# Peninsula Energy (PEN) Rating: Buy | Risk: High | Price Target: \$0.34

# 31 January 2024

# Is this the cheapest ASX uranium stock? Trading at 1/10<sup>th</sup> the EV of Boss Energy

### Key Information

0.13
0.34
0.08 - 0.20
163.4%
163.4%
USD
161
Energy
8.3
0.01%

### Fundamentals

ranaunchuis				
YE 30 Jun (USD)	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Sales (\$m)	40	14	45	133
NPAT (\$m)	(4)	(1)	(1)	61
EPS (cps)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.0)	2.5
EPS Growth (%)	23.3%	77.1%	51.3%	nm
DPS (cps) (AUD)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ratios				
VE 22.1	E)(0.0.4	51/0 45	E) (0 E E	EV/0 CE

YE 30 Jun	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
P/E (x)	(36.3)	nm	nm	3.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	(21.2)	(58.5)	26.7	1.3
Div Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Payout Ratio (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### Price Performance

YE 30 Jun	1 Mth	2 Mth	3 Mth	1 Yr
Relative (%)	21.3%	20.3%	(5.8%)	(13.8%)
Absolute (%)	21.4%	27.5%	6.3%	(12.1%)
Benchmark (%)	0.1%	7.2%	12.1%	1.7%



8.8%

#### **Major Shareholders**

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#### Event

Peninsula has released its December quarter activities report. Peninsula raised \$60m in the quarter to fund the restart of its Lance Uranium Project in Wyoming, US. Engineering on the revised Lance plant is nearing completion and a construction contractor is expected to be appointed in 1Q24. The company is progressing discussions with debt providers (including the US DoE) which when finalised will fully fund the project to first cash flow. Peninsula is one of the cheapest uranium exposures on the ASX trading at a significant discount to Boss Energy (BOE) for a similar asset.

### **Highlights**

- Lance is an In-Situ Recovery (ISR) uranium project whereby uranium is leached from the orebody in an acid solution before being recovered in an ion-exchange resin. Stage 1 of the Lance Uranium Project was about to enter first commercial production in July 2023 when UEC cancelled its contract to process the uranium bearing resin from Lance. Peninsula had to adjust its plans to accelerate its stage 2 expansion and incorporate its own resin processing into the processing plant.
- In August Peninsula announced a revised processing plan which includes:
  - First production in Dec-24 and ramping up to 1.8Mlb steady state by 2029.
  - Remaining capex to first production of US\$53.4m, with a further US\$17.4m required to reach full production rates. The peak funding requirement to get to breakeven cash flow is US\$95m.
  - C1 operating costs of US\$21.69/lb and AISC of US\$42.46/lb.
- Peninsula Energy has raised A\$60m via a A\$50m placement and A\$10m SPP at 7.5cps to fund its Lance Uranium Project in Wyoming, US. The placement was approved by shareholders at an EGM on 10 January 2024. The additional shares have an associated 1for-2 option exercisable at 10cps which will raise an additional A\$40m when exercised.
- Peninsula has indicated that it is working with the US Department of Energy for the project's debt requirements. Given the US Government's support for a domestic uranium industry, and a desire to break the reliance on Russian imported material, we expect the US DoE to be supportive. Once the debt funding is secured, and assuming the options are exercised, Peninsula is fully funded through to positive cash flow.
- Peninsula generated sales revenue of US\$11.9m in the quarter from the sale of 210klb of uranium inventory to an existing customer. Peninsula has confirmed that all customers have agreed to adjusted delivery schedules to align with the current forecast production. The next product delivery is scheduled in 2025 after production has commenced at Lance. The Company does not currently foresee a circumstance where it would be required to obtain yellowcake in the market to satisfy future delivery obligations.
- When we compare Peninsula with Boss Energy (BOE, Hold, PT \$4.75), there are many similarities and yet Peninsula has an enterprise valuation around 1/10<sup>th</sup> that of Boss (US\$120m v US\$1,286m). Both companies have in-situ leach uranium operations in first world jurisdictions, both will produce around 2Mlb/yr, both will be in production within a year, and both have a similar sized resource with substantial exploration upside. The main difference is that Boss is fully funded, is closer to first production and is lower cost (Boss AISC of US\$26/lb). Boss deserves to trade at a premium, but in our view the valuation gap is too wide. We also note that Boss recently acquired a 30% stake in the Alta Mesa ISR uranium project in the US for US\$60m this implies a resource multiple of US\$10/lb compared to the similar Peninsula at US\$1.7/lb.

