exit UEC was based partially on its review of current uranium enrichment market conditions. Following negotiations with TVEL and approval by Kazatomprom's board of directors, the transaction was approved by the Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation on January 30, and it is now subject to approval by TVEL's board of directors.

If approved by TVEL's board, the sale will be noted as a subsequent event in Kazatomprom's 2019 Annual Operating and Financial Review and 2019 Annual Financial Statements (expected to be published on March 5), with the financial impact expected to be reflected in the company's 2020 first quarter financial statements.

Regarding Kazatomprom's uranium production schedule for 2020, the company said that it would stick with its plan since 2018 to reduce volumes by 20 percent through 2021. The company said that production for 2020 was expected to remain flat compared with 2019 at approximately 22,750 metric tons (tU) to 22,800 tU (100 percent basis) and 13,000 tU to 13,500 tU (attributable basis). Without the planned reduction, production was expected to be about 28,500 tU (100 percent basis) in 2020. Sales volume for 2020 is expected at 13,500 tU to 14,500 tU, consistent with sales volumes in 2019, the company said.

Kazatomprom, the world's largest producer and seller of natural uranium, said that it would continue to target an ongoing inventory level of about six to seven months of annual attributable production, excluding trading volumes held by its Switzerland-based trading subsidiary, Trade House Kazakatom. NN

Fuel Briefs

THE NRC HAS REQUESTED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION on a request from Global Nuclear Fuel–Americas (GNF-A) for an amendment to its special nuclear material license to increase enrichment limits to less than or equal to 8 percent uranium-235. GNF-A's amendment request was submitted on October 31, 2019. The NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards informed GNF-A on December 20 that it would not accept the submittal for a formal review until supplemental information was provided. On January 29, the two parties held a closed call to discuss the request for supplemental information. Because the application contained security-related information, its details have been withheld.

CAMECO REPORTED ITS EARNINGS FOR 2019 ON FEBRUARY 7. "We had a strong finish to 2019," said Tim Gitzel, the company's president and chief executive officer. The Canadian uranium supplier suspended production at its McArthur River mine and Key Lake mill in Saskatchewan in November 2017 and has been purchasing material on the uranium spot market to meet contracted deliveries. Cameco delivered 14 million pounds of uranium in the fourth quarter and generated $527 million in cash from operations in 2019.

"The underlying fact is that uranium demand is going up while supply is going down," Gitzel said. "Today, the market is failing to send the appropriate signals. Current prices are putting future supply availability at risk. This is not sustainable. The longer the transition takes, the greater the likelihood that the uranium price will go beyond what is required to incent tier-one production to return to the market. We expect this will provide the opportunity for us to capture additional value in our contract portfolio and support the restart of our tier-one assets."