

**WESTERN URANIUM & VANADIUM CORP.**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis**  
**For the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021**  
**(Stated in USD)**

**Dated November 17, 2022**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Western Uranium & Vanadium Corp. (the "Company" or "Western", formerly Western Uranium Corporation) is the issuer. This Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") provides a review of corporate developments, results of operations and financial position for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021. The MD&A is intended to supplement the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto (the "Statements") of Western for the above-noted periods.

All amounts included in the MD&A are presented in US dollars, unless otherwise specified. This report is dated November 17, 2022, and the Company's filings can be reviewed on the SEDAR website at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the CSE website at [www.cnsx.ca](http://www.cnsx.ca)

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This MD&A contains forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements can often be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "estimates", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", or "believes", or variations of such words and phrases or state that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Actual results and developments are likely to differ, and may differ materially, from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in this MD&A. Such forward-looking statements are based on a number of assumptions which may prove to be incorrect, including, but not limited to, the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing, the economy generally, anticipated and unanticipated costs and other risks and uncertainties referred to elsewhere in this MD&A. Such statements could also be materially affected by environmental regulation, taxation policies, competition, the lack of available and qualified personnel or management, stock market volatility and the ability to access sufficient capital from internal or external sources. Actual results, performance or achievement could differ materially from those expressed herein. While the Company anticipates that subsequent events and developments may cause its views to change, the Company specifically disclaims any obligation to update these forward-looking statements, except as required by applicable law. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon Western Uranium & Vanadium Corp., as representing the Company's views as of any date subsequent to the date of this MD&A. Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. Readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The factors identified above are not intended to represent a complete list of the factors that could affect the Company. Additional factors are noted in this MD&A under "Risk Factors".

## **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Western Uranium & Vanadium Corp. ("Western" or the "Company", formerly Western Uranium Corporation) was incorporated in December 2006 under the Ontario Business Corporations Act. On November 20, 2014, the Company completed a listing process on the Canadian Securities Exchange ("CSE"). As part of that process, the Company acquired 100% of the members' interests of Pinon Ridge Mining LLC ("PRM"), a Delaware limited liability company. The transaction constituted a reverse takeover ("RTO") of Western by PRM. Subsequent to obtaining appropriate shareholder approvals, the Company reconstituted its Board of Directors and senior management team. Effective September 16, 2015, Western completed its acquisition of Black Range Minerals Limited ("Black Range").

The Company's registered office is located at 330 Bay Street, Suite 1400, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 2S8 and its common shares are listed on the CSE under the symbol "WUC." On April 22, 2016, the Company's common shares began trading on the OTC Pink Open Market, and on May 23, 2016, the Company's common shares were approved

for trading on the OTCQX Best Market. Its principal business activity is the acquisition and development of uranium and vanadium resource properties in the states of Utah and Colorado in the United States of America (“United States”).

On June 28, 2016, the Company’s registration statement became effective and Western became a United States reporting issuer. Thereafter, the Company was approved for Depository Trust Company eligibility through the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation, which facilitates electronic book-entry delivery, settlement and depository services for shares in the United States.

On June 29, 2018, the shareholders of the Company approved the name change of the Company from “Western Uranium Corporation” to “Western Uranium & Vanadium Corp.” The name change became effective in Ontario, Canada on October 1, 2018; thereafter on October 4, 2018 Western’s shares started trading under the new name on the CSE and OTCQX and the Company announced the name change by news release.

## **GOING CONCERN**

With the exception of the quarter ending June 30, 2022, we had incurred losses from our operations. During the three months ended September 30, 2022, we generated a net loss of \$ 527,525. We expect to generate operating losses for the foreseeable future as we incur expenses to bring our mining operations online. As of September 30, 2022, we had an accumulated deficit of \$12,583,074 and working capital of \$10,181,380.

Since inception, the Company has met its liquidity requirements principally through the issuance of notes and the sale of its common shares. On January 20, 2022, the Company closed on a non-brokered private placement of 2,495,575 units at a price of CAD \$1.60 per unit. The aggregate gross proceeds raised in the private placement amounted to CAD \$3,992,920 (USD \$3,011,878 in net proceeds). During the nine months ended September 30, 2022, the Company received \$2,620,395 in proceeds from the exercise of warrants.

The Company’s ability to continue its operations and to pay its obligations when they become due is contingent upon the Company obtaining additional financing. Management’s plans include seeking to procure additional funds through debt and equity financings, to secure regulatory approval to fully utilize its Kinetic Separation and to initiate the processing of ore to generate operating cash flows.

There are no assurances that the Company will be able to raise capital on terms acceptable to the Company or at all, or that cash flows generated from its operations will be sufficient to meet its current operating costs and required debt service. If the Company is unable to obtain sufficient amounts of additional capital, it may be required to reduce the scope of its planned product development, which could harm its financial condition and operating results, or it may not be able to continue to fund its ongoing operations. These conditions raise substantial doubt about the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern to sustain operations for at least one year from the issuance of the accompanying financial statements. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of these uncertainties.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### *Sunday Mine Complex Project 2021/2022/2023*

The SMC project entailed the development of multiple SMC ore bodies and involves a shift in the base of operations from the St. Jude Mine (2019) to the Sunday Mine (2021). Underground development began in August 2021 following mine ventilation, power upgrades, and increasing explosive capabilities. The first target was the extension of the drift (tunnel) 150 feet to reach the first surface exploration drill hole to access the GMG Ore Body (GMG). Early results were positive as drilling toward the GMG resulted in the location of ore-grade material within thirty feet of the existing mine workings. Notably, only limited exploration drilling has been done in this area due to the mountainous terrain on the surface above. As drifting proceeded, very high-grade ore continued to be intersected through the drift path and on both sides of the drift. As a result, the team shifted from development to mining. From December 2021 to March 2022, over 3,000 tons of high-grade uranium/vanadium ore was mined from the drift based upon on site scintillometer readings. At the end of March 2022, the mining contractor engaged by Western decided to retire from contract mining operations. As a result, Western scaled back operations to focus on building an in-house mining capability.

Subsequently, the Company has completed the build-out of its in-house mining capability. Over \$1,000,000 was spent on the acquisition, upgrading, and maintenance of a fleet of used/new mining equipment and vehicles. Additional employees have been hired for the first mining team and facilities have been upgraded. This first in-house mining team has been fully outfitted and readied for deployment. The initial project will focus on additional development of the GMG Ore body. This will involve ore production and stockpiling of high-grade ore and underground drilling/exploration to define additional production zones. The next project will be similar in scope and focus on the St. Jude Mine target areas defined during the 2019/2020 work project. Mining operations are targeted to restart in January 2023.

### *January 2022 Private Placement*

On January 20, 2022, the Company closed on a non-brokered private placement of 2,495,575 units at a price of CAD \$1.60 per unit. The aggregate gross proceeds raised in the private placement amounted to CAD \$3,992,920. Each unit consisted of one common share of Western plus one common share purchase warrant of Western. Each warrant entitled the holder to purchase one common share at a price of CAD \$2.50 per share for a period of three years following the closing date of the private placement. A total of 2,495,575 common shares and 2,495,575 warrants were issued to investors and 98,985 warrants were issued to broker dealers in connection with the private placement.

### *Strategic Acquisition of Physical Uranium*

In May 2021, the Company executed a binding agreement to purchase 125,000 pounds of natural uranium concentrate at approximately \$32 per pound. In December 2021, the Company paid \$4,044,083 in connection with its full prepayment of the purchase price for 125,000 pounds of natural uranium concentrate. This uranium concentrate was subsequently delivered and sold under the terms of the uranium supply agreement in the second quarter of 2022.

### *Uranium Supply Agreement Delivery*

In the second quarter of 2022, in satisfaction of the Year 5 delivery under our supply contract, we delivered and sold 125,000 lbs of uranium concentrate from our prepaid uranium concentrate inventory. Accordingly, during the nine months ended September 30, 2022, we recorded revenue of \$7,223,609 (at a price of approximately \$57 per pound) and cost of revenue of \$4,044,083 related to this uranium delivery.

### *Bullen Property (Weld County)*

The Bullen Property is an oil and gas property located in Weld County Colorado. The Company acquired this non-core property in 2015 in the Black Range Minerals Limited acquisition, and Black Range purchased the property in 2008 for its Keota Uranium Project.

In 2017, the Company signed a three year oil and gas lease which in 2020 was extended for an additional three year term or until the end of continuous operations. The consideration was in the form of upfront bonus payments and a backend 3/16<sup>th</sup> production royalty payment. Additional right-of-way easement agreements were signed which allowed

for the development of a pipeline. The lease agreement allows the Company to retain property rights to vanadium, uranium, and other mineral resources.

