

Process to be used by Uranium Working Group

I. Scope of Project

- The working group is charged with gathering the information and analysis needed to answer the questions posed by the General Assembly and Governor in their letters of January 18 and 19, 2012.
- That includes many tasks, including producing a DRAFT conceptual statutory and regulatory framework that would be necessary to oversee uranium mining and milling activity, if the General Assembly decides to lift the moratorium.
- The information and analysis being gathered and developed is intended to help the Governor and General Assembly make a fully informed decision.
- The work will be unbiased, and without preconception, and respond to questions not resolved by the NAS or Chemura studies.

II. Working Group's Process

- Biologists, geologists, environmental scientists, public health experts, epidemiologists, and similar scientists and technical experts that work for our agencies conduct the requested work.
- Various members of agency staffs will participate in the Working Group at various times depending on specific topic; the following three individuals will coordinate the work of their respective agency: Cathie France (DMME); Rick Weeks (DEQ); and Maureen Dempsey (VDH).
- In addition, RFPs for supplemental expertise from consultants who have actual experience with uranium mining have been issued.
- The work began with a review of all studies, back to 1984 (links to the studies are available at the group's web site).
- The questions and issues raised by those studies have been identified.
- The issues have been grouped for investigation and analysis.
- That grouping for investigation and analysis is also the basis for identifying the topics that will be discussed at 4 public meetings (a detailed work plan identifying the questions that will be addressed, and at which meeting, is available at the group's web site).
- Four public meetings will be held to report the groups progress to the the public and the Uranium Subcommittee of the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, in June, August, October and November.

III. Opportunities for Input

- While this research and analysis is underway, we are actively soliciting, considering, and incorporating public comments, questions, and concerns and have planned for multiple opportunities for public comment in advance of any final product being delivered to the Governor.
- We have made a particular effort to be sure we receive input in a way that in itself is public and transparent, and that allows it to be fully incorporated into the work of the group.
- Web portal comments can be submitted to www.uwg.vi.virginia.gov.
- Comments will be considered as part of the work on the relevant topics. They will be made public at the web site.
- Receiving comments in writing will allow the public to know what input is being considered and provide the individuals working on a given topic the benefit of the full comment, rather than relying on notes, or a verbal report, and preserves the commenter's full thought. It also allows us to create an accurate record of information and input received.
- Four public meetings will be convened by the Uranium Subcommittee of the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, in June, August, October and November, to allow the group to report on progress, answer questions and receive comments; each agency's designated lead for this project will attend these meetings and be available to answer questions.
- We will endeavor to release draft reports in advance of public meetings to allow time for review and related public comment.
- The June meeting is scheduled for June 18, at 6pm in Chatham, at Chatham High School.
- We will create an email list of interested persons and stakeholder groups in an effort to better publicize meetings and provide updates.
- We will share information about our work with counterparts in the State of North Carolina

IV. Publicly Available Materials

The following materials are already posted at the Working Group's website:

- The letters from the Uranium Subcommittee and the Governor requesting the work
- A list of - and links to - all studies reviewed to identify the important questions outstanding.

- The power point presentation delivered on March 7 to the Uranium Subcommittee of the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission
- The Work Plan developed for accomplishing the tasks assigned
- The RFP's developed to obtain assistance from experts with direct experience working with uranium mining and milling
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Group and its work

The following information will be public during the process either on an ongoing basis or at each public meeting:

- Comments submitted to the web portal
- Letters and materials submitted to the Group or to the Administration related to the Group's work
- A bibliography of all materials reviewed on topics presented at each meeting
- A summary of agency staff meetings and communications with regulators or experts related to this work
- Data gathered and analyzed on the topics being presented at each meeting
- At each meeting, a summary of the comments and questions received from the public related to the topics being presented at the meeting and how they were considered in the work
- A draft of the conceptual statutory and regulatory framework related to the topics being presented

V. Conclusion

- The foregoing represents the process we have defined for a careful and studious approach to the gathering, ordering and analysis of additional facts and information necessary for the General Assembly to make a sound and well-informed decision. We look forward to delivering the final product of this work to the Subcommittee in advance of the 2013 Session of the General Assembly.