

Where Can Uranium Be Found ?

Uranium is a naturally-occurring constituent of various types of rocks, such as granite and silica-rich volcanic rocks. Weathering of these rocks releases uranium into the environment, where it may be concentrated into a uranium deposit. Uranium also occurs in association with igneous and metamorphic activity. In the United States, most commercial uranium deposits occur in sandstones. The major uranium-producing states are New Mexico, Wyoming, Texas, Utah, and Colorado.

The main uranium-producing area in Texas is the South Texas Uranium Province where uranium has been produced from Tertiary-age sandstones (typically less than 1,000 feet deep). Small quantities of uranium have also been mined from sediments of the Triassic Dockum Group (below the Ogallala Aquifer) in the panhandle region and generally near-surface volcanic deposits west of the Pecos River, but all commercial uranium production has taken place in south Texas. Uranium deposits in the South Texas Uranium Province extend from Starr County at the international border with Mexico northeastward through Zapata, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Webb, Duval, Kleberg, McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, Atascosa, Karnes, Wilson, Goliad, and Gonzales counties. Figure 1 illustrates the status of in situ uranium mines in the South Texas Uranium Province.

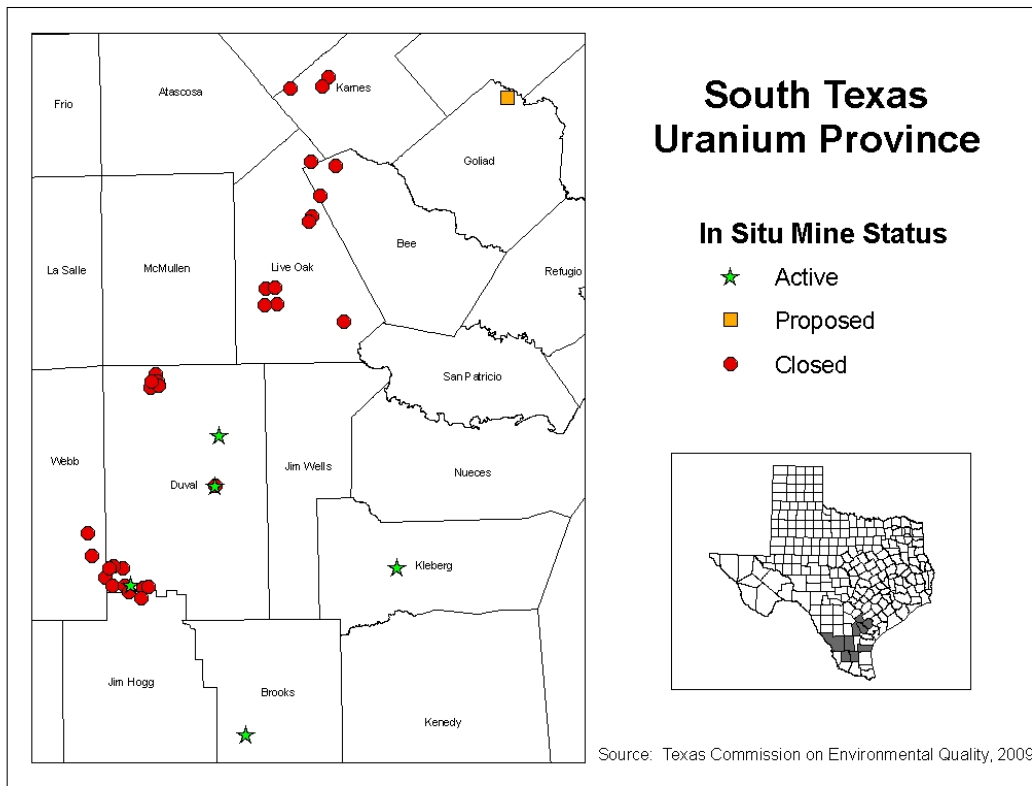


Figure 1. South Texas Uranium Province

References:

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- TCEQ In Situ Leach and Conventional Uranium-Recovery Methods, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/radmat/uranium/process.html>
- TCEQ Regulations for Class III Wells, [http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=30&pt=1&ch=331&sch=E&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=30&pt=1&ch=331&sch=E&rl=Y)
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