 2012-Q1 2013: Preparation of a PFS based on nearly 530,000 m development drilling (SRK supervision, Mintek lab (South Africa), Legeni) at Madaouela.



#### Madaouela & Anou Mélé tenements





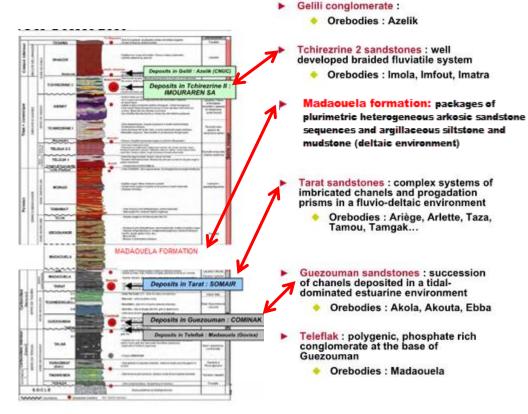


# Lithostratigraphic position of main uraniferous deposits in Tim Mersoi Basin

JURASSIC

PERMIAN

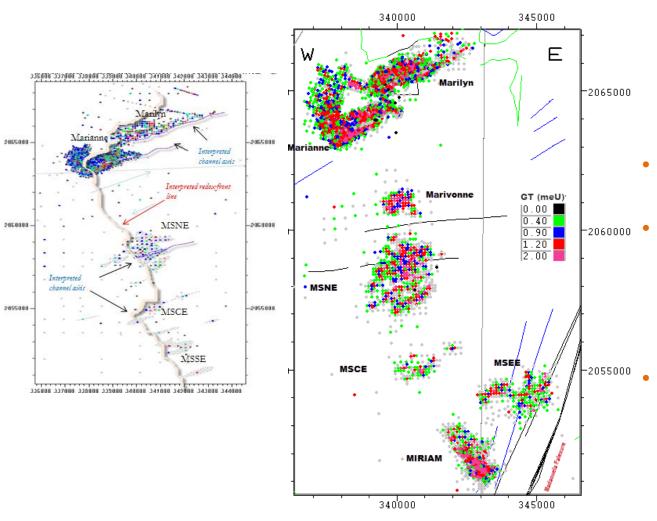
CARBONIFEROUS







#### From Marianne-Marilyn to Miriam

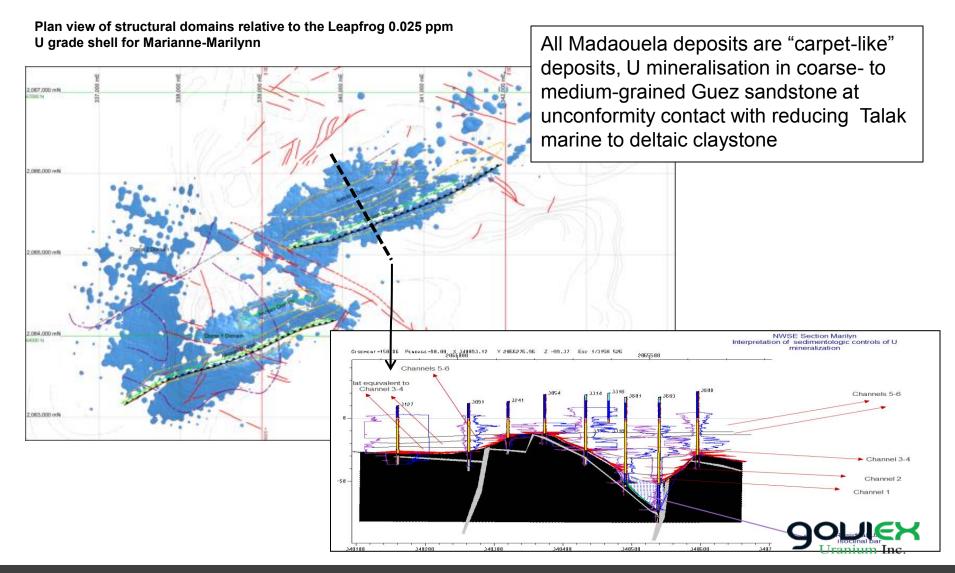


- Marianne Marilyn complete 50 m grid
- Madaouela South drilling on a 100 m grid (Inferred Resource) with the idea to link a suspected redox "band"
- Miriam partly drilled at centre 50 m grid





#### Carpet-like deposits



#### The Miriam case

- The Miriam deposit was discovered at the 400 m-200 m grids while drilling the interpreted redox halo which supported all known deposits in the Madaouela region.
- GNSA geologists had suggested that at a certain stage it should be possible to encounter redox front of the Akouta model, on the basis of redox observations on MSNE and first exploration results on the sector called Mad South.
- At the 400 m grid, no rich intersections were recorded, but the scintillometric logs, and chips colours clearly mimic the possibility for a local redox front, albeit at low grade.
- At the 200 m grid, the mineralisation at cut-off 200 ppm showed interesting continuities, an average depth lower than 100 m and some rich intercepts – suggesting the possibility of a low grade open pittable deposit



#### The Miriam case

Drilling continued at centre 200 m and local 100 m grid. The geological global potential did not vary, although the mineable mineralisation, developed at 100 m grid was smaller than the original contour. In March 2012, the situation was as follows:

- Completion of 100 m grid
- 3D Geological model based on sequential stratigraphic control, and guided by the two main stratigraphic surfaces: the base of the Guezouman sandstones and the TM paleohorizontal level of the Tchinezogue
- 3D estimation carried out by SRK (UC)
- Pit optimisation (SRK) defined a project which was too small to justify its integration within the planned PFS which focused on UG mining.



