



Water Radioactive Pollution and Related Environmental Aspects[#]

Lucia Bonavigo¹, Massimo Zucchetti^{1,*}, Hysen Mankolli²

¹*Dipartimento di Energetica, Politecnico di Torino, Italy;* ²*Department Agroenvironment & Ecology, University Agriculture of Tirana, Albania*

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Abstract: Radioactivity present in surface continental waters is mainly due to the presence of radioactive elements in the earth's crust. Other artificial radionuclides have appeared due to such human activities as nuclear power plants, nuclear weapons testing and manufacture and use of radioactive sources. There are two sources of radioactive contamination in drinking water. The first is naturally occurring radionuclides that are contained in the soil that water moves through. Some areas are susceptible to contamination from phosphate rich soils and rock. The second source of radioactive contamination comes from man-made sources. Radionuclides found in drinking water are members of three radioactive series, uranium, thorium, and actinium and include the naturally occurring elements radium, uranium, and the radioactive gas radon. These contaminants may cause different types of biological damage. Radium concentrates in the bones and can cause cancers. Uranium can cause cancers in the bones and can have a toxic effect on kidneys.

* Corresponding: E-mail : zucchetti@polito.it; Tel.: +39.011.5644464 ; Fax:+39.011.5644499

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