

# Uranium Mining is Bad for Taxpayers

# TAXPAYERS

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## Costs to State Taxpayers:

**Costs to the State:** A state-commissioned study on socio-economic impacts found that under the worst case scenario, the cost to the state would approach \$11 billion, while the benefits under the best case scenario were roughly \$6 billion. As the study explained, "the risks and rewards are not balanced, and the adverse economic impact under the worst-case scenario is nearly twice as great as the corresponding positive impact in our best-case scenario." Chmura Economics & Analytics, Study of the Socioeconomic Impact of Uranium Mining, prepared for the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, Pg. 7

**Costs to Manage Waste:** Waste generated at a uranium milling site requires "management in perpetuity" and the ownership of that waste site is transferred to the state or federal government. National Academy of Sciences, Pg. 31

**Costs to Clean Up:** If contamination occurs above federal pollution standards at Coles Hill, it is estimated that the state could be responsible for an additional \$46.4 million in clean up costs. Chmura, Pg. 149

One uranium mill in Colorado has been leaking for 30 years, despite repeated efforts to address the problem. It was declared a Superfund site in the 1980s, but a 2004 report found that it continues to release "millions of gallons of leachate into the environment each year;" clean-up is estimated to cost anywhere from \$50 million to \$500 million. Denver Post, Oct. 23, 2011

## Costs to Local Taxpayers:

**Loss of Real Estate Value:** Because of the drop in real estate value due to uranium mining at Coles Hill, localities could see a reduction in property tax income. Chmura, Pg. 141 and 146

**Costs to Clean Up:** If contamination occurs above federal pollution standards at Coles Hill, it is estimated that downstream municipalities could be responsible for an additional \$4.6 million in clean up costs. Chmura, Pg. 149

**Drinking Water Costs:** One-third of the drinking water for the cities of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Norfolk comes from Lake Gaston. If contamination occurs, Virginia Beach may have to cease pumping water from Lake Gaston for up to 18 months. "This inability to withdraw water from Lake Gaston could result in severe water shortages for the cities of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Norfolk." City of Virginia Beach, Potential Impacts of Uranium Mining in Virginia on Drinking Water Sources, Phase II Assessment, Pg. ES-5

## Costs to Private Citizens:

**Loss of Real Estate Value:** Under a scenario that meets all federal pollution standards, it is estimated that residents living within 2 miles of Coles Hill would likely suffer a loss of 5% of their home values. If contamination occurs above those standards, residents could suffer a loss of 8-30% of their home values. This equals a \$20.5 million to \$76.9 million loss in real estate value. Chmura, Pg. 141 and 146

**Loss of Business:** Under a scenario with severe environmental impact, agriculture and tourism in the region would be significantly affected, with an estimated loss of \$80.1 million and \$110.9 million, respectively, and the loss of 2,800 jobs. Chmura, Pg. 146

**Increase in Health Costs:** It is estimated that mining at Coles Hill will result in additional lung cancer victims each year. Cancer treatment for an average lung cancer patient costs approximately \$32,400 annually. Chmura, Pg. 143

All studies are available at [www.KeepTheBan.org](http://www.KeepTheBan.org)

