



Uranium Mining in the Roanoke River Basin

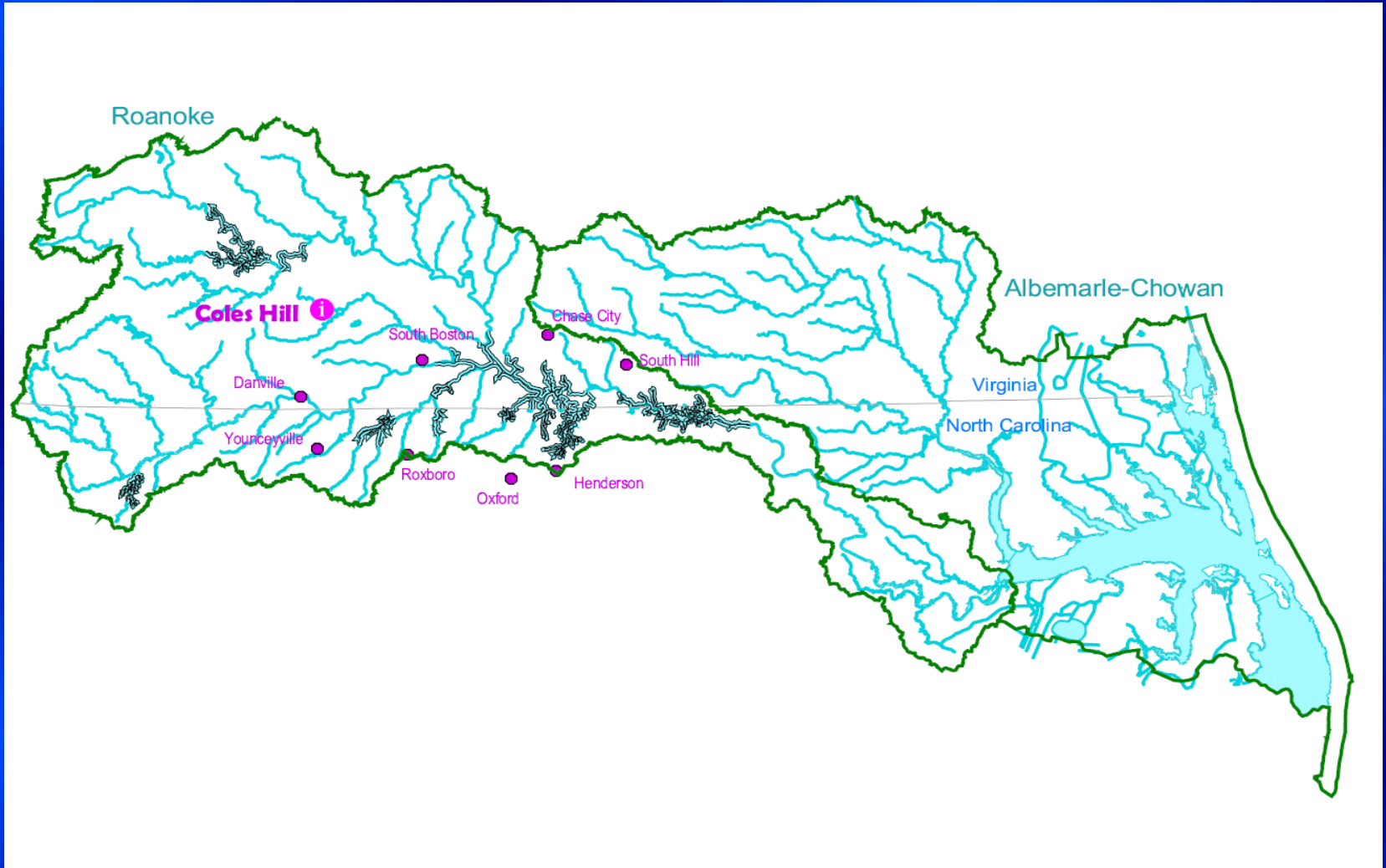
Environmental Review Commission

November 15, 2012

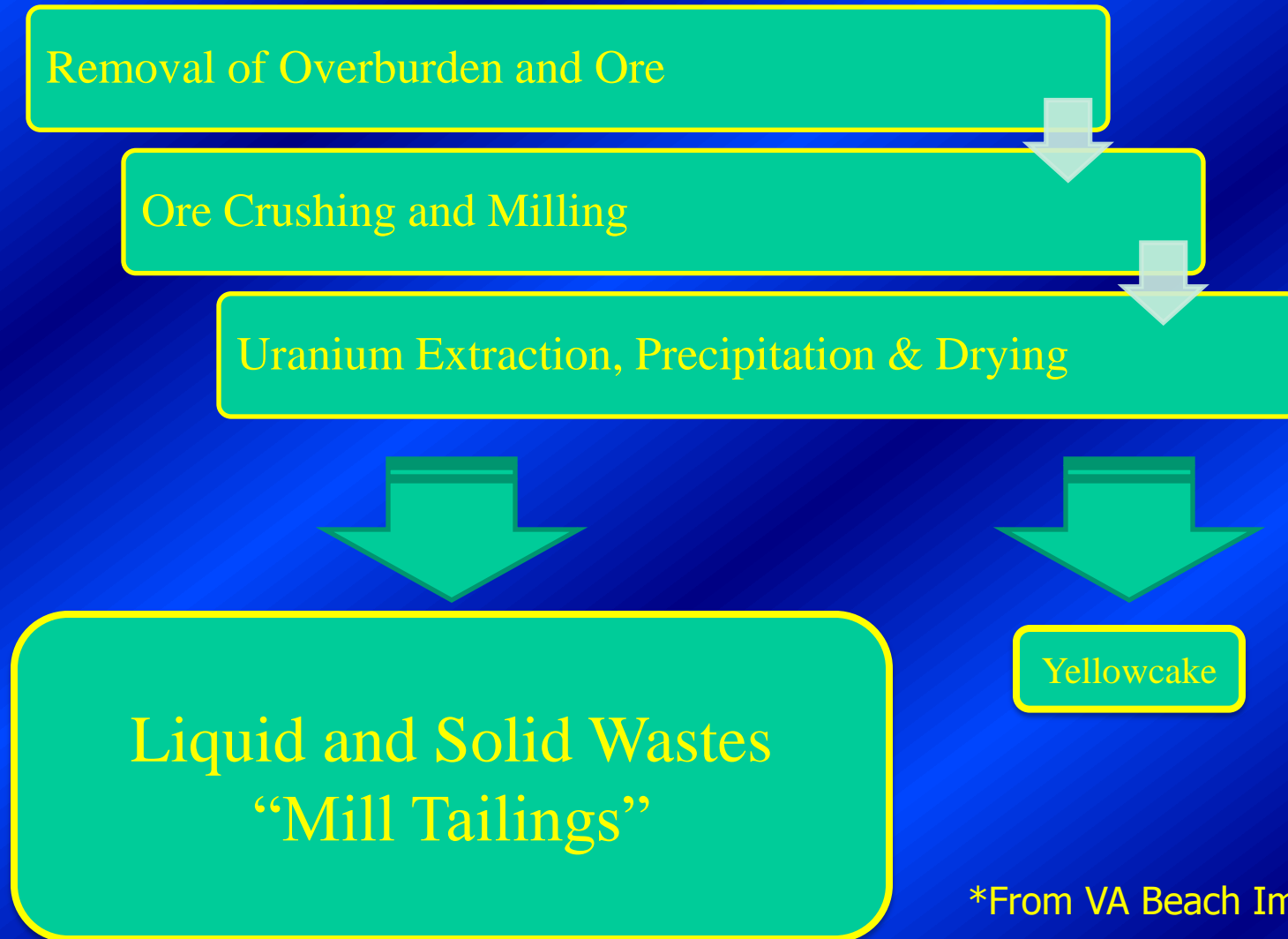
Overview

- Uranium mining in Virginia
- Potential hazards/impacts to NC
- Status of mining ban in Virginia
- NC actions to date

Roanoke River Basin (NC & VA)



