

Mike Pucci, CEO PhytoChem Pharmaceuticals, VP Roanoke River Basin Association, chairman NC Coalition against Uranium mining in VA, Retired 28 years Glaxo Federal government affairs and Public Policy, Lake Gaston Resident.

The Roanoke River Basin WAS the largest body of Clean fresh drinking water in North Carolina. It is the Strategic drinking water supply for our military based at VA Beach including the Navy, Airforce, Marines, and special forces units based there and their families. And because of pollution in the Chesapeake, 1/3 of the population of the Tidewater region in Virginia now depends on the water from the Roanoke river.

The Roanoke River is STRATEGIC to the nine NC counties north and east of Raleigh all the way to the coast who draw their drinking water and their economic survival from the REPUTATION of the water being the cleanest fresh water in North Carolina for drinking, irrigation and recreation.

And it is the Strategic FUTURE water supply for the growing Triangle region, where the water supply from the Neuse River basin will not be sufficient to support your future growth projections , and demand for water will outstrip your local supply.

Last year, we ended a 4 year campaign to stop Uranium mining and milling from happening in our watershed, because of its potential to destroy the Roanoke River as a vital resource. Rep Ruth Samuelson was instrumental in helping us bring NC voice of opposition to the legislators in Virginia, and Rep Michael Wray delivered that resolution in person to then VA Governor McDonnell in Richmond. Virginia officials listened to the voice of their citizens and the concerns of NC and declined to move forward with Uranium mining because of the threat to the water, the economy, and the reputation of the region.

Today, I am asking you and the NC legislature to take bold action to force the immediate clean up of the Roanoke River, where coal ash is now in Kerr Lake where NE NC draws their drinking water from. I am asking you to restore the teeth to our DENR and force Duke Energy to remove all coal ash away from the rivers in NC and bury it in a lined facility, and put Duke Energy under a consent decree to operate going forward under a constant monitoring by the state to prevent further malfeasance in coal ash regulation. The shareholders of Duke Energy are holding the board accountable and are in process of removing the Directors responsible for risk oversight. That's Leadership!!!! The State of Virginia is looking for the same leadership from all of us in NC to do the right thing in this disaster, and I'm concerned about what they are seeing right now, Grid lock, a lot of talk, no action. The VA Attorney General, no doubt, is taking notes.

NC, thankfully is not Washington. Gridlock is unacceptable in this disaster. This is a defining event of our time, and we need to take action with a sense of urgency that reflects the seriousness of this threat.

Thank you!