A 2019 lawsuit was filed in the Weld County District Court over the original Bullen Property deed language which was negotiated before the Company acquired Black Range by prior management and a bank representing the estate of the property owner. The Company settled with the plaintiffs by awarding the estate's beneficiaries a non-participating royalty interest of 1/8th for all hydrocarbon and non-hydrocarbon substances that are produced and sold from the property.

In early 2020, the operator filed an application with the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission ("COGCC") to update the permit to create a new pooled unit. Subsequently, during 2021, the operator advanced through the oil well production stages: drilling was completed in the first quarter, wellfield completion/fracking was completed during the second quarter, drill out was completed in July, and flowback was completed in August. By August 2021, each of the eight (8) wells had commenced oil and gas production. The first royalty payment was made in January 2022 and monthly royalty payments have been received subsequently.

Due to the success of the first 8 wells which were developed in 2021, the operator decided to develop a second set of 8 wells within Western's royalty area during 2022. The 2022 well installation was on a timeline which ran slightly behind the 2021 wells. However, by August 2022, each of the eight (8) new wells had come online; September 2022 was the new well pad's first full month of production. The first royalty payment will be made in the first quarter of 2023.

During the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, we recognized aggregate revenue of \$108,547 and \$16,155, respectively, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, we recognized aggregate revenue of \$387,810 and \$48,465, respectively, under these oil and gas lease arrangements. On January 31, 2022, the operator of the Weld County Colorado oil and gas pooled trust issued the first cumulative royalty payment in the amount of \$207,552 for August 2021 through December 2021 sales, which was recognized as income in the fourth quarter of 2021.

### ***Sunday Mine Complex Permitting Status***

On February 4, 2020, the Colorado DRMS sent a Notice of Hearing to Declare Termination of Mining Operations related to the status of the mining permits issued by the state of Colorado for the Sunday Mine Complex. At issue was the application of an unchallenged Colorado Court of Appeals Opinion for a separate mine (Van 4) with very different facts that are retroactively modifying DRMS rules and regulations. The Company maintains that it was timely in meeting existing rules and regulations. The hearing was scheduled to be held during several monthly MLRB Board meetings, but this matter was delayed several times. The permit hearing was held during the MLRB Board monthly meeting on July 22, 2020. At issue was the status of the five existing permits which comprise the Sunday Mine Complex. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the hearing took place utilizing a virtual-only format. The Company prevailed in a 3-to-1 decision which acknowledged that the work completed at the Sunday Mine Complex under DRMS oversight was timely and sufficient for Western to maintain these permits. In a subsequent July 30, 2020 letter, the DRMS notified the Company that the status of the five permits (Sunday, West Sunday, St. Jude, Carnation, and Topaz) had been changed to "Active" status effective June 10, 2019, the original date on which the change of the status was approved. On August 23, 2020, the Company initiated a request for Temporary Cessation status for the Sunday Mine Complex as the mines had not been restarted within a 180-day window due to the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, a permit hearing was scheduled for October 21, 2020 to determine Temporary Cessation status. In a unanimous vote, the MLRB approved Temporary Cessation status for each of the five Sunday Mine Complex permits (Sunday, West Sunday, St. Jude, Carnation, and Topaz). On October 9, 2020, the MLRB issued a board order which finalized the findings of the July 22, 2020 permit hearing. On November 12, 2020, a coalition of environmental groups filed a lawsuit against the MLRB seeking a partial appeal of the July 22, 2020 decision by requesting termination of the Topaz mine permit. On December 15, 2020, the same coalition of environmental groups amended their complaint against the MLRB seeking a partial appeal of the October 21, 2020 decision requesting termination of the Topaz mine permit. The Company has joined with the MLRB in defense of their July 22, 2020 and October 21, 2020 decisions. On May 5, 2021, the Plaintiff in the Topaz Appeal filed an opening brief with the Denver District Court seeking to overturn the July 22, 2020 and October 21, 2020 MLRB permit hearing decisions on the Topaz mine permit. The MLRB and the Company were to respond with an answer brief within 35 days on or before June 9, 2021, but instead sought a settlement. The judicial review process was delayed as extensions were put in place until August 20, 2021. A settlement was not reached and the MLRB and the Company submitted answer briefs on August 20, 2021. The Plaintiff submitted a reply brief on September 10, 2021. On March 1, 2022,

the Denver District Court reversed the MLRB's orders regarding the Topaz Mine and remanded the case back to MLRB for further proceedings consistent with its order. The Company and the MLRB had until April 19, 2022 to appeal the Denver District Court's ruling. Neither the Company nor the MLRB appealed the Denver District Court ruling. Western anticipates receiving an MLRB board order of reclamation for the Topaz Mine. The Company is continuing to work toward the completion of an updated Topaz Mine Plan of Operations which is a separate federal requirement of the BLM for the conduct of mining activities on the federal land at the Topaz Mine.

### ***Kinetic Separation Licensing***

During 2016, the Company submitted documentation to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) for a determination ruling regarding the type of license which may be required for the application of Kinetic Separation at the Sunday Mine Complex within the state of Colorado. During May and June of 2016, CDPHE held four public meetings in several cities in Colorado as part of the process. On July 22, 2016, CDPHE closed the comment period. In connection with this matter, the CDPHE consulted with the NRC. In response, the CDPHE received an advisory opinion, dated October 16, 2016, which did not contain support for the NRC’s opinion and with which the Company’s regulatory counsel does not agree. NRC’s advisory opinion recommended that Kinetic Separation should be regulated as a milling operation but did recognize that there may be exemptions to certain milling regulatory requirements because of the benign nature of the non-uranium bearing sands produced after Kinetic Separation is completed on uranium-bearing ores. On December 1, 2016, the CDPHE issued a determination that the proposed Kinetic Separation operations at the Sunday Mine Complex must be regulated by the CDPHE through a milling license. Beginning in 2017, the Company’s regulatory counsel prepared significant documentation in preparation for a prospective submission. On September 13, 2019, the Company’s regulatory counsel submitted a white paper to the NRC entitled “Recommendations on the Proper Legal and Policy Interpretation for Using Kinetic Separation Processes at Uranium Mine Sites.” On July 24, 2020, the NRC staff responded with a letter in support of the original conclusion. Western’s regulatory counsel has proposed alternatives. However, management has decided not to proceed at this time, given its present opportunity set.

### ***Uranium Section 232 Investigation/Nuclear Fuel Working Group Process***

An investigation under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 was undertaken by the Department of Commerce in 2018 to assess the impact to national security of the importation of uranium utilized by civilian nuclear reactors within the United States. In response to the Section 232 report, the Trump White House formed the Nuclear Fuel Working Group (“NFWG”) to find solutions for reviving and expanding domestic nuclear fuel production and reinvigorating recommendations.

In April 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) released the NFWG report entitled “Restoring America’s Competitive Nuclear Energy Advantage – A strategy to assure U.S. national security.” The report outlines a strategy for the reestablishment of critical capabilities and direct support to the front end of the U.S. domestic nuclear fuel cycle.

In July 2021, the uranium Section 232 report was publicly released. The report concluded that uranium imports were “weakening our internal economy” and “threaten to impair the national security” and recommended immediate actions to “enable U.S. producers to recapture and sustain a market share of U.S. uranium consumption”. A number of the initiatives have been subsequently implemented. Most recently, in December 2020, U.S. Congress passed the “COVID-Relief and Omnibus Spending Bill,” which included \$75 million for the establishment of a strategic U.S. Uranium Reserve. In June 2022, the DoE released program guidelines to initiate purchases of \$75 million of domestic uranium inventory which is already in storage at the Honeywell Metropolis Works uranium conversion facility in Illinois USA. RFP submissions were due by August 1, 2022, and awards were expected to be announced within 60 days, but have been delayed several times and not yet been made public. Western did not hold any qualifying inventory, so the Company didn’t submit an RFP.

Most notably the results of the Section 232 and NFWG processes provided an advance warning as to the national security risks of nuclear fuel cycle dependency upon Russia and its former Soviet republics. With Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the actual risk level is now understood to be of a greater magnitude than reported. Further, the cumulative market distortions of competing against state-sponsored entities for decades has caused countries across the world to seek government remedies to level the playing field. Any actions taken to remove pricing distortions from uranium markets are a positive outcome for U.S. uranium miners.

## ***Vanadium Section 232 Investigation***

In the United States, a petition for an investigation under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 was requested by two domestic companies in November 2019. In June of 2020, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, initiated an investigation into whether the present quantities or circumstances of vanadium imports into the United States threaten to impair the national security. The Section 232 National Security Investigation of Imports of Vanadium was concluded, and a report was submitted to President Biden in February 2021. In July 2021, the report was made public. It concluded that vanadium imports “do not threaten to impair the national security as defined in Section 232,” but identified and recommended “several actions that would help to ensure reliable domestic sources of vanadium and lessen the potential for imports to threaten national security.” No action has been taken on these recommendations.

