

33. At the present time the feed material, i.e. mine concentrates, for the Port Hope refinery is normally obtained from the following mines:

Eldorado's mines
Gunnar Mining Limited
Rio Algom Mines Limited.

34. More details of the Port Hope Refinery's activities are contained in Appendix C.

Sales Promotion

35. It is the policy of the Government of Canada that uranium will be sold only to countries with which Canada has bilateral agreements for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. However, small quantities may be sold to other countries up to a maximum of 2,500 pounds of uranium per country, providing the sale is approved by the Atomic Energy Control Board. Today, non-military sales are for small quantities, but as nuclear power becomes widespread, the quantities will grow in importance.

36. In preparation for the future, it is Eldorado's policy to give great attention to the small orders now placed from time to time by overseas countries, in order that Canada's importance as a uranium producer will be fully recognized and Eldorado's refinery products may become known for the excellence of quality they possess.

37. Sales are under the direction of the Vice-President, Refining. In the past few years Eldorado has placed exhibits in many overseas trade fairs and has staffed these with highly skilled personnel. Some of these exhibitions have been made in co-operation with the other Canadian uranium producers.

38. Eldorado's senior personnel have visited many overseas uranium buying agencies and atomic energy centres and in so doing, have made Canada's prominence in this field known to most of the people responsible for atomic power developments in their countries.

39. This subject is discussed in greater detail in Appendix D.

Research and Development

40. When the demand for uranium became urgent, the chemical and physical properties of the mineral were well known, due largely to the work that led to the discovery and production of radium, but no technique had been developed for the extraction of uranium from complex ores containing relatively small amounts of the mineral. The concentrates used in the production of radium had been obtained by rather crude methods from ores that contained a large percentage of uranium, and such ores were very rare.

41. In the development and improvement of the methods being used today throughout the world in the treatment of uranium ores, Canadians have played a major part. The first work in Canada was done in 1945 in the laboratories of what was then known as the Bureau of Mines. Eldorado contributed a large measure of support to this early effort, but as the Canadian uranium industry expanded and Eldorado's own operations became more extensive and complex, it became necessary for Eldorado to form its own research and development organization.

42. Dr. A Thunæs who as an officer of the Bureau of Mines had been in charge of the early work became Manager of Eldorado's Research and Development Division. A description of this Division and its work appears as Appendix E.