

Uranium (U)

What is Uranium?

Uranium is a metal that exists naturally in the earth. There are small amounts of Uranium in almost all the soil, rock, and water in the world. It can move through the environment in rain, wind, and other natural processes. People have used Uranium for building military shielding, weapons, planes and helicopters. It's also used to fuel nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. Most radioactive contaminants are at levels that are low enough to not be considered a public health concern.

Does Uranium have any additional names?

Combined Uranium

What are the known health effects?

Uranium has demonstrated toxic effects on human kidneys leading to kidney inflammation and changes in urine composition. Uranium can decay into other radioactive substances, such as Radium, which can cause cancer with extensive exposures over a long enough period of time.

How does exposure occur?

Uranium enters water by leaching from soil and rocks, or in releases from processing plants. Release of Uranium from human activities are due accidents of different nature. Larger particles settle into the bottom of lakes, rivers, and ponds and join Uranium that is there naturally.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and water supplied to Mount Laurel MUA customers is in compliance with USEPA and NJDEP requirements. The maximum concentration of Combined Uranium permitted in drinking water is 30 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has not reported any detections of Combined Uranium.

How can I reduce exposure?

Uranium in drinking water can be removed by point of use reverse osmosis filtration.

Additional information regarding Uranium, including the information referenced, can be found at:

<https://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/node/1544>

https://www.wqa.org/Portals/0/Technical/Technical%20Fact%20Sheets/2014_Uranium.pdf.