## Recommendation

We retain our BUY recommendation and price target of A\$0.34ps. Catalysts for the share price to reach our price target include further progress on securing a debt facility, construction milestones at Lance being achieved and first production in late 2024.

# ShawandPartners

Financial Services

Peninsula Energy
Energy
Energy
FactSet: PEN-AU / Bloomberg: PEN AU

Key Items	Data
Recommendation	BUY
Risk	HIGH
Price (\$ps)	0.13
Target Price (\$ps)	0.34
52 Week Range (\$ps)	0.08 - 0.20
Shares on Issue (m)	1,261
Market Cap (\$m)	161
Enterprise Value (\$m)	143
TSR (%)	163.4%

#### **Company Description**

Peninsula Energy is an ASX listed company that owns the Lance Uranium Project in Wyoming, USA which are in transition from an alkaline to a low pH in-situ recovery operation. The Lance Project requires low upfront capital and can rapidly restart post a Final Investment Decision. PEN is the only ASX company with direct exposure to US Government initiatives which are pro-domestic mine development.



Financial Year End: 30 June					
Investment Summary (USD)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EPS (Reported) (cps)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.0)	2.5
EPS (Underlying) (cps)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.0)	2.5
EPS (Underlying) Growth (%)	(64.3%)	23.3%	77.1%	51.3%	nm
PE (Underlying) (x)	(26.2)	(36.3)	nm	nm	3.4
EV / EBIT (x)	(16.2)	(21.2)	(58.5)	(67.4)	1.5
EV / EBITDA (x)	(16.2)	(21.2)	(58.5)	26.7	1.3
DPS (cps) (AUD)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Payout Ratio (%)	0.0% 1.0%	0.0%	0.0% (21.3%)	0.0%	0.0% 13.6%
Free Cash Flow Yield (%)		(5.7%)	. ,	(28.8%)	
Profit and Loss (USD) (m) Sales	FY22A 18	FY23A 40	FY24E 14	FY25E 45	FY26E 133
Sales Sales Growth (%)	18 87.2%	40 120.8%	14 (65.9%)	45 223.5%	198.0%
Other Operating Income	1	120.070	0	0	150.0%
EBITDA	(6)	(4)	(2)	4	75
EBITDA Margin (%)	(31.9%)	(11.0%)	(11.7%)	7.9%	56.5%
Depreciation & Amortisation	0	0	0	(5)	(13)
EBIT	(5.8)	(4.4)	(1.6)	(1.4)	62.1
EBIT Margin (%)	(31.9%)	(11.0%)	(11.7%)	(3.1%)	46.9%
Net Interest	0	0	0	1	(1)
Pretax Profit	(6)	(4)	(1)	(1)	61
Minorities	0	0	0	0	0
NPAT Underlying	(6)	(4)	(1)	(1)	61
Significant Items	(1)	0	0	0	0
NPAT Reported	(5)	(4)	(1)	(1)	61
Cashflow (USD) (m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EBIT	(6)	(4)	(2)	(1)	62
Tax Paid	0	0	1	0	0
Net Interest	0	0	0	1	(1)
Change in Working Capital	0	0	(5)	(6)	(29)
Depreciation & Amortisation	0	0	0	5	13
Other	8	9	0	0	0
Operating Cashflow	2	5	(5)	(2)	45
Capex	(1)	(12)	(25)	(52)	(17)
Acquisitions and Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	(0)	0	0	0
Investing Cashflow	(1)	(12)	(25)	(52)	(17)
Free Cashflow Equity Raised / Bought Back	1 0	(7) 21	<b>(30)</b> 39	(55) 28	<b>28</b> 0
Dividends Paid	0	0	0	28	0
Change in Debt	0	0	0	35	0
Other	(0)	0	0	0	0
Financing Cashflow	(0)	21	39	63	0
Exchange Rate Effect	(0)	0	0	0	0
Net Change in Cash	1	14	9	8	28
Balance Sheet (USD) (m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Cash	8	21	31	39	67
Accounts Receivable	1	1	1	4	11
Inventory	15	12	14	20	44
Other Current Assets	6	0	0	0	0
PPE	19	24	46	88	90
Total Assets	51	62	95	154	215
Accounts Payable	1	4	1	3	4
Short Term Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Long Term Debt	0	0	0	35	35
Total Liabilities	15	19	17	54	55
Total Shareholder Equity	73	91	129	156	217
Ratios	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
ROE (%)	(5.3%)	(4.2%)	(1.1%)	(0.5%)	32.6%
Gearing (%)	(11.3%)	(30.3%)	(31.0%)	(2.7%)	(17.2%)
	1.3	4.8	19.1	(1.2)	(0.4)
Net Debt / EBITDA (x) Price to Book (x)	1.5 1.4	4.8	1.3	1.3	(0.4) 0.9

