

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Fracking Issues 101

Re: Fracking Issues 101

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URL:

From a USGS report regarding fly ash. Other rock types are listed. Any drilling or extraction of any type (ore mining, coal mining, oil and gas drilling, water well drilling, etc.) will bring up various types of rock from underground. All of which are radioactive (as is our surface soil), but some of which are more radioactive than others.

Various processing can enrich the remaining materials with radioactive elements. For instance, fly ash is enriched with radioactive elements in comparison with the coal it originated from, as the volatiles burn off and leave the heavier elements behind in the ash. We use fly ash in cement!

Drilling fluids and tailings should not be "enriched" by processing, per se. But it is possible/likely that it goes through a formation which is naturally enriched, and brings it to the surface, which would make it enriched in comparison with many surfaces. We're still talking concentrations which are naturally occurring. It's rock. Phosphate rocks are the highest in this graph, higher than tailings and fly ash would be, and are used in things like fertilizer for your plants, animal feed, water treatment, cosmetics, and food preservatives, and include limestone (though I'm not sure of the radioactivity of various limestone formations).

It's something to keep tabs on, but not get outraged about. The public's fear of radioactivity is ridiculous. I'm naturally radioactive. You are too!

Attach file:

 **fig2.jpg** (31.44 KB)

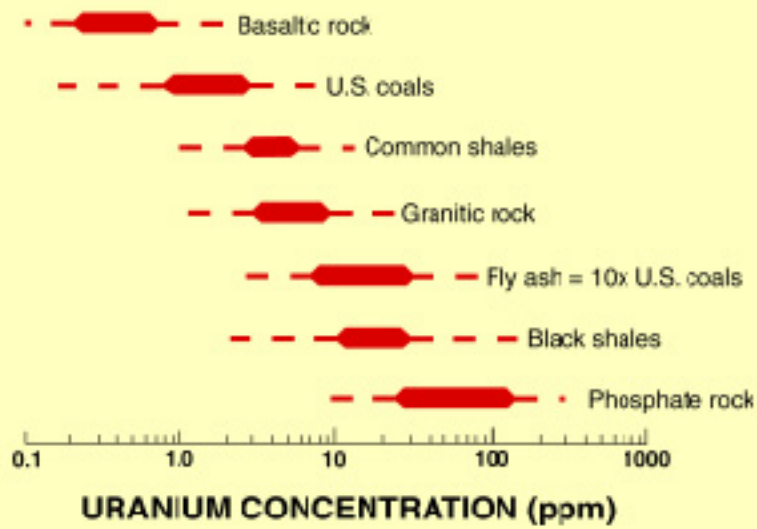


Figure 2. Typical range of uranium concentration in coal, fly ash, and a variety of common rocks.