

# Clean Water for North Carolina

Science-Based Environmental Justice

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## CWFNC Resolution on Uranium Mining in Virginia

*July 2014*

RESOLUTION OPPOSING LIFTING THE BAN ON URANIUM MINING IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA THAT POSES AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT TO THE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN AND TO THE CITIZENS OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA DEPENDING ON ITS WATERS

WHEREAS, Clean Water for North Carolina recognizes that a healthy environment and water supply is critical to environmental justice, health, the economy and is a fundamental internationally recognized human right; and

WHEREAS, there is proposed a uranium mining and milling operation at Coles Hill in Pittsylvania County, VA, which would require lifting the current 30 year ban on such operations in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2011, the City of Virginia Beach released the findings of its study of impacts of proposed uranium mining and milling on its water supply coming from Lake Gaston, concluding that in the event of a mill tailing confinement cell failure, the tailings will be washed downstream and will significantly impact water quality in Kerr Reservoir and Lake Gaston resulting in radiation levels in the water 10-20 times above the Safe Drinking Water Act levels; and

WHEREAS, RRBA recognizes that the event modeled in the study is an unlikely but possible scenario but that the potential impacts on the Basin's eco-system and the communities are unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, because of the presence of the uranium mill in the Basin that can be used to process ore mined at other mining sites throughout the Virginia, the Roanoke Basin that serves as a drinking water source for over one million people could face increased risks associated with uranium mining, milling, and storage of radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, the best available scientific information indicates that the social, environmental, health and economic impacts of proposed uranium mining and milling in Virginia outweigh expected benefits to the Basin residents in both states;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Board of Directors of Clean Water for North Carolina goes on record as opposing the lifting of the ban on uranium mining in Virginia and supports the joint efforts of the many organizations and municipalities in the Keep the Ban Coalition to protect the people of both Virginia and North Carolina from the many environmental, quality of life and health impacts that could result from the lifting of the 30 year ban.

**Passed by unanimous vote of the CWFNC Board of Directors on July 14, 2011  
Jodi Lasseter, Board Chair 2010-2011**