## ***Biden-Harris Administration Initiatives***

The positive momentum has continued for the nuclear and uranium mining sector due to the Biden-Harris Administration’s emphasis on climate change. Upon taking office, the Biden team immediately rejoined the Paris Agreement and continued its pursuit of campaign promises of investments in clean energy, creating jobs, producing clean electric power, and achieving carbon-free energy in electricity generation by 2035. Since taking office, President Biden has given all agencies climate change initiatives. The existing U.S. nuclear reactor fleet currently produces in excess of 50% of U.S. clean energy, and new, advanced nuclear technologies promise to generate additional clean energy. In an acknowledgement of the future growth potential of new nuclear technologies, the Biden-Harris Administration has increased U.S. government support of the industry to a level not seen in decades.

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act which provisions for \$369 billion in climate and energy investments, a portion of which will significantly benefit the U.S. domestic nuclear industry. Notably, while protecting the climate, there is a leveling of the playing field with renewable energy which has long benefited from government support. We see the benefits to nuclear split across existing reactors, new advanced reactors, low enriched uranium and high-assay low enriched uranium nuclear fuels, and in multiple stages of the domestic nuclear fuel cycle. We believe that each of these benefits increase future aggregate demand for uranium.

The Harris-Biden Administration continues to prioritize climate change initiatives both in the United States and abroad. President Biden attended both the (COP26) and (COP27) United Nations Climate Change Conferences. At the most recent conference, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, proposed a new initiative for the U.S. to assist and accelerate a European transition from coal plants to SMRs. This program is ongoing as the Department of Energy is already advancing this initiative.

## ***Financial Buyers of Uranium - Sprott Physical Uranium Trust and ANU Energy OEIC Ltd.***

The Sprott Physical Uranium Trust (U.UN) (the “Trust”) took over the former Uranium Participation Corp. (U.TO) and launched an at-the-market program (ATM) on August 17, 2021 to raise capital for the closed-ended trust. Since the inception of the ATM program, the Trust has acquired significant quantities of uranium causing spot prices to increase. In the one year since the Trust initiated its ATM program in August 2021 it has purchased ~40 million pounds of uranium and grown the net asset value to ~ \$3 billion.

Due to Sprott’s success a clone physical uranium fund was launched on May 2022. The ANU Energy OEIC Ltd fund raised over \$75 million dollars in a private placement and has made its first uranium purchase. Kazatomprom, the world’s largest producer of uranium is a strategic investor and uranium supplier to ANU Energy. Subsequently, the fund announced that it was contemplating a \$500 million IPO in 4Q2022 or 1Q2023.

These dedicated investment vehicles highlight the increasing impact of financial buyers on uranium markets. Physical uranium purchases by financial buyers are depleting material from the spot market and sequestering it away from utility buyers. This has forced a market tightening as inventory levels of the most mobile inventory have been significantly depleted, initiating a new round of long-term contracting by utilities.

## **Russia's Invasion of Ukraine**

In February, Russia invaded Ukraine commencing a war between the two countries. Russia is a major global energy supplier and both countries are top ten uranium producers, and Russia is a global leader in nuclear fuel services. On the day prior to the invasion, the spot price of uranium was less than \$44/lbs and it increased to a decade high peak of over \$63/lbs, before subsequently settling around the \$50/lbs spot price level.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has called into question its role and future participation in the nuclear fuel cycle. However as of today, Rosatom, Russia's national nuclear company has avoided sanctions due to dependencies that have been built-up in the industry over decades. However, a desire to stay away from bad actors and the threat of Russia weaponizing energy exports has elicited responses. Worldwide, utilities have accelerated their contracting of non-Russian conversion and enrichment services. New uranium supply agreements are being signed with Western producers. In the U.S., legislative and agency solutions are moving forward. This year multiple new nuclear funding programs have already been put in place and the language from the DoE has only gotten stronger. The Secretary of Energy recently declared: "The United States wants to be able to source its own fuel from ourselves and that's why we are developing a uranium strategy." It has become clear that the DoE is committed to creating nuclear fuel solutions to address the current dependence and promote a geopolitical realignment of the nuclear fuel cycle away from Russia.

As a result of these new realities, the U.S. Congress is considering both sanctions and multiple pieces of legislation focusing on prohibiting the importation of Russian uranium and nuclear fuel and supporting U.S. domestic miners and the U.S. nuclear fuel cycle. Most recently, in a show of bipartisan support, Senators Barrasso, Manchin and Risch merged their competing legislation, which has been positioned for post-election deliberations.

There remains a possibility that Russia might reverse-sanction the United States and not make nuclear fuel deliveries. Weaponizing of energy is a tactic that is already being deployed in the Russia/Ukraine war and is increasingly becoming a matter of concern from countries that utilize Russian energy. As the U.S. has the largest fleet of nuclear reactors, any action affecting this market will have the potential to cause a realignment of global uranium markets.

## **Nuclear Fuel and Uranium Markets**

Western currently is observing positive catalysts across multiple levels of the nuclear fuel and uranium markets. At a micro-level the projected supply / demand imbalance is expanding. Demand is increasing with new reactors being built, next generation reactors being advanced, operating reactor life extensions, restarts of idle reactors, and nuclear phase-out plans being reversed. There are multiple data points pointing to a depletion of the secondary supply overhang, which was prevalent for the last decade. At a macro-level, the electrification transition and climate change initiatives have increased global support for nuclear. Further, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing global energy crisis has focused attention on security of supply and supply chain risks. As a result, Western continues to advance our operational strategy in anticipation of increasing uranium price levels which will reward the ability to quickly scale-up ore production.

## **COVID-19**

The world has been, and continues to be, impacted by the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic. COVID-19, and measures to prevent its spread, impacted our business in a number of ways. The impact of these disruptions and the extent of their adverse impact on the Company's financial and operating results will be dictated by the length of time that such disruptions continue, which will, in turn, depend on the currently unpredictable duration and severity of the impacts of COVID-19, and among other things, the impact of governmental actions imposed in response to COVID-19 and individuals' and companies' risk tolerance regarding health matters going forward and developing strain mutations. To date, COVID-19 has primarily caused Western delays in reporting, regulatory matters, and operations. Most notably, the Company initiated a request for Temporary Cessation status for the Sunday Mine Complex in August 2020 as the mines had not been restarted within the 180-day window due to the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Van 4 Mine reclamation process was delayed because of COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. The need to observe quarantine periods also caused a limited loss of manpower and delay to the 2021 / 2022 Sunday Mine Complex project. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited Western's participation in industry and investor conference events. The Company is continuing to monitor COVID-19 and its subvariants, and the potential impact of the pandemic on the Company's operations.

## Results of Operations

|  | For the Three Months Ended<br>September 30, |  | For the Nine Months Ended<br>September 30, |                       |
|--|---|--|--|-----------------------|
|  | 2022  |  | 2021                                       |                       |
|  | \$  |  | \$   |                       |
| <b>Revenue</b>                               | \$ 108,547                                  |  | \$ 16,155                                  |                       |
| <b>Cost of revenues</b>                      | -   |  | -  |                       |
| <b>Gross profit</b>                          | <u>108,547</u>                              |  | <u>16,155</u>                              |                       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                              |   |  |  |                       |
| Mining expenditures                          | 204,520                                     |  | 335,028                                    |                       |
| Professional fees                            | 97,077                                      |  | 136,174                                    |                       |
| General and administrative                   | 351,928                                     |  | 361,301                                    |                       |
| Consulting fees                              | 18,346                                      |  | 12,801                                     |                       |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>              | <u>671,871</u>                              |  | <u>845,304</u>                             |                       |
| <b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>               | (563,324)                                   |  | (829,149)                                  |                       |
| Interest expense, net                        | (35,799)                                    |  | 1,344                                      |                       |
| Other (income)/expense                       | -   |  | (4,000)                                    |                       |
| Settlement expense                           | -   |  | -  |                       |
| <b>Net income/(loss)</b>                     | <u>(527,525)</u>                            |  | <u>(830,493)</u>                           |                       |
| <b>Other Comprehensive<br/>income/(loss)</b> |   |  |  |                       |
| Foreign exchange gain/(loss)                 | (148,365)                                   |  | (46,363)                                   |                       |
| <b>Comprehensive income/(loss)</b>           | <u>\$ (675,890)</u>                         |  | <u>\$ (876,856)</u>                        |                       |
|  |   |  |  |                       |
|  |   |  |  | \$ 265,930            |
|  |   |  |  | <u>\$ (1,573,186)</u> |

### *Three Months Ended September 30, 2022 as Compared to the Three Months Ended September 30, 2021*

Our consolidated net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$527,525 or \$0.01 per share and \$830,493 or \$0.02 per share, respectively. The principal components of these year over year changes are discussed below.