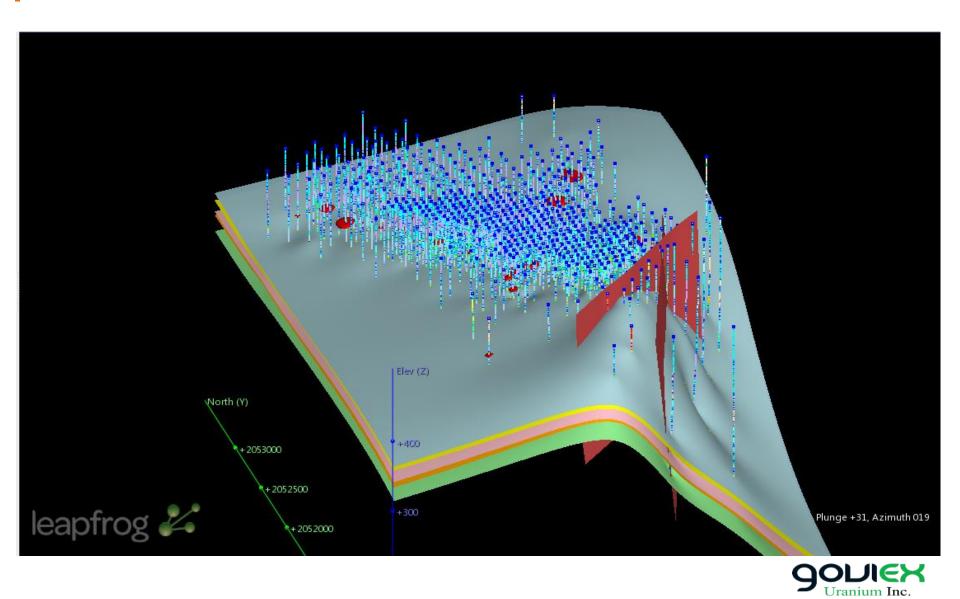
#### Resource – August 2012

Classification	Tons (Mt)	ade (kg/t eU30	eU308 (t)	08 (t) eU308 (Mlb)	
Miriam					
Indicated -0.47 kg/t e U3O8 c-o	12.16	1.0	11959	26.36	
Inferred	0.40	1.1	424	0.93	

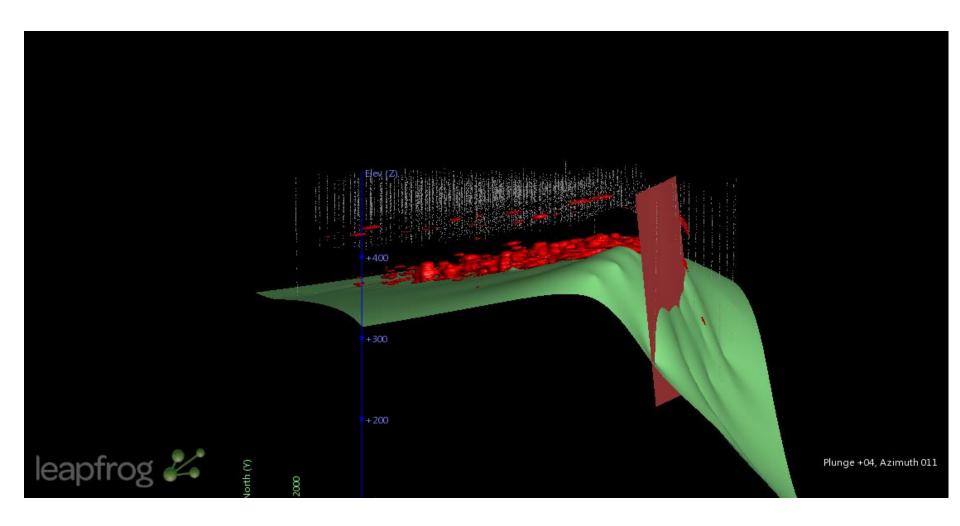
Cut-off 0.4 kg/t eU or 0.47 kg/t eU3O8

NI 43-101-complaint procedures and computations implemented for data acquisition, validation and resource estimates.













#### The Miriam case – September 2012

- Grade and spatial distribution of impacts at 200 m to 100 m grid were not acceptable for UG mining
- Pit optimisation failed at 100 m grid

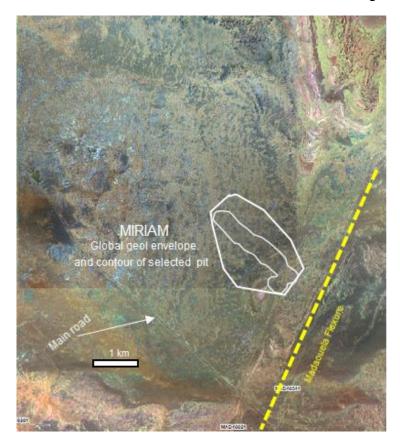
#### But:

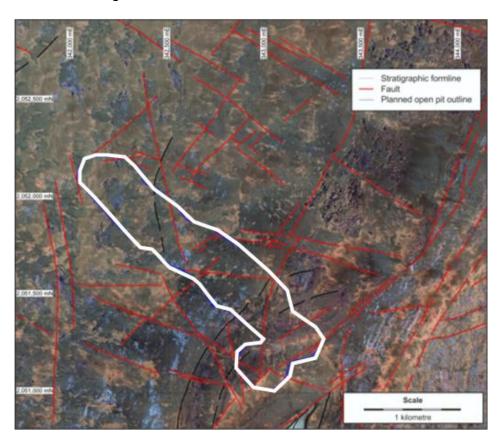
- Mineralisation related to reduced bottom sets of interpreted sedimentary units
- Presence of a vertical redox front confirmed, which needed to be sampled and correctly delineated
- Possible discrete structural control, although no faults are observed.