Uranium Mining & Milling*



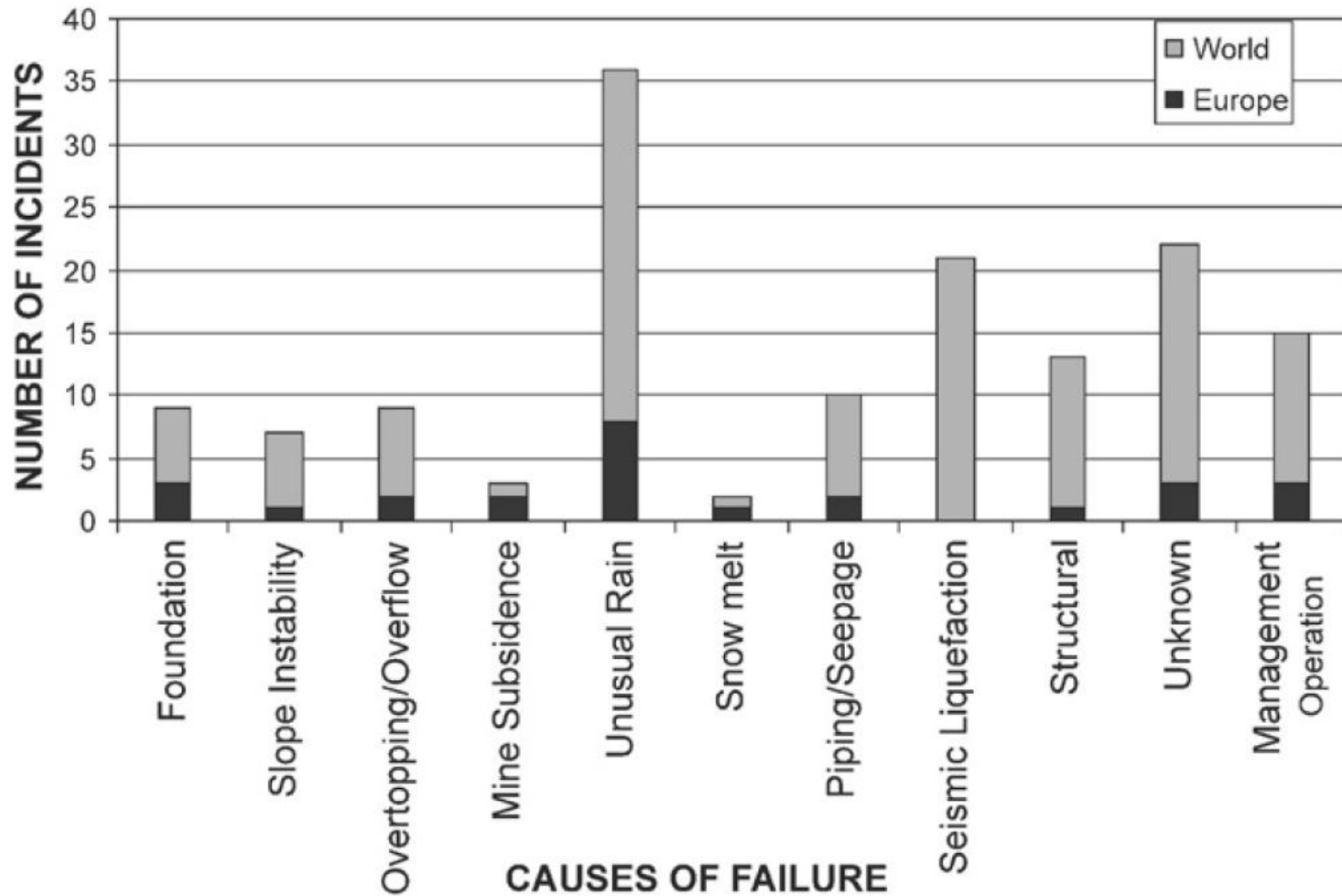
*From VA Beach Impact Study

Uranium Tailings*

- Proposed mining may produce approx. 11 million cubic yards of radioactive tailings in above ground storage
- Stored in impoundments; up to 40 acres maximum
- Tailings remain radioactive for thousands of years
- Ur. mining/storage never done east of Miss. River in US
 - Only done in arid regions in US
- Containment failure would negatively impact NC

*From VA Beach Impact Study

Causes of Tailing Cell Failures*



*From VA Beach Impact Study

Potential Impacts to NC from Tailings Containment Failure*

- Radioactive tailings washed downstream
- Radiation levels more than 10-20 times the Safe Drinking Water Act levels in Kerr Lake
- Possibly 2 years to flush contamination
- Particulate contaminants trapped in sediment and re-suspended during periods of high flow

*From VA Beach Impact Study

Potential Impacts to NC

- Public water supply for 118,760 NC citizens
- 2 Industrial facilities
- Up to 64 agricultural operations in Bertie, Granville, Halifax, Vance, & Warren County
- Recreation & tourism at Kerr Lake & Lake Gaston
 - Expenditures > \$15,000,000 per year
- Ecological Impacts
 - World class striped bass fishery
 - Sturgeon recovery

Status in Virginia

- Uranium mining ban still in place today
- Study ordered by VA Governor being finalized
- VA General Assembly may consider lifting of ban in 2013 Legislative Session

What has NC done so far?

- Handled through Roanoke Bi-State Commission
- NC Legislative representatives
 - Sen. D. Berger, Rep. Warren, Rep. Crawford
- Full Commission (NC & VA reps) adopted resolution opposed to mining in August 2012
 - Resolution sent to NC & VA Governors
 - Resolution sent to NC & VA Legislatures

NC Govt. Entities Opposed to Mining

Creedmoor	Roanoke Mayors Ass.	Upper Coastal Plain COG
Henderson	Butner	Vance County
Oxford	Franklinton	Warren County
Granville County	Louisburg	Washington County
Halifax County	Macon	
Halifax Co. Econ Dev.	Warrenton	
Kerr-Tar COG	Williamston	

Contact Information

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