Our comprehensive loss for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$675,890 and \$876,856, respectively.

1. Our revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$108,547 and \$16,155, respectively. The increase in revenue of \$92,392 was primarily related to oil and gas royalties that were paid each month during the current quarter; payment of production royalties had not yet commenced in the corresponding quarter in the prior year.
2. Mining expenditures for the three months ended September 30, 2022 were \$204,520 as compared to \$335,028 for the three months ended September 30, 2021. The decrease in mining expenditures of \$130,508, or 39% was principally attributable to a reduction in mining operations during the current quarter while focusing on building an in-house mining capability; there were active mining operations during the full corresponding quarter in the prior year.
3. Professional fees for the three months ended September 30, 2022 were \$97,077 as compared to \$136,174 for the three months ended September 30, 2021. The decrease in professional fees of \$39,097 or 29% was primarily due to a decrease in legal fees as Securities and Exchange Commission share registration expenditures were concentrated in the prior period.

4. General and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2022 were \$ 351,928 as compared to \$361,301 for the three months ended September 30, 2021. The decrease in general and administrative expense of \$9,373 or 3% is primarily due to a \$14,198 decrease in utility bills due to limited mining operations in the current quarter versus full mining operations during the corresponding quarter in the prior period.
5. Consulting fees for the three months ended September 30, 2022 were \$18,346 as compared to \$12,801 for the three months ended September 30, 2021. The increase in consulting fees of \$5,545 or 43% was principally due to our reduced utilization of consultants during 2021 due to COVID-19.
6. Accretion and interest for the three months ended September 30, 2022 produced income of \$35,799 as compared to expense of \$1,344 for the three months ended September 30, 2021. Due to increased capital balances, the Company was afforded access to a cash program paying higher interest rates which benefitted from both higher market interest rates and larger cash balances.
7. Foreign exchange loss for the three months ended September 30, 2022 was \$148,365 as compared to a loss of \$46,363 for the three months ended September 30, 2021. The foreign exchange loss is primarily due to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar.

***Nine months ended September 30, 2022 as Compared to the Nine months ended September 30, 2021***

Our consolidated net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 was \$578,422 or \$0.01 per share and consolidated net loss was \$1,596,717 or \$0.04 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The principal components of these year over year changes are discussed below.

Our comprehensive income for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 was \$265,930 and comprehensive loss was \$1,573,186 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021.

1. Our revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$7,611,419 and \$48,465, respectively. The increase in revenue of \$7,562,954 was primarily related to the revenue recognized upon the satisfaction of the uranium concentrate delivery under our supply contract whereby we delivered 125,000 lbs of uranium concentrate from our prepaid uranium concentrate inventory. Further, oil and gas royalties were recognized during every month during 2022, but \$0 of oil and gas royalties and \$48,465 of lease revenue were recognized during the corresponding nine-month period in the prior year.
2. Cost of revenue was \$4,044,083 for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 as compared to \$0 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. This increase was a result of recording the cost of the uranium concentrate that was sold and delivered during the second quarter of 2022.
3. Mining expenditures for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 were \$616,146 as compared to \$422,921 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The increase in mining expenditures of \$193,225, or 46% was principally attributable to increases in the utilization of contract labor, hydrology expenditures, and mining costs. The Company's Sunday Mine Complex was active more months during the current period versus the prior period and costs of building an in-house mining capability were concentrated in the second and third quarters.
4. Professional fees for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 were \$445,596 as compared to \$287,042 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The increase in professional fees of \$158,554 or 55% was primarily due to an increase in legal expenditures and the reduced utilization of consultants during the prior year period due to COVID-19.
5. General and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 were \$1,870,747 as compared to \$835,281 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The increase in general and administrative expense of \$1,035,446, or 124% is primarily due to a \$744,327 increase in stock-based compensation expense as the 2021 stock option awards were granted and vested entirely during 2022. There was also a \$122,036 increase in payroll expenses due to an increase in staff and compensation. Investor relations expenditures increased \$37,190 as investor initiatives were re-initiated in 2022.

6. Consulting fees for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 were \$78,165 as compared to \$16,810 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The increase in consulting fees of \$61,355 was principally due to our reduced utilization of consultants during 2021 due to COVID-19.
7. Accretion and interest for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 produced income of \$17,740 as compared to expense of \$4,687 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. Due to increased capital balances, the Company was afforded access to a cash program paying higher interest rates which benefitted from both higher market interest rates and larger cash balances.
8. Foreign exchange loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 was \$312,492 as compared to a gain of \$23,531 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. The foreign exchange loss is primarily due to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar.

## **Financial Position**

### ***Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities***

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$5,174,546 for the nine months ended September 30, 2022, as compared with \$1,576,627 used in operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. Of the \$5,174,546 in net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2022, \$578,422 is derived from our net income before non-cash adjustments. After non-cash adjustments the cash income increased to \$1,378,191. Changes in our operating assets and liabilities for the period primarily includes a \$4,085,723 decrease in prepaid uranium concentrate inventory and a decrease of \$146,177 in subscription payable.

### ***Net cash used in investing activities***

Net cash used in investing activities was \$895,400 for the nine months ended September 30, 2022, as compared with \$65,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2021. This net cash used consists of purchases of equipment and vehicles to build Western's in-house mining capability.

### ***Net cash provided by financing activities***

Net cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 were \$5,632,273 and \$5,519,337, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2022 we completed a private placement representing aggregate net proceeds of \$3,011,878 and received \$2,620,395 from the exercise of warrants.

## ***Liquidity and Capital Resources***

The Company's cash and restricted cash balance as of September 30, 2022 was \$11,220,194. The Company's cash position is highly dependent on its ability to raise capital through the issuance of debt and equity and its management of expenditures for mining development and for fulfillment of its public company reporting responsibilities. Management believes that in order to finance the development of the mining properties and Kinetic Separation, the Company will be required to raise additional capital by way of debt and/or equity. Western could potentially require additional capital if the scope of Company's projects expands. This outlook is based on the Company's current financial position and is subject to change if opportunities become available based on current exploration program results and/or external opportunities.

## ***Reclamation Liability***

The Company's mines are subject to certain asset retirement obligations, which the Company has recorded as reclamation liabilities. The reclamation liabilities of the United States mines are subject to legal and regulatory requirements, and estimates of the costs of reclamation are reviewed periodically by the applicable regulatory authorities. The reclamation liability represents the Company's best estimate of the present value of future reclamation costs in connection with the mineral properties. The Company determined the gross reclamation

liabilities of the mineral properties to be \$751,405 and \$740,446 as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively. The Company expects to begin incurring the reclamation liability after 2054 for all mines that are not in reclamation and accordingly, has discounted the gross liabilities over their remaining lives using a discount rate of 5.4%. The net discounted aggregated values as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021 were \$297,510 and \$271,620, respectively. The gross reclamation liabilities as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021 are secured by financial warranties in the amount of \$751,405 and \$740,446, respectively.

On March 2, 2020, the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (“MLRB”) issued an order vacating the Van 4 Temporary Cessation, terminating mining operations and ordering commencement of final reclamation. The Company has begun the reclamation of the Van 4 Mine. The reclamation cost is fully covered by the reclamation bonds posted upon acquisition of the property. The Company adjusted the fair value of its reclamation obligation for the Van 4 Mine. Reclamation at the Van 4 Mine has continued using company employees and equipment. The headframe and ore bins have been dissembled and placed into storage. This phase followed building removal; hence cement pads are the only structures remaining onsite. The portion of the reclamation liability related to the Van 4 Mine and its related restricted cash are included in current liabilities and current assets, respectively, at a value of \$75,057.

#### ***Oil and Gas Lease and Easement***

The Company entered into an oil and gas lease that became effective with respect to minerals and mineral rights owned by the Company of approximately 160 surface acres of the Company’s property in Colorado. As consideration for entering into the lease, the lessee has agreed to pay the Company a royalty from the lessee’s revenue attributed to oil and gas produced, saved, and sold attributable to the net mineral interest. The Company has also received cash payments from the lessee related to the easement that the Company is recognizing incrementally over the eight year term of the easement.

On June 23, 2020, the same entity as discussed above elected to extend the oil and gas lease easement for three additional years, commencing on the date the lease would have previously expired. During 2021, the operator completed all well development stages and each of the eight (8) Blue Teal Fed wells commenced oil and gas production by mid-August 2021.