#### **Lance Uranium Project**

Lance is an In-Situ Recovery (ISR) uranium project whereby uranium is leached from the orebody in an acid solution before being recovered in an ion-exchange resin.

Peninsula revised its plan for Lance in August 2022 after the cancellation of a resin processing contract with Uranium Energy Corp (UEC:NYSE not covered). The original plan had a staged expansion of Lance with initial production of the uranium bearing resins being processed by UEC at the Irigaray Central Processing Plant to produce a finished yellowcake product.

Peninsula is now accelerating the construction of its own resin processing plant at Lance and is moving directly to a larger project. Key features of the project include:

- First production in Dec-24 and ramping up to 1.8Mlb steady state by 2029.
- Remaining capex to first production of US\$53.4m, with a further US\$17.4m required to reach full production rates. The peak funding requirement to get to breakeven cash flow is US\$95m.
- C1 operating costs of US\$21.69/lb with AISC at US\$42.46/lb.

The revised plan has a faster initial ramp-up (higher production in 2025 and 2026) but a lower steady state peak (1.8Mlb v 2.0Mlb). There is also a planned step down in production in 2028 as the operation shifts from Ross to Kendrick although we would not be surprised to see this revised up as the plan continues to be refined.





Source: Peninsula ASX release 31-Aug-23

#### Figure 2: Key financial outcomes

Key Ross & Kendrick Financial Outcomes	US\$
LOM CAPEX	285.8M
Remaining CAPEX to First Production <sup>(1)</sup>	53.4M
Ramp-up stage CAPEX (first production to 5,000 GPM flow)	17.4M
LoM Wellfield Replacement & Sustaining CAPEX	215.0M
LoM Project Revenue from Sale of Lance Production (real)	988M
Weighted Average Sales Price used in the LoM	67.07/lb
Average Price Received for Uncontracted Production	72.62/lb
LoM Operating Cashflow (before tax)	258.2M
NPV <sub>8</sub>	116.2M
IRR	26%
All in Sustaining Costs (AISC)	42.46/lb
All in Costs (AIC)	50.27/lb

Source: Peninsula ASX release 31-Aug-23

Additional capex at the processing plant for the resin processing plant is US\$19.3m. There will also need to be US\$25.4m spent on wellfield development ahead of first production with a further US\$15.9m spent to bring the facility to full production. Approximately US\$70m will be required to reach cash break-even.