Plan view of stratigraphic formlines and structures interpreted at Miriam (relative to ASTER and QuickBird imagery)

No surface marking of the structures controlling the mineralisation

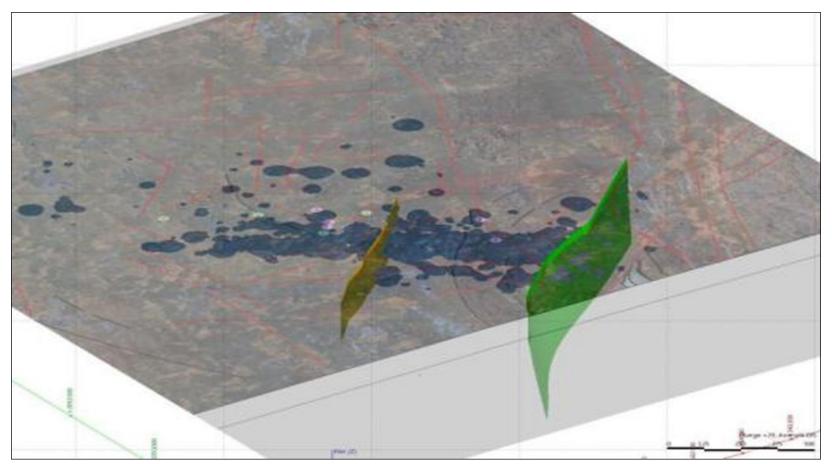








Miriam faults shown relative to topography with QuickBird drape and Leapfrog 400 ppm U grade shell





#### **The Miriam case Q4 2012-2013**

In these conditions, the following conclusions were reached:

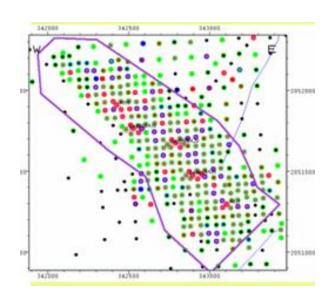
- That we were dealing with a 'real" orebody of a new type
- That the geological model based on planar stratigraphic control could not reflect the complexity of the deposit
- That the only possible solution was to extend drilling at a 50 m grid, with local centred 50 m cell if necessary
- That vertical and inclined core drilling were needed for modeling, ore sampling and geotechnical assessment.



## October coring to sample redox front

CORE HOLE	FROM	ТО	Th (m)	GxTh (m*eU‰)	G (eU‰)
MSNE4817_5	87.6	112.8	25.2	65.7	2.61
MSNE4818_5	92	97.6	5.6	5.56	0.99
MSNE4818_5	98.6	109.4	10.8	23.38	2.16
MSNE4819_5	79.2	84.2	5	8.61	1.72
MSNE4819_5	84.8	97.4	12.6	22.64	1.8
MSNE4819_5	102.6	103.6	1	1.03	1.03
MSNE4820_5	73.8	93.2	19.4	53.86	2.78
MSNE4821_5	68.2	74.8	6.6	38.53	5.84
MSNE4821_5	77.2	86.4	9.2	9.4	1.02





#### **Geological Model**

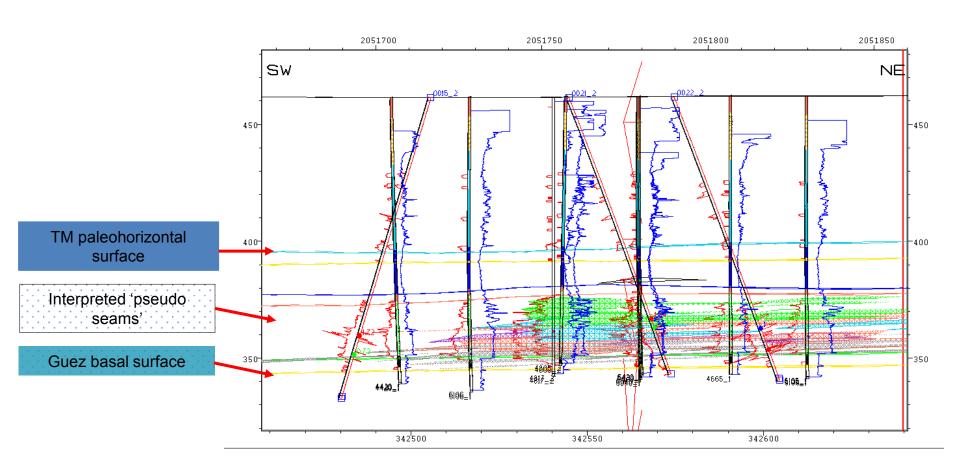
Step 1 Sectional model: seam contours of mineralisation based on:

- Sequential interpretation core strati model
- Resistivity and gamma logs
- Rock chips description and redox interpretations.

#### Stratigraphic surfaces:

- Basal reducing contact Guez/Talak
- Top reducing surface of TM paleohorizontal unit (within Blue Grey of Tchinezogue).



