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## Czech town knocks back Uran exploration bid

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**URANIUM hopeful Uran has received a setback after a town council in the Czech Republic reportedly rejected the company's plan to explore uranium deposits.**

According to report by the *Czech News Agency*, Pribyslav councilors turned down Uran's proposal to explore uranium deposits around Brzkov, about 50km from Rozna in the Czech Republic.



However speaking to *MiningNews.net* this morning, Uran managing director Kate Hobbs said that while the council will not support Uran, the ultimate decision on whether or not to grant Uran the permits was not made by them.

"The permits are refused or accepted by the Department of the Environment and our earlier applications were rejected so it's no surprise that this is happening but really this is a political issue," she said.

"The Czech Republic is not wealthy ... it is in a position where it has very large uranium resources under the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] guidelines and it has two producing nuclear power plants.

"It really is in a position to not only be energy self-sufficient but it could be an exporter of energy much more than it is in Europe."

Hobbs said the Czech Government would be reviewing its stance on the nuclear power sector with a report to be handed down later this year which may recommend increasing nuclear capacity in the country.

"The report may quite possibly recommend increasing the Czech Republic's nuclear capacity, and part of our discussions with members of Parliament is that you can't take the decision on increasing your nuclear capacity without also taking a decision on where you are going to obtain that uranium because of the disparity between supply and demand," she said.

"So I think this is a political issue in the Czech Republic at the moment and it is being actively discussed and we are hanging in there despite these knock backs."

The Czech Republic has only one operating uranium mine, Rozna, which is owned by DIAMO – the state enterprise responsible for mining at Rozna.

Uran made a bid to secure an interest in Rozna last year and still remains in talks over future participation in the Rozna, despite reports indicating that the mine was to remain a state-run enterprise.

Hobbs said that while Uran still had an eye on Rozna, other sites it has targeted in the central Vysocian region and the Osecna and Plouznice applications in the country's north were more valuable than Rozna.

"It would be nice to be in production [at Rozna] but ... if we have a choice between being involved in Rozna and acquiring any of these other properties, we would immediately go to these properties," she said.

Shares in Uran have slipped 0.5c to 24.5c in morning trade.

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