#### Figure 3: Capital Expenditure

Ross & Kendrick Project Level CAPEX Requirements	(US\$M)
LOM CAPEX	285.8
Remaining CAPEX to 1 <sup>st</sup> Production	53.4
- Process Plant	19.3
- Wellfield	25.4
- General	5.1
- Contingency	3.6
Ramp-up Stage CAPEX (1 <sup>st</sup> Production to flow capacity)	17.4
- Wellfield	15.9
- General	0.8
- Contingency	0.8
LoM Wellfield Replacement & Sustaining CAPEX (including contingency)	215.0

Source: Peninsula ASX release 31-Aug-23

In addition to the capital costs, there will also be initial operating losses to fund, corporate overheads and working capital. Peninsula estimates a total funding requirement of US\$142m, of which US\$47m is covered from cash and initial revenues, leaving a US\$95m (~A\$150m) funding requirement from debt and equity.

#### Figure 4: Sources and uses of funds

Sources (US\$M)	142.4
Cash Balance as of 30 June 2023	21.4
Revenue on Sales (net of purchases)	26.0
Net additional Funding Needed	95.0
Uses (US\$M)	142.4
Plant CAPEX	25.2
Wellfield CAPEX	41.2
Site OPEX and Overheads	44.3
CAPEX and OPEX Contingency plus escalation	9.4
Corporate Costs, Non-site Exploration, Working Capital	22.3

Source: Peninsula ASX release 31-Aug-23

Peninsula Energy has raised A\$60m via a A\$50m placement and A\$10m SPP at 7.5cps. The additional shares have an associated 1-for-2 option exercisable at 10cps which will raise an additional A\$40m when exercised. The company is also seeking ~A\$50m in debt funding which will provide the balance of the A\$150m required for the company to reach positive cash-flow from Lance.

Peninsula has indicated that it is working with the US Department of Energy for the project's debt requirements. Given the US Government's support for a domestic uranium industry, and a desire to break the reliance on Russian imported material, we expect the US DoE to be supportive.

Once the debt funding is secured, and assuming the options are exercised, Peninsula is fully funded through to positive cash flow.

### **Dagger uranium Project**

Peninsula has acquired 4,140 acres of prospective uranium exploration tenements which have been consolidated into the Dagger Uranium Project.

Peninsula established the Dagger Project through a series of mineral rights and data acquisition transactions spanning an eight-year period. The latest acquisition of mineral rights was completed with a private party and finalized recently. The combined State and Federal Mineral rights cover an area with historically identified uranium mineralization contiguous to past uranium mining sites.

Dagger Project is located in Crook County, Wyoming within the North Black Hills district in the Northeast corner of the State, approximately 20 km Northeast of the Company's Ross Processing Plant at Lance. The project is directly accessible from Lance via existing public roadways.

Dagger provides the Company with a relatively high-grade uranium resource, location diversity within a top mining jurisdiction and further opportunities to increase the scale and quality of Peninsula's mineral resource holdings. Dagger also provides the opportunity to develop a satellite production operation in close proximity to Lance.

Peninsula is planning a drilling program in FY24 to facilitate a potential resource upgrade.



Figure 5: Dagger project location

Source: Peninsula ASX release 23-Oct-23

### Peninsula v Boss Energy

We think the Peninsula v Boss comparison is interesting and highlights a wide valuation disparity for similar assets. On our modelling, the Peninsula share price is factoring in a uranium price of US\$58/lb whereas Boss is factoring in US\$122/lb.

There are a number of similarities between Boss and Peninsula including:

- Both are In-situ Recovery operations (ISR),
- Both will produce about 2Mlb/y of uranium,
- Both will be in production within a year,
- Both are in 1<sup>st</sup> world jurisdictions (South Australia, Wyoming),
- Both have a similar sized resource with exploration upside.

Boss has advantages over Peninsula including:

- Boss is fully funded to first production,
- Boss is closer to first production,
- Boss is located in Australia making it easier for ASX investors to access,
- Boss is lower cost (AISC of US\$26/lb v US\$42/lb for PEN).