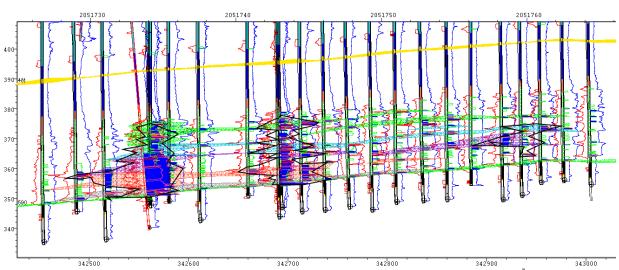


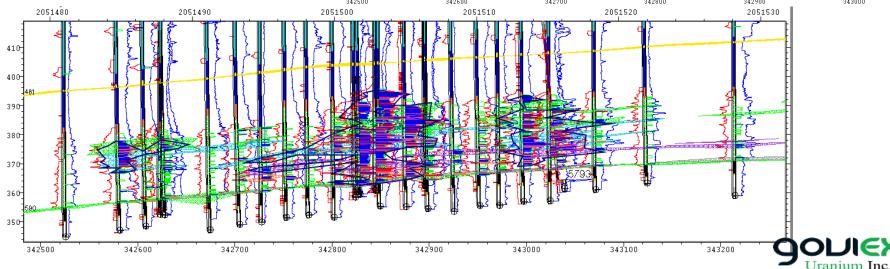


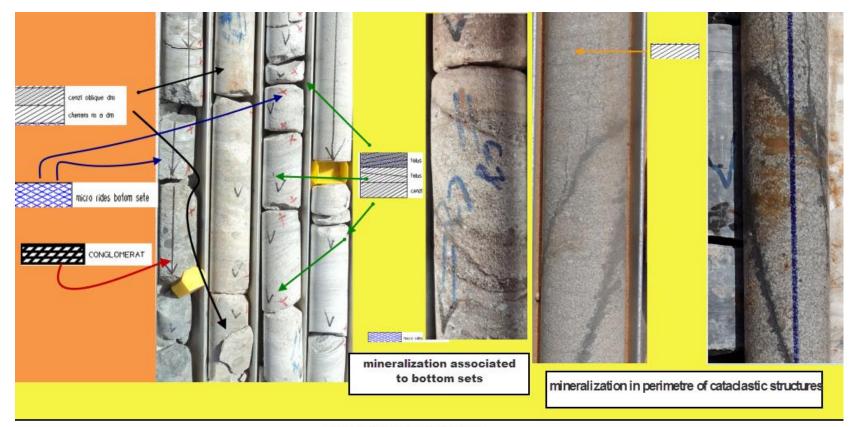


# Combining sequences and mineralisation (intervals at eU 200, 400 and 1,000 ppm)

The rich zones are related to the intersection of discrete expansion faulting with favorable sedimentology units, resulting in the "Christmas tree" aspect of the high grade zones







**CORE OBSERVATIONS** 

fluid circulation associated to joints may explain the vertical expansionof the mineralization



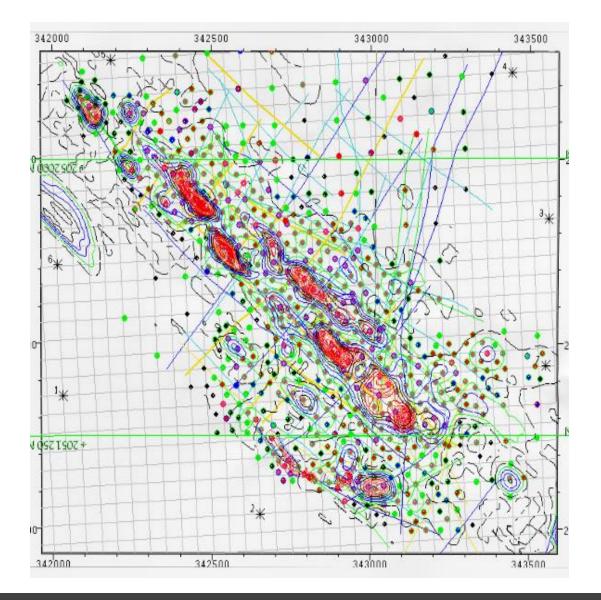


#### **Geological Model**

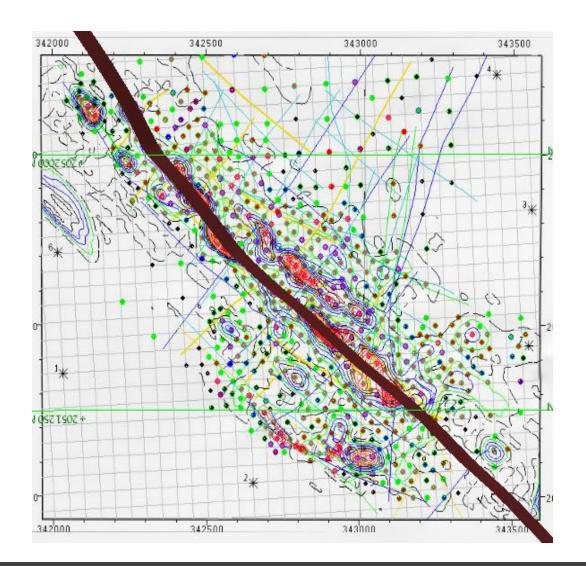
- Step 2 Vertical coalescent mineralisation: related to a redox front associated with discrete structures:
  - Trends defined using isopach of cumulated Mineralised Thickness (Th) and Accumulation (Grade\*Th)
  - Plots of main joints and faults recorded on core holes (vertical and inclined)
    using acoustic and televiewer survey
  - Geotechnical logs on oriented cores