During the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, the Company recognized aggregate revenue of \$108,547 and \$16,155, respectively, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, the Company recognized aggregate revenue of \$387,810 and \$48,465, respectively, under these oil and gas lease arrangements. On January 31, 2022, the operator of the Weld County Colorado oil and gas pooled trust issued the first cumulative royalty payment check in the amount of \$207,552 for August 2021 through December 2021 sales which was recognized as income in the fourth quarter of 2021. Subsequently, in 2022, monthly royalty checks were received for sales during each of the months in the first quarter.

#### ***Related Party Transactions***

The Company has transacted with related parties pursuant to service arrangements in the ordinary course of business, as follows:

Prior to the acquisition of Black Range, Mr. George Glasier, the Company’s CEO, who is also a director of the Company (“Seller”), transferred his interest in a former joint venture with Ablation Technologies, LLC to Black Range. In connection with the transfer, Black Range issued 25 million shares of Black Range common stock to Seller and committed to pay AUD \$500,000 (USD \$321,600 as of September 30, 2022) to Seller within 60 days of the first commercial application of the Kinetic Separation technology. Western assumed this contingent payment obligation in connection with the acquisition of Black Range. At the date of the acquisition of Black Range, this contingent obligation was determined to be probable. Since the deferred contingent consideration obligation is probable and the amount is estimable, the Company recorded the deferred contingent consideration as an assumed liability in the amount of \$321,600 and \$362,794 as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively.

The Company also owed Mr. Glasier reimbursable expenses in the amount of \$54,000 and \$65,753 as of September 30, 2022 and December 31, 2021, respectively.

### ***Going Concern***

With the exception of the quarter ending June 30, 2022, we had incurred losses from our operations. During the three months ended September 30, 2022, we generated a net loss of \$527,525. We expect to generate operating losses for the foreseeable future as we incur expenses to bring our mining operations online. As of September 30, 2022, we had an accumulated deficit of \$12,583,074 and working capital of \$10,181,380.

Since inception, the Company has met its liquidity requirements principally through the issuance of notes and the sale of its common shares. On January 20, 2022, the Company closed on a non-brokered private placement of 2,495,575 units at a price of CAD \$1.60 per unit. The aggregate gross proceeds raised in the private placement amounted to CAD \$3,992,920 (USD \$3,011,878 in net proceeds). During the nine months ended September 30, 2022, the Company received \$2,620,395 in proceeds from the exercise of warrants.

The Company's ability to continue its operations and to pay its obligations when they become due is contingent upon the Company obtaining additional financing. Management's plans include seeking to procure additional funds through debt and equity financings, to secure regulatory approval to fully utilize its Kinetic Separation and to initiate the processing of ore to generate operating cash flows.

There are no assurances that the Company will be able to raise capital on terms acceptable to the Company or at all, or that cash flows generated from its operations will be sufficient to meet its current operating costs and required debt service. If the Company is unable to obtain sufficient amounts of additional capital, it may be required to reduce the scope of its planned product development, which could harm its financial condition and operating results, or it may not be able to continue to fund its ongoing operations. These conditions raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern to sustain operations for at least one year from the issuance of the accompanying financial statements. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of these uncertainties.

### ***Off Balance Sheet Arrangements***

As of September 30, 2022, there were no off-balance sheet transactions. The Company has not entered into any specialized financial agreements to minimize its investment risk, currency risk or commodity risk.

### ***Critical Accounting Estimates and Policies***

The preparation of these condensed consolidated financial statements requires management to make certain estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements and reported amounts of expenses during the reporting period.

Significant assumptions about the future and other sources of estimation uncertainty that management has made at the end of the reporting period, that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities, in the event that actual results differ from assumptions made, include, but are not limited to, the following: fair value of transactions involving common shares, assessment of the useful life and evaluation for impairment of intangible assets, valuation and impairment assessments on mineral properties, deferred contingent consideration, the reclamation liability, valuation of stock-based compensation, valuation of available-for-sale securities and valuation of long-term debt, HST and asset retirement obligations. Other areas requiring estimates include allocations of expenditures, depletion and amortization of mineral rights and properties.

## Summary of Quarterly Results

The table below reflects a summary of certain key financial results for each of the company's previous four quarters ended September 30, 2022:

| Description                              | September 30, 2022<br>\$ | June 30, 2022<br>\$ | March 31, 2022<br>\$ | December 31, 2021<br>\$ |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Balance sheet</b>                     |                          |                     |                      |                         |
| Cash                                     | 10,468,789               | 11,244,681          | 2,798,217            | 880,821                 |
| Prepaid uranium concentrate inventory    | -                        | -                   | 4,140,459            | 4,085,723               |
| Mineral properties and equipment, net    | 12,656,075               | 12,410,111          | 12,144,135           | 11,780,142              |
| Kinetic separation intellectual property | 9,488,051                | 9,488,051           | 9,488,051            | 9,488,051               |
| Accounts payable                         | 572,930                  | 674,816             | 504,256              | 699,593                 |
| Shareholders' equity                     | 29,748,914               | 30,135,686          | 25,836,423           | 23,097,492              |
| <b>Income statement</b>                  |                          |                     |                      |                         |
| Revenues                                 | 108,547                  | 7,346,646           | 156,226              | 223,677                 |
| Cost of revenues                         | -                        | 4,044,083           | -                    | -                       |
| Mining expenditures                      | 204,520                  | 122,588             | 289,038              | 294,736                 |
| Professional fees                        | 97,077                   | 212,459             | 136,060              | 78,260                  |
| Comprehensive income/(loss)              | (675,890)                | 2,058,762           | (1,116,942)          | (411,831)               |

## RISKS

There are a number of factors that could negatively affect the Company's business and the value of its securities, including the factors listed below. The following information pertains to the outlook and conditions currently known to Western that could have a material impact on the financial condition of Western. Other factors may arise in the future that are currently not foreseen by management of the Company that may present additional risks in the future. Current and prospective security holders of the Company should carefully consider these risk factors.

### Uranium and Vanadium Price Fluctuations

The Company's activities are significantly affected by the market price of uranium and vanadium, which is cyclical and subject to substantial fluctuations. The Company's earnings and operating cash flow are and will be particularly sensitive to the change in the long and short term market price of uranium and vanadium. Among other factors, these prices also affect the value of the Company's resources, reserves and inventories, as well as the market price of the Company's common shares.

Market prices are affected by numerous factors beyond the Company's control. With respect to uranium, such factors include, among others: demand for nuclear power; political and economic conditions in uranium producing and consuming countries; public and political response to a nuclear incident; reprocessing of used reactor fuel, the re-enrichment of depleted uranium tails and the enricher practice of underfeeding; sales of excess civilian and military inventories (including from the dismantling of nuclear weapons; the premature decommissioning of nuclear power plants; and from the build-up of Japanese utility uranium inventories as a result of the Fukushima incident) by governments and industry participants; uranium supply, including the supply from other secondary sources; and production levels and costs of production. With respect to vanadium, such factors include, among others: demand for steel; the potential for vanadium to be used in advanced battery technologies; political and economic conditions in vanadium producing and consuming countries; world production levels; and costs of production. Other factors relating to both the price of uranium include: levels of supply and demand for a broad range of industrial products; substitution of new or different products in critical applications for the Company's existing products; expectations with respect to the rate of inflation; the relative strength of the US dollar and of certain other currencies; interest rates; global or regional political or economic crises; regional and global economic conditions; and sales of uranium by holders in response to such factors. In the event the Company concludes that a significant deterioration in expected future uranium prices has occurred, the Company will assess whether an impairment allowance is necessary which, if required, could be material.

The recent fluctuations in the price of many commodities is an example of a situation over which the Company has no control and which could materially adversely affect the Company in a manner for which it may not be able to compensate. There can be no assurance that the price of any minerals that could be extracted from the Company's properties will be such that any deposits can be mined at a profit.

### **Global Economic Conditions**

In the event of a general economic downturn or a recession, there can be no assurance that the business, financial condition and results of operations of the Company would not be materially adversely affected. During the past several years, the global economy faced a number of challenges. During the global financial crisis of 2007-2008, economic problems in the United States and Eurozone caused a deterioration in the global economy, as numerous commercial and financial enterprises either went into bankruptcy or creditor protection or had to be rescued by governmental authorities. Access to public financing was negatively impacted by sub-prime mortgage defaults in the United States, the liquidity crisis affecting the asset-backed commercial paper and collateralized debt obligation markets, and massive investment losses by banks with resultant recapitalization efforts. Although economic conditions have shown improvement in recent years, the global recovery from the recession has been slow and uneven. The effects of the global financial crisis continue to limit growth. In addition, increasing levels of government debt, slowing economic growth in certain key regions including China, the threat of sovereign defaults including Greece, and political instability in Eastern Europe continue to weigh on markets. These factors continue to impact commodity prices, including uranium, as well as currencies and global debt and stock markets.