However, Peninsula also has some advantages over Boss including:

- Peninsula is in the US so has access to strong US government support for its domestic nuclear industry and uranium supply,
- Peninsula could be a beneficiary of potential US uranium import ban from Russia,
- Peninsula is higher cost, but that means more leverage to a rising uranium price,

#### Figure 6: Uranium Sector valuation comparisons

Company	Paladin	Boss	Lotus	Peninsula	Bannerman	Silex	Deep Yellow	Nexgen
Ticker	PDN	BOE	LOT	PEN	BMN	SLX	DYL	NXE
Exchange	ASX	ASX	ASX	ASX	ASX	ASX	ASX	ASX/TSE
Main Asset	Langer-Heinrich	Honeymoon	Kayelekera	Lance	Etango	PLEF	Tumas	Rook I
Jurisdiction	Namibia	South Aust.	Malawi	Wyoming, US	Namibia	US	Namibia	Canada
Share Price (LC)	1.25	5.47	0.36	0.12	3.60	4.99	1.41	7.81
Recommendation	BUY	Hold	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	Not Rated	Not Rated
Price Target (A\$ps)	1.50	4.75	0.72	0.34	7.04	7.60		
Upside/downside (%)	20%	-13%	103%	192%	96%	52%		
Market Cap (US\$m)	2,461	1,475	405	146	363	777	688	2,824
Cash & equivalents (US\$m)	126	144	10	57	27	88	26	265
EV (US\$m)	2,335	1,331	395	90	336	689	661	2,559
Implied U3O8 price (US\$/lb) - full valuation	77	122	54	58	62	61		
Implied U3O8 price (US\$/Ib) - main project only	187	147	85	83	94	96		
Resource (net MIbs)	416	78	154	54	207	75	204	337
Grade (ppm)	686	620	648	480	197		398	31000
EV / Resource (US\$/Ib)	5.6	17.1	2.6	1.7	1.6	9.2	3.2	7.6
Attrib Prod'n target (Mlb/yr)	4.5	2.45	2.4	2	3.5	2.5	3.6	28.8
AISC (US\$/Ib)	33	26	38	42	38	<30	39	10.6
EV / production forecast (US\$/Ib)	519	543	165	45	96	275	184	89
DFS valuation (US\$m)		309		116	209		393	4,275
Premium to DFS (%)		331%		-23%	61%		68%	-40%
Shaw valuation main project (US\$m)	1,423	761	607	289	593	723		
Shaw total valuation (US\$m)	3,176	1,294	679	397	717	1,338		
Premium to Shaw main project val'n (%)	64%	75%	-35%	-69%	-43%	-5%		
Premium to Shaw total valuation (%)	-26%	3%	-42%	-77%	-53%	-49%		

Source: Company Reports, Factset, Shaw and Partners

#### Key risks

- As a small mining company broadly exposed to a single commodity and a single asset we consider an investment in Peninsula Energy to be high risk. The key risks include:
- The U3O8 market is relatively opaque and difficult to forecast. The actual uranium price may differ substantially from our forecasts.
- Operations for PEN have not yet started and there is a risk that they may be unable to bring Lance Projects to production in line with expectations. Costs may be higher and operations may not be as expected.
- Resource risks PEN's 2022 Ross and Kendrick DFS assumes an overall resource recovery of 66% and a resource conversion of 61% to convert the Ross and Kendrick Area Inferred resources to Indicated or greater quality.
- PEN will need to recapitalise to fund the commencement of operations. There is a risk that capital markets are not willing to fund the project.
- Forecasting future operating costs has considerable uncertainty. Our forecasts may prove to be too optimistic. If each company's costs are higher than we expect then our cash flow forecasts will be too high.
- Smaller companies carry more significant 'key personnel' risk than larger organisations. If senior management depart it could delay projects or exacerbate operational risks.
- Safe and reliable production from operations once projects are operational. The
  inability to maintain safe and reliable operations may result in a sustained, unplanned
  interruption to production and impact the company's licence to operate and financial
  performance. Production facilities are subject to operating hazards associated with
  major accident events, cyber-attack, inclement weather and disruption to supply
  chain, that may result in a loss of uranium (radioactive material) containment, harm to
  personnel, environmental damage, diminished production, additional costs, and
  impacts to reputation or brand.