#### **Drilling situation – 31 January 2013**

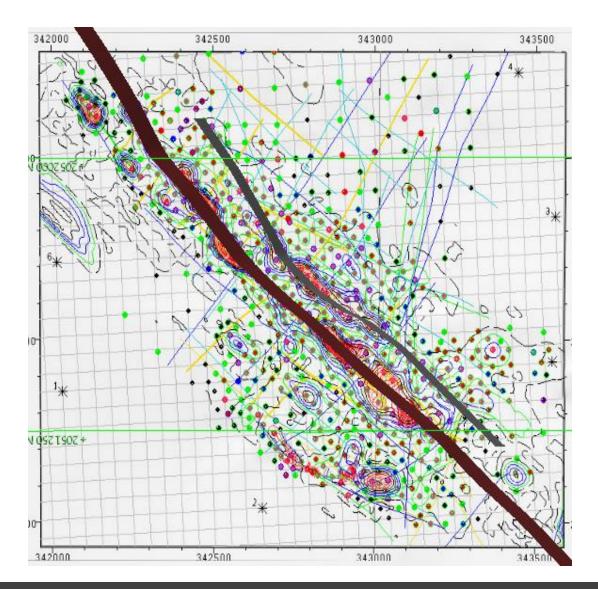




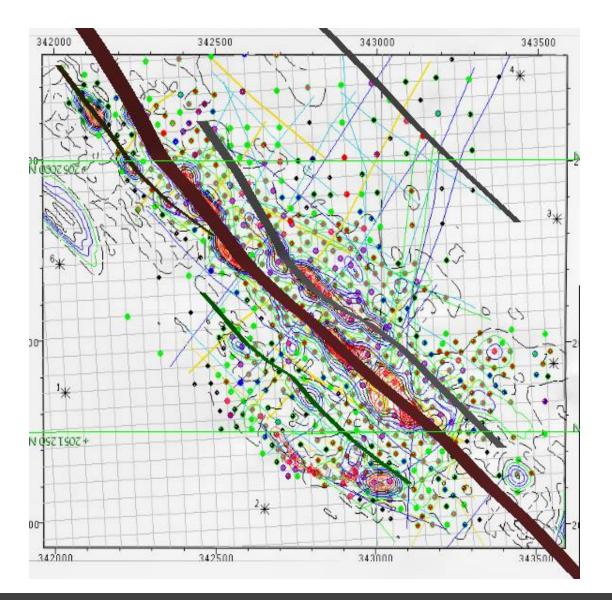




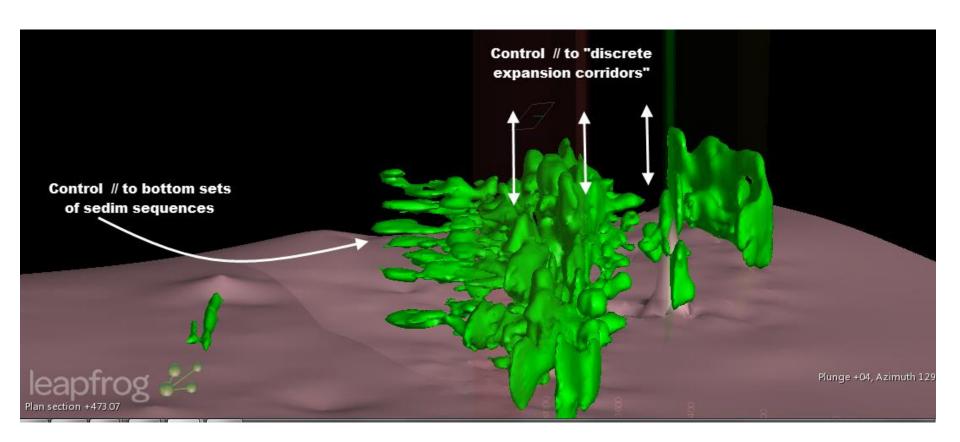






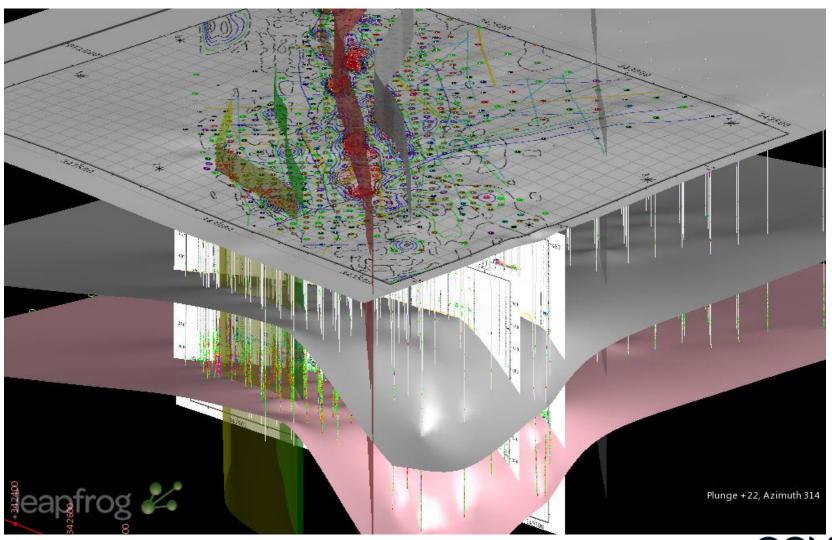






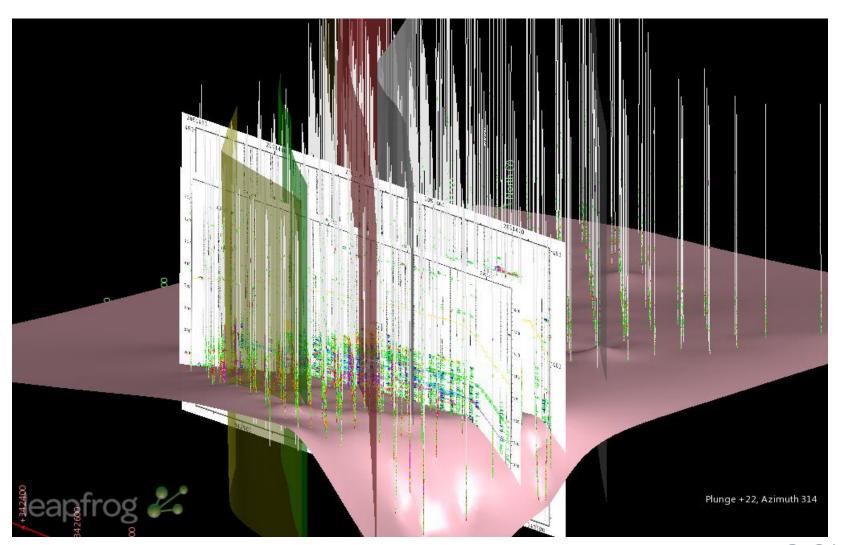






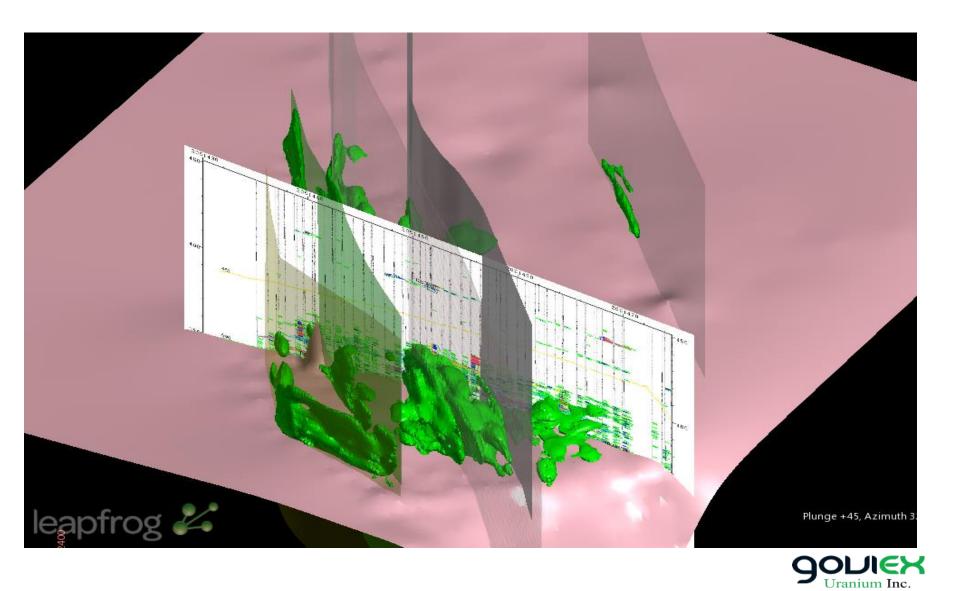




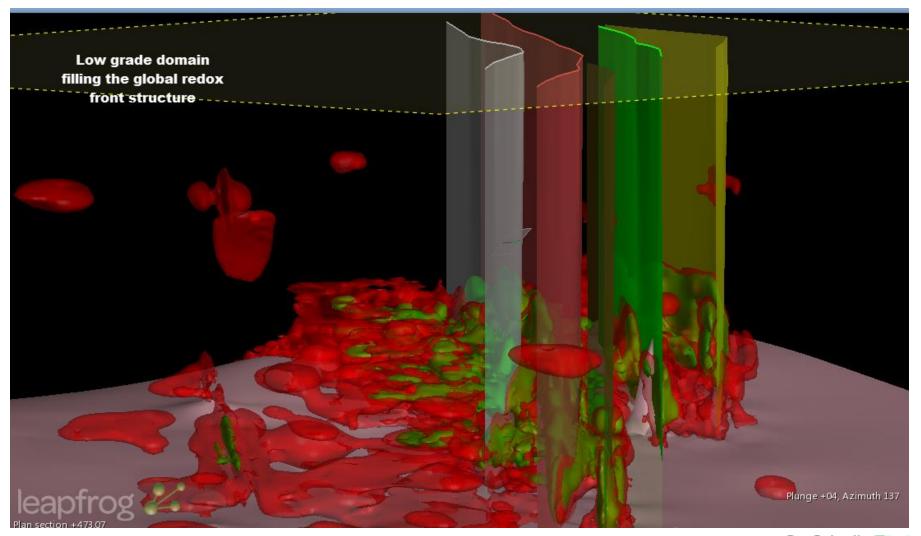






