# The Alta Mesa Uranium Project



William Paul Goranson, P.E V.P. Mesteña Uranium, L.L.C. NMA/NRC Uranium Recovery Workshop July 1, 2009

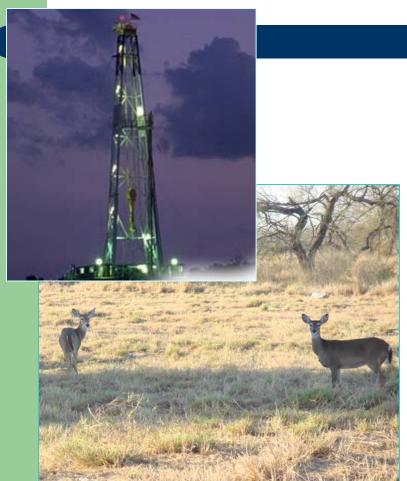
## About Mesteña Uranium, L.L.C.



The Alta Mesa Production Facility facing north.

- A closely held private company founded in 1999.
- Our shareholders are descendants of a historic and prominent Texas ranching family.
- We are charged with the operation and development of the owner's uranium assets.
  - Successful commercial operation of the Alta Mesa Project.
  - Successful development of new uranium resources at the Alta Mesa Project area
  - New discovered uranium resources on ranch property over 45 miles away.

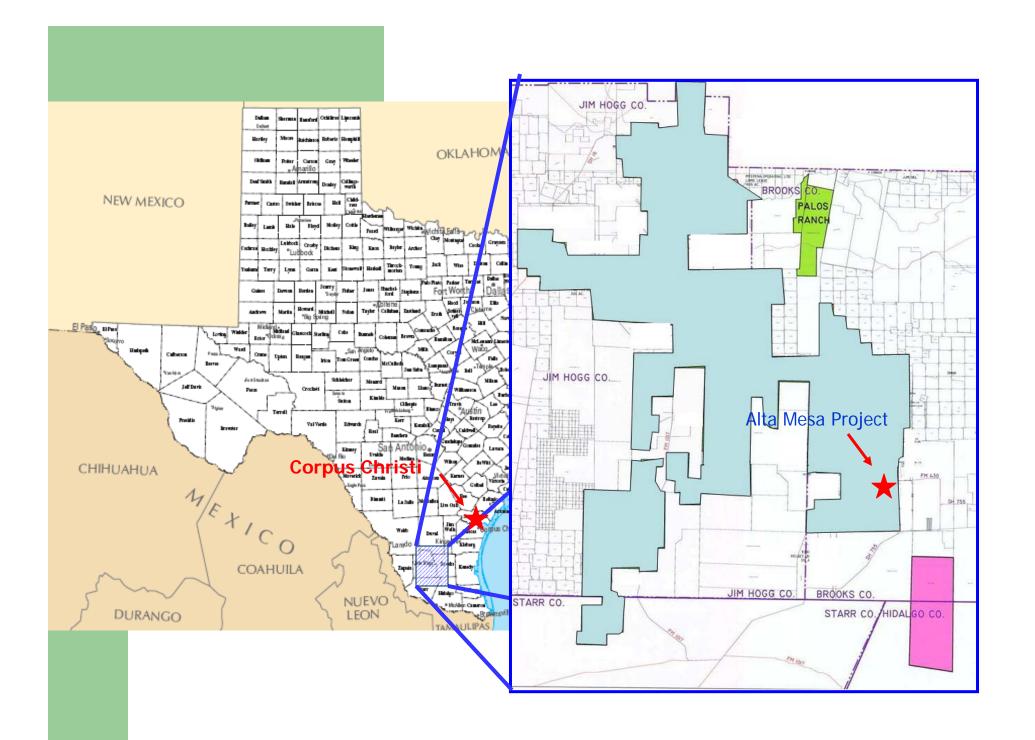
## A South Texas Legacy



Top: Drilling an oil & gas well on the Mestena Ranch.

Bottom: White-tail deer photographed near Alta Mesa on the Ranch.

- Our history started in 1895 when W.W.
   Jones acquired the La Mesteña Spanish
   Land Grants in South Texas
- In a manner similar to his contemporaries of the time, he built a ranch covering nearly 400,000 acres across portions of what is now four counties in South Texas.
- In 1935, oil was discovered on the Ranch.
  - Mesteña was formed in 1937 to manage the mineral assets of the Ranch.
  - Maintains 198,000 acres of minerals.



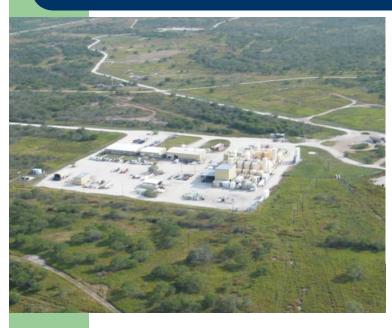
#### Where we do Business



Dusk at the Alta Mesa Facility. Operations are 24/7

- The Alta Mesa facility is located 55 miles north of the border U.S.-Mexico border.
- Our facility is located in Brooks County.
  - A rural county.
  - Economy supported by ranching, oil & gas, and NAFTA trade.
  - Mesteña Uranium is the largest private employer in the County.
- Our economic impact in the region has created tremendous support in the local communities.

# The Alta Mesa Project



The Alta Mesa Uranium Recovery Facility and a portion of the Production Areas.

- An In-Situ Uranium Recovery Operation.
- The Alta Mesa Project is the largest private employer in the County.
  - 90 direct employees
  - 35 contract employees.
- Design production capacity of 1,500,000 lbs U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> per year.
- Uses proven technology improved using best industry practices.
- 2,500,000 lbs U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> annual drying capacity.

# **Project History**



The Alta Mesa Project looking west across the property.

- Alta Mesa ore body discovered mid '70's.
- During the '80's and through the mid '90's
  - Four lessees started early development.
  - Initial permit work and site characterization.
- Mesteña assumed project in 1999.
- Permitting completed in 2002.
- In 2004, Mesteña committed to commercial operations at Alta Mesa.
- Development started summer 2004.
  - Plant construction, January 2005.
  - Commercial operations, October 2005.
  - Yellowcake packaging, December 2005.
- First uranium concentrate from Alta Mesa sold in February 2006.

#### **Operational Performance**



Top: Wellfield Development Drilling Activities
Bottom left: Wellfield Pipeline crew fusing the main trunklines in Wellfield.
Bottom Right: 55 gal. drums loaded with yellowcake prior to weighing.

- Continuous production.
  - Maintained a safe work place.
  - No environmental releases or regulatory concerns.
- Nearly 3 million lbs U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> produced.
- Completed a major expansion to plant capacity.
- Commenced groundwater remediation early.

## **Exploration Activities**



Drilling in the exploration areas across the property.

- An aggressive exploration project began 3Q06.
- The focus of this effort is three fold.
  - Locate and exploit additional resources at Alta Mesa
  - Locate the next major uranium deposit on mineral properties controlled by Mesteña.
- With the exception of Alta Mesa, these efforts have been entirely "greenfield" in nature.
- These efforts have proven very successful.
  - Significantly extended the mine life of Alta Mesa.
  - Discovered a new trend across the ranch property.
    - Potential for significant resources.
    - Down gradient trend from historic production.
    - Approximately 45 miles in length.