Virginia is subject to relatively frequent storms that produce intense rainfall. It is questionable whether currently-engineered tailing repositories could be expected to prevent erosion and surface and groundwater contamination for as long as 1,000 years. Natural events such as hurricanes, earthquakes, intense rainfall, or drought could lead to the release of contaminants if facilities are not designed and constructed to withstand such events, or if they fail to perform as designed.

page 15, National Academies of Science "Uranium Mining in Virginia" report
**In Their Words...**

"Uranium mining and milling operations unambiguously increase the exposure of the public and the environment to mildly radioactive substances, toxic chemicals, heavy metals and other carcinogenic material. Even under the best of circumstances, Chmura judges some adverse health effects and environmental contamination is likely." page 83, Chmura Uranium Mining Study

"The project as proposed may generate at least 28 million tons of solid uranium mill tailings and roughly the same amount of liquid waste. The solid wastes would remain on site forever, requiring maintenance forever. Uranium mill tailings would contain radionuclides, heavy metals and other toxic elements."

"Such a project would cause long-term, chronic degradation of water quality and increase water competition in the region."

"There is no credible evidence to indicate that either the Federal or State regulatory agencies have sufficient staff, budgets, or political clout to adequately oversee and enforce the appropriate regulations." pages 2-3, Moran Report, the only site-specific report generated.

"If the Commonwealth of Virginia removes the moratorium on uranium mining, there are steep hurdles to be surmounted before mining and processing could be established in a way that is appropriately protective of the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment. There is only limited experience with modern underground and open pit uranium mining and processing in the United States, and no such experience in Virginia."

page 19, National Academies of Science Uranium Mining in Virginia report

---

**Localities Downstream From Possible Uranium Exploration**

Radium decays to produce radon, a radioactive gas that increases the risk of cancer when inhaled. Tailings dispersed by wind or water, or by leaching, can impact the health of communities beyond a 50-mile radius, according to EPA studies dating back to the 1980's.