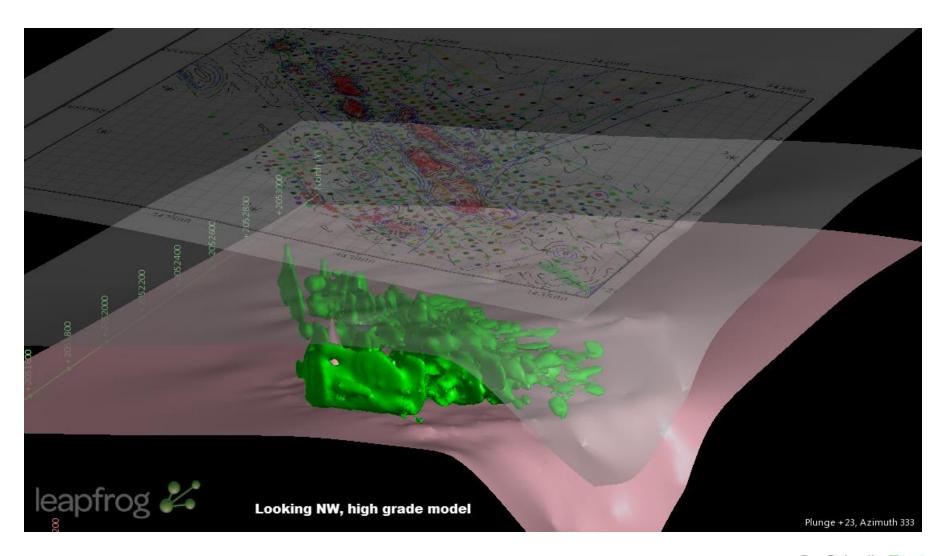






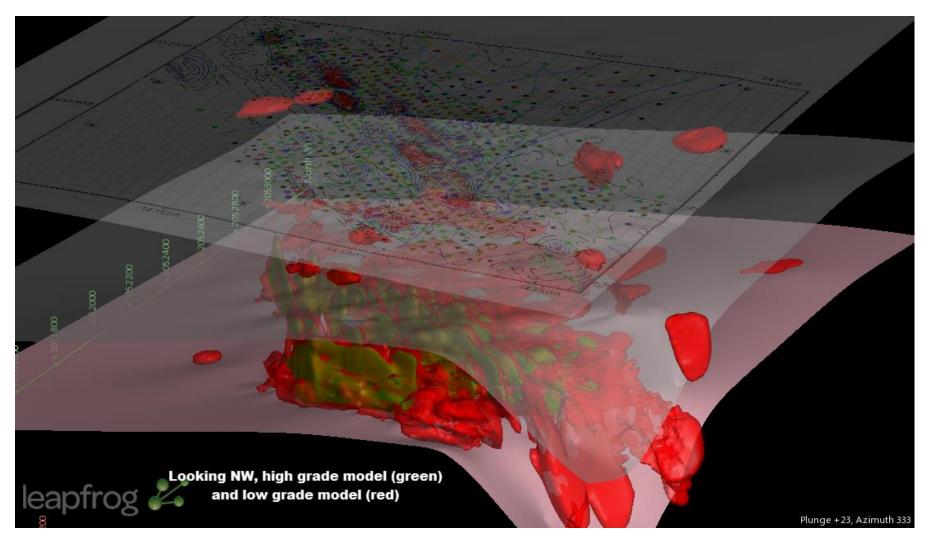






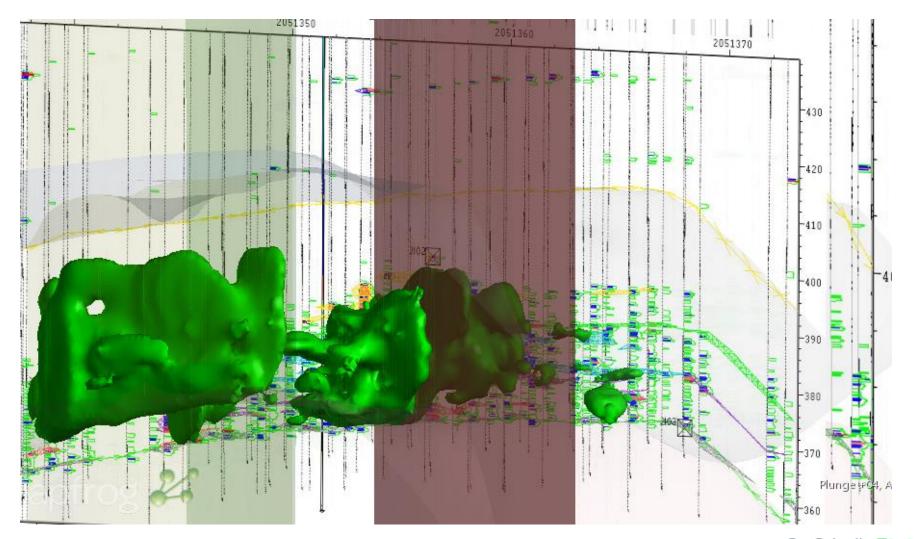






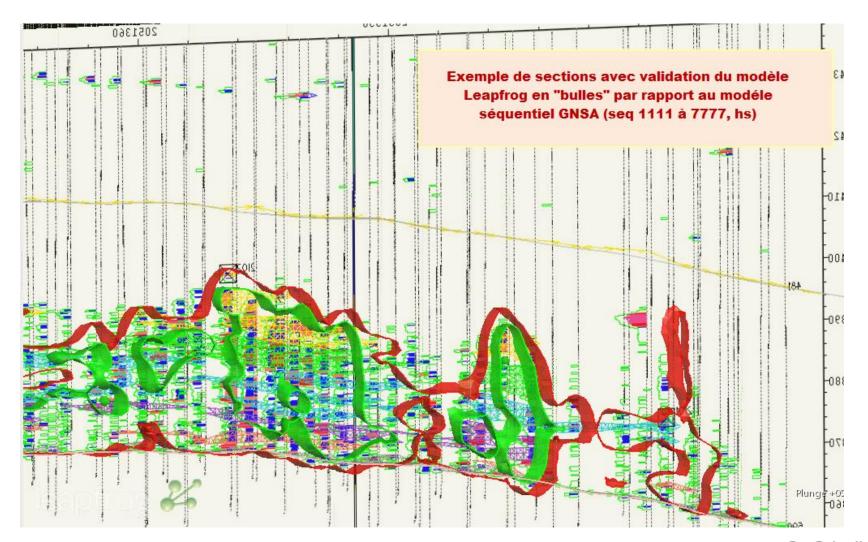














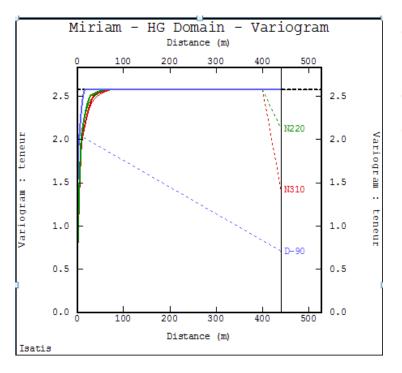


#### Miriam: 3D Estimation (SRK D Guibal)

- Data: Drilling density varying from 100 m x 100 m to 30 m x 30 m (50 m grid centres) 803 drillholes
- 20 cm composites flagged based on interpretation of mineralisation by GoviEx and remodelled in 3D by SRK using Leapfrog 3D (P Gleeson)
- 2 grade shells: 400 ppm eU (high-grade corridors)
   200 ppm eU (background mineralisation)
- The JORC Classified Resources are defined at a 400 ppm eU cut-off (approximately 0.047% eU3O8 - selective mining unit (SMU) of 5 m x 5 m x 0.4 m is assumed)