### **Core drivers and catalyst**

- PEN's flagship Lance Projects in Wyoming, USA, requires low upfront capital and can rapidly restart. PEN is the only ASX company with direct exposure to US Government initiatives which are pro-domestic mine development. We have a A\$0.27ps price target which is based on a 1.3x multiple of our base case valuation.
- PEN's flagship Lance Projects in Wyoming, USA, requires low upfront capital and can rapidly restart. PEN is the only ASX company with direct exposure to US Government initiatives which are pro-domestic mine development.
- PEN has an existing contract book and product inventory, with a binding purchase agreement netting a cash margin of US\$7.8m in CY2021 (450klbs) and >US\$9m in CY22 (450klbs). The company has long-term sales contracts extending to 2033, up to 5.25Mlbs at US\$56-58/lb U308 with major utilities across Europe and the US.
- The company is switching operations from high to low pH in order to increase product yields. The results of an 18-month field demonstration indicated that the targeted low-pH chemistry and field patterns are effective in dissolving and recovering uranium.
- The company released a Definitive Feasibility Study in Aug22 which details a Lance Projects NPV8 (pre-tax) of US\$125m and 43% IRR at an average U308 price of US\$62/lb. Other components include. In August 2023 the company released a revised plan to move directly to the previous stage 2 operation. Key parameters include: a life of mine (LOM) of 10 years with a plateau production of 1.8Mlbs/yr, upfront capital expenditure of ~US\$70m, and an estimated All-in-Sustaining-Cost (AISC) of US\$42/lb U308 over LOM.
- In our view there are two key advantages to PEN's project being located in Wyoming, USA: the Powder River Basin in Wyoming is in an established uranium and mining jurisdiction (uranium mining for ~70 years and coal mining for ~150 years), and the company has direct exposure to the US Government uranium purchase program and the US Nuclear Fuel Working Group.

## **Rating Classification**

Buy	Expected to outperform the overall market
Hold	Expected to perform in line with the overall market
Sell	Expected to underperform the overall market
Not Rated	Shaw has issued a factual note on the company but does not have a recommendation

## **Risk Rating**

High	Higher risk than the overall market – investors should be aware this stock may be speculative
Medium	Risk broadly in line with the overall market
Low	Lower risk than the overall market

RISK STATEMENT: Where a company is designated as 'High' risk, this means that the analyst has determined that the risk profile for this company is significantly higher than for the market as a whole, and so may not suit all investors. Clients should make an assessment as to whether this stock and its potential price volatility is compatible with their financial objectives. Clients should discuss this stock with their Shaw adviser before making any investment decision.

Distribution of Investment Ratings							
Rating	Count	Recommendation Universe					
Buy	65	92%					
Buy Hold	6	8%					
Sell	0	0%					

	Histo	ry of Investmen	t Rating and	Target Price - Peninsula Energy
Date	Closing Price (\$) Tar	get Price (\$)	Rating	\$0.5
22 1 24	0.44	0.24	Deres	\$0.4 -
22-Jan-24	0.11	0.34	Buy	\$0.4 -
27-Nov-23	0.11	0.25	Buy	\$0.3 -
1-Nov-23	0.13	0.27	Buy	\$0.3
31-Aug-23	0.09	0.27	Buy	\$0.2 - W W
19-Jul-23	0.13	0.31	Buy	\$0.2 - WN
27-Jun-23	0.17	0.34	Buy	\$0.1 - \$0.1
9-May-23	0.15	0.34	Buy	02/21 05/21 08/21 11/21 02/22 05/22 08/22
15-Aug-22	0.18	0.34	Buy	Peninsula Energy
17-Feb-22	0.17	0.40	Buy	
5-Sep-21	0.20	0.30	Buy	Buy
2-Jun-21	0.18	0.17	Buy	
29-Mar-21	0.12	0.17	Buy	
2-Feb-21	0.16	0.21	Buy	





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