

URANIUM DEPOSITS IN RUSSIA

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15 uranium bearing districts including more than 100 uranium deposits has been discovered in Russian Federation since 1944, when uranium exploration started. They are subdivided into four groups according to economic status. Streltsovsk district with active mining includes 19 molybdenum-uranium deposits of structure-bound volcanic type in caldera: 17 deposits are situated in volcanic rocks and sediments (13 of them are in effusives of sheet facies and 4 in effusives of neck facies) and 2 large deposits occur in granite and marble of the basement. Except for the Streltsovsk district there are no more deposits in Russia prepared for uranium production. At the same time Vitim, Transural, and West-Siberian districts contain middle to small sandstone basal-channel type deposits (paleo-valley type in Russian classification). Some of them are amenable for in situ leaching operation and favorable for starting new ISL production centres. Stavropol district contain two small vein-type depleted uranium deposits. Current activities are connected with restoration and rehabilitation. Most deposits of 10 uraniferous districts include small deposits of vein, volcanic, and metasomatite types with high cost resources and low uranium grades. They are unfavourable for current production. However, the biggest of them is Aldansky district contains several large gold-uranium deposits in potassium metasomatites in the areas of Mesozoic activation of Archean cratons.