



continued from page 21

mines produced 16,200,000 tons of uranium ore with 3,047 employees.

For a variety of reasons, Wyoming's once strong uranium mining industry has suffered from low prices and low production for many years. The market price of uranium in the United States has been low because imported uranium is often subsidized by other governments and made available to public utilities as fuel for power development at very very low prices. Unfortunately it appears that this situation will continue on into the near future.

However, Wyoming's miners are fighting back and production in the last few years has begun to increase because of the move from open pit mining to in-situ production of uranium. Uranium marketing is complicated by the fact that foreign producers, among which are the Soviet Union, South Africa, Australia and Canada, produce uranium at very low cost and drive the world market price down. In addition to that, the U.S. Department of Energy has indicated a desire to sell surplus uranium on the open market. In calendar 1990, Wyoming's uranium miners produced 107,000 tons of uranium ore in one conventional mine operation and 1 million pounds of yellow cake in 3 in-situ operations with a total of 424 employees.

It should be interesting

continued on page 23

Wyoming's mineral industry employs only 8% of Wyoming's work force, yet those hardy souls produce minerals to account for 68% of the state's tax base.
Star-Tribune file photo.

Mining Industry Stats.(continued1)

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