These factors may impact the Company's ability to obtain equity, debt or bank financing on terms commercially reasonable to the Company, or at all. Additionally, these factors, as well as other related factors, may cause decreases in asset values that are deemed to be other than temporary, which may result in impairment losses. If these increased levels of volatility and market turmoil continue, or there is a material deterioration in general business and economic conditions, the Company's operations could be adversely impacted and the trading price of the Company's securities could continue to be adversely affected.

### **Market Price of Shares**

Securities of mining companies have experienced substantial volatility in the past, often based on factors unrelated to the financial performance or prospects of the companies involved. These factors include macroeconomic conditions in North America and globally, and market perceptions of the attractiveness of particular industries. The price of the Company's securities is also likely to be significantly affected by short-term changes in the uranium spot price, changes in industry forecasts of uranium prices, other mineral prices, currency exchange fluctuation, or in its financial condition or results of operations as reflected in its periodic earnings reports. Other factors unrelated to the performance of the Company that may have an effect on the price of the securities of the Company include the following: the extent of analytical coverage available to investors concerning the business of the Company may be limited if investment banks with research capabilities do not follow the Company's securities; lessening in trading volume and general market interest in the Company's securities may affect an investor's ability to trade significant numbers of securities of the Company; the size of the Company's public float and its inclusion in market indices may limit the ability of some institutions to invest in the Company's securities; and a substantial decline in the price of the securities of the Company that persists for a significant period of time could cause the Company's securities to be delisted from an exchange, further reducing market liquidity. If an active market for the securities of the Company does not continue, the liquidity of an investor's investment may be limited and the price of the securities of the Company may decline. If an active market does not exist, investors may lose their entire investment in the Company. As a result of any of these factors, the market price of the securities of the Company at any given point in time may not accurately reflect the long-term value of the Company. Securities class-action litigation often has been brought against companies in periods of volatility in the market price of their securities, and following major corporate transactions or mergers and acquisitions. The Company may in the future be the target of similar litigation. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and damages and divert management's attention and resources.

### **Governmental Regulation and Policy Risks**

Exploration, development, mining and milling of minerals and the transportation and handling of the products produced are subject to extensive federal, state and local laws and regulations governing, among other things: acquisition of the mining interests; maintenance of claims; tenure; expropriation; prospecting; exploration; development; mining; milling and production; price controls; exports; imports; taxes and royalties; labor standards; occupational health; waste disposal; toxic substances; water use; land use; Native American land claims;

environmental protection and remediation; endangered and protected species; mine and mill decommissioning and reclamation; mine safety; transportation safety and emergency response; and other matters. Compliance with such laws and regulations has increased the costs of exploring, drilling, developing, constructing, operating and closing the Company's mines. It is possible that, in the future, the costs, delays and other effects associated with such laws and regulations may impact the Company's decision as to whether to proceed with exploration or development, or that such laws and regulations may result in the Company incurring significant costs to remediate or decommission properties that do not comply with applicable environmental standards at such time. The Company expends significant financial and managerial resources to comply with such laws and regulations. The Company anticipates it will have to continue to do so as the historic trend toward stricter government regulation may continue. There can be no assurance that future changes in applicable laws and regulations will not adversely affect the operations or financial condition of the Company. New laws and regulations, amendments to existing laws and regulations or more stringent implementation of existing laws and regulations, including through stricter license and permit conditions, could have a material adverse impact on the Company, increase costs, cause a reduction in levels of, or suspension of, production and/or delay or prevent the development of new mining properties.

Mining is subject to potential risks and liabilities associated with pollution of the environment and the disposal of waste products occurring as a result of mineral exploration, mining and production. Environmental liability may result from mining activities conducted by others prior to the Company's ownership of a property. Failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations and permitting requirements may result in enforcement actions. These actions may result in orders issued by regulatory or judicial authorities causing operations to cease or be curtailed, and may include corrective measures requiring capital expenditures, installation of additional equipment or remedial actions. Companies engaged in uranium exploration operations may be required to compensate others who suffer loss or damage by reason of such activities and may have civil or criminal fines or penalties imposed for violations of applicable laws or regulations. Should the Company be unable to fully fund the cost of remedying an environmental problem, it might be required to suspend operations or enter into interim compliance measures pending completion of the required remedy, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company. To the extent that the Company is subject to uninsured environmental liabilities, the payment of such liabilities would reduce otherwise available earnings and could have a material adverse effect on the Company. In addition, the Company does not have coverage for certain environmental losses and other risks as such coverage cannot be purchased at a commercially reasonable cost. Compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations requires significant expenditures and increases mine development and operating costs.

Worldwide demand for uranium is directly tied to the demand for electricity produced by the nuclear power industry, which is also subject to extensive government regulation and policies. The development of mines and related facilities is contingent upon governmental approvals that are complex and time consuming to obtain and which, depending upon the location of the project, involve multiple governmental agencies. The duration and success of such approvals are subject to many variables outside the Company's control. Any significant delays in obtaining or renewing such permits or licenses in the future could have a material adverse effect on the Company. In addition, the international marketing of uranium is subject to governmental policies and certain trade restrictions, such as those imposed by the suspension agreement between the United States and Russia. Changes in these policies and restrictions may adversely impact the Company's business.

#### **Public Acceptance of Nuclear Energy and Competition from Other Energy Sources**

Growth of the uranium and nuclear industry will depend upon continued and increased acceptance of nuclear technology as a means of generating electricity. Because of unique political, technological and environmental factors that affect the nuclear industry, including the risk of a nuclear incident, the industry is subject to public opinion risks that could have an adverse impact on the demand for nuclear power and increase the regulation of the nuclear power industry. Nuclear energy competes with other sources of energy, including oil, natural gas, coal, hydro-electricity and renewable energy sources. These other energy sources are to some extent interchangeable with nuclear energy, particularly over the longer term. Sustained lower prices of oil, natural gas, coal and hydroelectricity may result in lower demand for uranium concentrates. Technical advancements in renewable and other alternate forms of energy, such as wind and solar power, could make these forms of energy more commercially viable and put additional pressure on the demand for uranium concentrates.

## **Uranium Industry Competition and International Trade Restrictions**

The international uranium industry, including the supply of uranium concentrates, is competitive. The Company's market for uranium is in direct competition with supplies available from a relatively small number of uranium mining companies, from nationalized uranium companies, from uranium produced as a byproduct of other mining operations, from excess inventories, including inventories made available from decommissioning of nuclear weapons, from reprocessed uranium and plutonium, from used reactor fuel, and from the use of excess Russian enrichment capacity to re-enrich depleted uranium tails held by European enrichers in the form of UF6. A large quantity of current world production is inelastic, in that uranium market prices have little effect on the quantity supplied. The supply of uranium from Russia and from certain republics of the former Soviet Union is, to some extent, impeded by a number of international trade agreements and policies. These agreements and any similar future agreements, governmental policies or trade restrictions are beyond the control of the Company and may affect the supply of uranium available in the United States and Europe. The United States and China are also currently involved in a trade and tariff war, which could impact the Company's future sales as China is a globally large uranium and vanadium customer.

## **Ability to Maintain Obligations Under Notes Payable and Other Debt**

The Company may from time to time enter into arrangements to borrow money in order to fund its operations and expansion plans, and such arrangements may include covenants that restrict its business in some way. Events may occur in the future, including events out of the Company's control that would cause the Company to fail to satisfy its obligations under its existing notes payable or other debt instruments. In such circumstances, or if the Company were to default on its obligations under debentures or other debt instruments, the amounts drawn under the Company's debt agreements may become due and payable before the agreed maturity date, and the Company may not have the financial resources to repay such amounts when due.

Further, although most, but not all, of the Company's reclamation obligations are bonded, and cash and other assets of the Company have been reserved to secure a portion but not all of this bonded amount, to the extent the bonded amounts are not fully collateralized, the Company will be required to come up with additional cash to perform its reclamation obligations when they occur. In addition, the bonding companies have the right to require increases in collateral at any time upon 30-days' notice to the Company, failure of which would constitute a default under the bonds. In such circumstances, the Company may not have the financial resources to perform such reclamation obligations or to increase such collateral when due.