#### Variography HG Domain

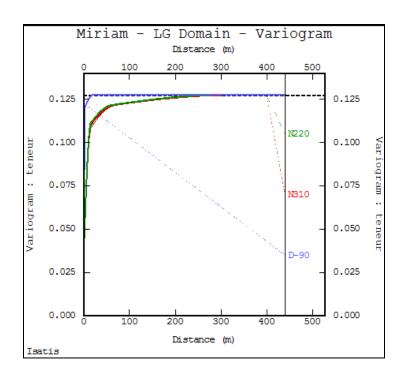


- eU variability requires Gaussian transformation and back-transformation
- Short-range structure predominant
- Some longer range structures, N310, but less than 100 m





#### Variography LG Domain

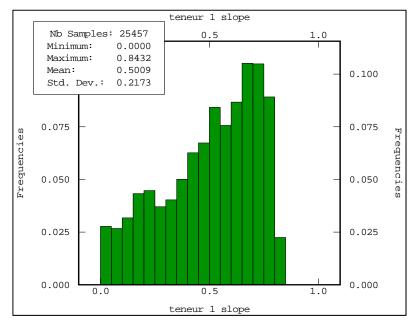


- eU variability requires Gaussian transformation and back-transformation
- Short-range structures predominant
- Some longer range structures, N310 up to 250 m (less variability than HG Domain)





## **Block Kriging**



- 25 m x 25 m x 0.4 m blocks rotated by
   47° to align with the data grid
- Ordinary Kriging
- Anisotropic Neighbourhood (150 m x 5 m x 75)
- Up to 32 data per kriging
- Top-cuts (10 kg/t eU in HG, 5kg/t eU in LG domain for data >2 m away from a block)
- 25457 (HG) and 85499 (LG) blocks are estimated
- Kriging quality reasonable as seen from the regression slope
- Significant smoothing effect





#### Estimation method: Uniform Conditioning

- 25 m x 25 m x 0.4 m blocks are the smallest blocks which can be estimated with a reasonable quality because of the drilling density and the variography (high nugget effect)
- In Open Pit mining, high selectivity assumption based on radiometric grade control: SMU 5 m x 5 m x 0.4 m
- Classical Uniform Conditioning estimation
- Classification: Ordinary kriging works reasonably well, and the current drilling density makes the interpretation of the continuity of the mineralisation and its modelling reasonable
- Based on similar deposits nearby, a 25 m spacing is considered sufficient to define Measured Resources.



#### Localised Uniform Conditioning

- A limitation of the traditional UC method is that the pit geometry is dictated by the large blocks 25 m x 25 m
- To assist pit definition, it is possible to localise the results of the UC (this
  procedure is essentially an ad hoc technique to facilitate pit optimisation)
- Procedure (after Marat Abzalov):
  - Define a 5 m x 5 m x 0.4 m BM coincident with the original UC panels'
     BM
  - Perform an OK of eU within this BM using the same parameters as the one used for the OK performed prior to UC
  - Within each 25 m x 25 m panel, rank the SMUs by increasing value of this OK
  - Assign a grade to the ranked SMUs in the panel (defined by the gradetonnage curve of the SMUs, as estimated by UC.



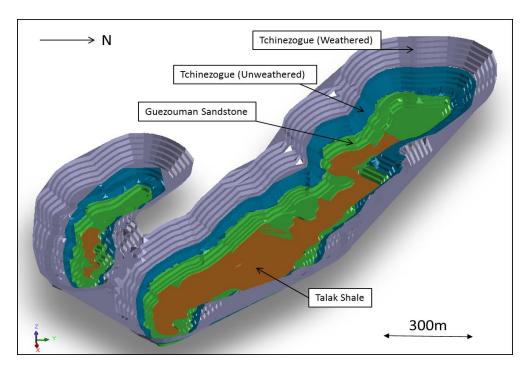
## Resources – March 2013 (SRK)

**MIRIAM** 

Classification	Tons (Mt)	Grade (kg/t eU₃O <sub>8</sub> )	eU <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (t)	eU <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (Mlb)	
Marianne/Marilyn					
Indicated	12.09	1.58	19,145	42.21	
infermalia		10	<del>-1,2</del> 85 <b></b>	945	
Miriam (Open Pit option)					
Measured	9.62	9.62 1.08		22.92	
Indicated	2.68	0.79	2,112	4.66	
Inferred	0.58	1.33	773	1.70	
IVISIVE					
Indicated	5.05	1.61	8,111	17.88	
Inferred	0.10	1.34	131	0.29	
MARYVONNE					
Indicated	1.23	1.79	2,195	4.84	
Inferred	0.42	1.66	703	1.55	
MSCE					
Inferred	0.72	1.81	1,308	2.88	
MSEE					
Inferred	1.45	1.64	2,373	5.23	
LA BANANE					
Indicated	1.57	1.64	2,589	5.71	
Inferred	1.15	1.18	1,358	2.99	
Total Measured	9.62	1.08	10,397	22.92	
Total Indicated	22.63	1.51	34,153	75.30	
Total Inferred	7.47	1.46	10,931	24.10	

Cut-off 0.4 kg/t eU or 0.47 kg/t eU3O8





Deposit	Cut-Off	Uranium Metal				Uranium Oxi	de
		(Mt)	eU (kg/t)	eU(t)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (kg/t)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (t)	U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (MIb)
Miriam	0.41	6.4	0.98	6300	1.16	7,400	16,38

#### Cut-off 0.41 kg/t eU

Open Pit Mineral Reserves are reported within a designed pit shell at a cut-off grade of 0.41 kg/t eU. Cut-off grades are based on a price of USD70 per pound of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (USD181.98/kg eU) and uranium recoveries of 84.4%, without considering revenues from other metals. Note Mineral Reserves are based on both Measured and Indicated Resources.



#### Thank you