## **Additional Funding Requirements**

The Company may need additional financing in connection with the implementation of its business and strategic plans from time to time. The exploration and development of mineral properties and the ongoing operation of mines, requires a substantial amount of capital and may depend on the Company's ability to obtain financing through joint ventures, debt financing, equity financing or other means. The Company may accordingly need further capital in order to take advantage of further opportunities or acquisitions. The Company's financial condition, general market conditions, volatile uranium markets, volatile interest rates, a claim against the Company, a significant disruption to the Company's business or operations or other factors may make it difficult to secure financing necessary for the expansion of mining activities or to take advantage of opportunities for acquisitions. Further, continuing volatility in the credit markets may increase costs associated with debt instruments due to increased spreads over relevant interest rate benchmarks, or may affect the ability of the Company, or third parties it seeks to do business with, to access those markets. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in obtaining required financing as and when needed on acceptable terms, if at all.

## **Dilution from Further Equity Financing**

If the Company raises additional funding by issuing additional equity securities or securities convertible, exercisable or exchangeable for equity securities, such financing may substantially dilute the interests of shareholders of the Company and reduce the value of their investment.

## **Nature of Exploration and Development, Expansion Projects and Restarting Projects**

The exploration and development of mineral deposits, the expansion of projects and restarting projects involves significant financial risks. The exploration and development of mineral deposits involve significant financial risks over an extended period of time, which even a combination of careful evaluation, experience and knowledge may not

eliminate. While discovery of a mine may result in substantial rewards, few properties which are explored are ultimately developed into producing mines. Major expenses may be required to establish mineral resources and mineral reserves by drilling and to construct mining and processing facilities at a site. It is impossible to ensure that the current or proposed programs on the Company's mineral resource properties will result in a profitable commercial mining operation.

Whether a mineral deposit will be commercially viable depends on a number of factors, which include, among other things: the accuracy of reserve estimates; the particular attributes of the deposit, such as its size and grade; ability to economically recover commercial quantities of the minerals; proximity to infrastructure; financing costs and governmental regulations, including regulations relating to prices, taxes, royalties; infrastructure; land use; importing and exporting and environmental protection. The development, expansion and restarting of projects are also subject to the successful completion of engineering studies, the issuance of necessary governmental permits, the availability of adequate financing, that the correct estimation of engineering and construction timetables and capital costs for the Company's development and expansion projects, including restarting projects on standby, and such construction timetables and capital costs not being affected by unforeseen circumstances. The effect of these factors cannot be accurately predicted, but the combination of these factors may result in the Company not receiving an adequate return on invested capital.

It is possible that actual costs and economic returns of current and new mining operations may differ materially from the Company's best estimates. It is not unusual in the mining industry for new mining operations to experience unexpected problems during the start-up phase, take much longer than originally anticipated to bring into a producing phase, and to require more capital than anticipated.

### **The Company's Mineral Reserves and Resources Are Estimates**

Mineral reserves and resources are statistical estimates of mineral content, based on limited information acquired through drilling and other sampling methods, and require judgmental interpretations of geology. Successful extraction requires safe and efficient mining and processing. The Company's mineral reserves and resources are estimates, and no assurance can be given that the estimated reserves and resources are accurate or that the indicated level of uranium or vanadium will be produced. Such estimates are, in large part, based on interpretations of geological data obtained from drill holes and other sampling techniques. Actual mineralization or formations may be different from those predicted. Further, it may take many years from the initial phase of drilling before production is possible, and during that time the economic feasibility of exploiting a discovery may change.

Mineral reserve and resource estimates for properties that have not commenced production are based, in many instances, on limited and widely spaced drill-hole information, which is not necessarily indicative of the conditions between and around drill holes. Accordingly, such mineral resource estimates may require revision as more drilling information becomes available or as actual production experience is gained. It should not be assumed that all or any part of the Company's mineral resources constitute or will be converted into reserves. Market price fluctuations of uranium or vanadium as applicable, as well as increased production and capital costs or reduced recovery rates, may render the Company's proven and probable reserves unprofitable to develop at a particular site or sites for periods of time or may render mineral reserves containing relatively lower grade mineralization uneconomic.

### **Environmental Regulatory Requirements and Risk**

The Company is required to comply with environmental protection laws and regulations and permitting requirements promulgated by federal agencies and various states and counties in which the Company operates, in connection with mining and milling operations. The uranium industry is subject not only to the worker health and safety and environmental risks associated with all mining businesses, but also to additional risks uniquely associated with uranium mining and milling. The Company expends significant resources, both financial and managerial, to comply with these laws and regulations. The possibility of more stringent regulations exists in the areas of worker health and safety, storage of hazardous materials, standards for heavy equipment used in mining or milling, the disposition of wastes, the decommissioning and reclamation of exploration, mining, milling and in-situ sites, climate change and other environmental matters, each of which could have a material adverse effect on the cost or the viability of a particular project.

The Company cannot predict what environmental legislation, regulations or policies will be enacted or adopted in the future or how future laws and regulations will be administered or interpreted. The recent trend in environmental legislation and regulation is generally toward stricter standards, and this trend is likely to continue in the future. This

recent trend includes, without limitation, laws and regulations relating to air and water quality, mine reclamation, waste handling and disposal, the protection of certain species and the preservation of certain lands. These regulations may require the acquisition of permits or other authorizations for certain activities. These laws and regulations may also limit or prohibit activities on certain lands. Compliance with more stringent laws and regulations, as well as potentially more vigorous enforcement policies, stricter interpretation of existing laws and stricter permit and license conditions, may necessitate significant capital outlays, may materially affect the Company's results of operations and business or may cause material changes or delays in the Company's intended activities. There can be no assurance of the Company's continued compliance or ability to meet stricter environmental laws and regulations and permit or license conditions. Delays in obtaining permits and licenses could impact expected production levels or increases in expected production levels.

The Company's operations may require additional analysis in the future, including environmental, cultural and social impact and other related studies. Certain activities require the submission and approval of environmental impact assessments. The Company cannot provide assurance that it will be able to obtain or maintain all necessary permits that may be required to continue operations or exploration and development of its properties or, if feasible, to commence construction or operation of mining facilities at such properties on terms that enable operations to be conducted at economically justifiable costs. If the Company is unable to obtain or maintain, licenses, permits or other rights for development of its properties, or otherwise fails to manage adequately future environmental issues, its operations could be materially and adversely affected.

### **Opposition to Mining May Disrupt Business Activity**

In recent years, governmental and non-governmental agencies, individuals, communities and courts have become more vocal and active with respect to their opposition of certain mining and business activities. This opposition may take on forms such as road blockades, applications for injunctions seeking work stoppages, refusals to grant access to lands or to sell lands on commercially viable terms, lawsuits for damages or to revoke or modify licenses and permits, issuances of unfavorable laws and regulations, and other rulings contrary to the Company's interest. These actions can occur in response to current activities or in respect of mines that are decades old. In addition, these actions can occur in response to activities of the Company or the activities of other unrelated entities. Opposition to the Company's activities may also result from general opposition to nuclear energy. Opposition to the Company's business activities are beyond the Company's control. Any opposition to the Company's business activities may cause a disruption to the Company's business activities and may result in increased costs and this could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and financial condition.

### **Competition for Properties and Experienced Employees**

The Company competes with other mining companies and individuals for capital, mining interests on exploration properties and undeveloped lands, acquisitions of mineral resources and reserves and other mining assets, which may increase its cost of acquiring suitable claims, properties and assets, and the Company also competes with other mining companies to attract and retain key executives and employees.

There can be no assurance that the Company will continue to be able to compete successfully with its competitors in acquiring such properties and assets or in attracting and retaining skilled and experienced employees. The mining industry has been impacted by increased worldwide demand for critical resources such as input commodities, drilling equipment, tires and skilled labor, and these shortages have caused unanticipated cost increases and delays in delivery times, thereby impacting operating costs, capital expenditures and production schedules.

### **Litigation and Other Legal Proceedings**

The Company is not subject to any litigation, potential claims or other legal proceedings. The causes of potential future litigation and legal proceedings cannot be known and may arise from, among other things, business activities, environmental laws, permitting and licensing activities, volatility in stock prices or failure to comply with disclosure obligations. The results of litigation and proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, and may include potential injunctions pending the outcome of such litigation and proceedings. If the Company is unable to resolve these disputes favorably, it may have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial performance, cash flow and results of operations.

### **Decommissioning and Reclamation**

As owner and operator of numerous uranium mines located in the United States and certain exploration properties, and for so long as the Company remains an owner thereof, the Company is obligated to eventually reclaim or participate in the reclamation of such properties. Most, but not all, of the Company's reclamation obligations are bonded, and cash and other assets of the Company have been reserved to secure a portion but not all of this bonded amount. Although the Company's financial statements will record a liability for the asset retirement obligation, and the bonding requirements are generally periodically reviewed by applicable regulatory authorities, there can be no assurance or guarantee that the ultimate cost of such reclamation obligations will not exceed the estimated liability to be provided on the Company's financial statements. Further, to the extent the bonded amounts are not fully collateralized, the Company will be required to come up with additional cash to perform its reclamation obligations when they occur.

Decommissioning plans for the Company's properties have been filed with applicable regulatory authorities. These regulatory authorities have accepted the decommissioning plans in concept, not upon a detailed performance forecast, which has not yet been generated. As the Company's properties approach or go into decommissioning, further regulatory review of the decommissioning plans may result in additional decommissioning requirements, associated costs and the requirement to provide additional financial assurances. It is not possible to predict what level of decommissioning and reclamation (and financial assurances relating thereto) may be required in the future by regulatory authorities. Further, the applicable regulatory authorities could require the Company to decommission and reclaim its inactive mines at any time, which could have a negative effect on the Company's operations.

### **Technical Innovation and Obsolescence**

Requirements for the Company's products and services may be affected by technological changes in nuclear reactors, enrichment and used uranium fuel reprocessing. These technological changes could reduce the demand for uranium. In addition, the Company's competitors may adopt technological advancements that give them an advantage over the Company.

### **Property Title Risk**

The Company has investigated its rights to explore and exploit all of its properties and, to the best of its knowledge, those rights are in good standing. However, no assurance can be given that such rights will not be revoked, or significantly altered, to the Company's detriment. There can also be no assurance that the Company's rights will not be challenged or impugned by third parties, including by local governments.

The validity of unpatented mining claims on US public lands is sometimes difficult to confirm and may be contested. Due to the extensive requirements and associated expense required to obtain and maintain mining rights on US public lands, the Company's US properties are subject to various title uncertainties which are common to the industry or the geographic location of such claims, with the attendant risk that there may be defects in its title.

### **Foreign Currency Risks**

The Company's operations are subject to foreign currency fluctuations. The Company's operating expenses and revenues are primarily incurred in US dollars, while some of its cash balances and expenses are measured in Canadian dollars. The fluctuation of the Canadian dollar in relation to the US dollar will consequently have an impact upon the profitability of the Company and may also affect the value of the Company's assets and shareholders' equity.

### **Post-Acquisition Success**

The success of the Company following the acquisition of Black Range will depend in large part on the success of the Company's management in integrating the Black Range assets into the Company. The failure of the Company to achieve such integration and to mine or advance such assets could result in the failure of the Company to realize the anticipated benefits of the Black Range assets and could impair the results of operations, profitability and financial results of the Company.

## **Dependence on Issuance of Mine Licenses and Permits**

The Company maintains regulatory mine licenses and permits, all of which are subject to renewal from time to time and are required in order for the Company to operate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. In addition, depending on the Company's business requirements, it may be necessary or desirable to seek amendments to one or more of its licenses or permits from time to time. While the Company has been successful in renewing its licenses and permits on a timely basis in the past and in obtaining such amendments as have been necessary or desirable, there can be no assurance that such license and permit renewals and amendments will be issued by applicable regulatory authorities on a timely basis or at all in the future.

## **Access to Mills**

In the event that there is not a buying program in place for uranium/vanadium ore, the Company would need to arrange with a third party for conventional milling services. Because the number of mills permitted for processing of uranium and vanadium is very limited, it may be difficult for us to gain access to a mill on favorable terms, or at all. This could result in increased costs and/or significant delays in, interruption of, or cessation of the Company's business activities. The practice of selling uranium/vanadium ore without first processing into yellowcake (U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) or Vanadium Pentoxide (V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) would likely generate lower revenues.

## **Mining, Milling and Insurance**

The current and future operations of the Company are subject to all of the hazards and risks normally incidental to exploration, development and mining of mineral properties, and milling, including: environmental hazards; industrial accidents; labor disputes, disturbances and unavailability of skilled labor; encountering unusual or unexpected geologic formations; rock bursts, pressures, cave-ins, and flooding; periodic interruptions due to inclement or hazardous weather conditions; technological and processing problems, including unanticipated metallurgical difficulties, ground control problems, process upsets and equipment malfunctions; the availability and/or fluctuations in the costs of raw materials and consumables used in the Company's production processes; the ability to procure mining equipment and operating supplies in sufficient quantities and on a timely basis; and other mining, milling and processing risks, as well as risks associated with the Company's dependence on third parties in the provision of transportation and other critical services. Many of the foregoing risks and hazards could result in damage to, or destruction of, the Company's mineral properties or processing facilities, personal injury or death, environmental damage, delays in or interruption of or cessation of production from the Company's mines or processing facilities or in its exploration or development activities, delay in or inability to receive regulatory approvals to transport its uranium concentrates, or costs, monetary losses and potential legal liability and adverse governmental action. In addition, due to the radioactive nature of the materials handled in uranium mining and processing, additional costs and risks are incurred by the Company on a regular and ongoing basis.

While the Company may obtain insurance against certain risks in such amounts as it considers adequate, the nature of these risks are such that liabilities could exceed policy limits or could be excluded from coverage. There are also risks against which the Company cannot insure or against which it may elect not to insure.

The potential costs which could be associated with any liabilities not covered by insurance or in excess of insurance coverage or compliance with applicable laws and regulations may cause substantial delays and require significant capital outlays, adversely affecting the future earnings, financial position and competitive position of the Company. No assurance can be given that such insurance will continue to be available or will be available at economically feasible premiums or that it will provide sufficient coverage for losses related to these or other risks and hazards. This lack of insurance coverage could result in material economic harm to the Company.

## **Credit Risk**

The Company's sales of uranium and vanadium products expose the Company to the risk of non-payment. The Company manages this risk by monitoring the credit worthiness of its customers and requiring pre-payment or other forms of payment security from customers with an unacceptable level of credit risk.

## **Dependence on Key Personnel and Qualified and Experienced Employees**

The Company's success will largely depend on the efforts and abilities of certain senior officers and key employees, some of which are approaching retirement. Certain of these individuals have significant experience in the uranium industry. The number of individuals with significant experience in this industry is small. While the Company does not foresee any reason why such officers and key employees will not remain with the Company if for any reason they do not, the Company may be adversely affected. The Company has not purchased key man life insurance for any of these individuals.

The Company's success will also depend on the availability of qualified and experienced employees to work in the Company's operations and the Company's ability to attract and retain such employees. The number of individuals with relevant mining and operational experience in this industry is small.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

For so long as one or more of the Company's directors is also a director of other companies engaged in the business of acquiring, exploring and developing natural resource properties such associations may give rise to conflicts of interest from time to time. In particular, one of the consequences will be that corporate opportunities presented to a director of the Company may be offered to another company or companies with which the director is associated, and may not be presented or made available to the Company. The directors of the Company are required by law to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Company, to disclose any interest which they may have in any project or opportunity of the Company, and to abstain from voting on such matter. Conflicts of interest that arise will be subject to and governed by the procedures prescribed in the Company's Code of Ethics and by the Business Corporations Act (Ontario).

## **Labor Relations**

None of the Company's operations directly employ unionized workers who work under collective agreements. However, there can be no assurance that employees of the Company or its contractors do not become unionized in the future, which may impact mill and mining operations. Any lengthy work stoppages may have a material adverse impact on the Company's future cash flows, earnings, results of operations and financial condition.

## **Infrastructure**

Mining, processing, development and exploration activities depend, to a substantial degree, on adequate infrastructure. Reliable roads, bridges, power sources and water supply are important determinants affecting capital and operating costs. The Company considers the existing infrastructure to be adequate to support its proposed operations. However, unusual or infrequent weather phenomena, sabotage, government or other interference in the maintenance or provision of such infrastructure could adversely affect the operations, financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

## **COVID-19 Coronavirus**

The world has been, and continues to be, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19, and measures to prevent its spread, impacted our business in a number of ways. The impact of these disruptions and the extent of their adverse impact on the Company's financial and operating results will be dictated by the length of time that such disruptions continue, which will, in turn, depend on the currently unpredictable duration and severity of the impacts of COVID-19, and among other things, the impact of governmental actions imposed in response to COVID-19 and individuals' and companies' risk tolerance regarding health matters going forward and developing strain mutations. To date, COVID-19 has primarily caused Western delays in reporting, regulatory matters, and operations. Most notably, the Company initiated a request for Temporary Cessation status for the Sunday Mine Complex in August 2020 as the mines had not been restarted within the 180-day window due to the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Van 4 Mine reclamation process was delayed because of COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. The need to observe quarantine periods also caused a limited loss of manpower and delay to the 2021/2022 Sunday Mine Complex project. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited Western's participation in industry and investor conference events. The Company is continuing to monitor COVID-19 and its subvariants and the potential impact of the pandemic on the Company's operations.