

Bill # 39

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I have been a mineral exploration consultant for 30 years in Nova Scotia. During this time I have attracted a number of overseas clients to conduct exploration projects in the province.

For many years the performance of the Provincial Government has been abysmal in providing a clear set of rules under which to operate. As a result, the reputation of Nova Scotia has degenerated to the extent that mining companies will not come and work in Nova Scotia.

A company will not explore for any non-uranium base metal or gold targets, as long their project is subject to closure due to the inadvertent discovery of uranium.

The Bill 39 scenario, especially the question dealing with the uranium limits of 100 ppm presents a clear picture that the politicians have no clue as to how to realistically implement this limit. Is the value related to the overall grade of the deposit, or the value ending up in tailings, or is it related to localized values within the mine? There are many possible ways of determining these limits and it is imperative that these be addressed and fully clarified before any arbitrary non enforceable uranium, radon or thorium limits are set.

The technical expertise of the decision makers is sadly lacking and they seem to be reluctant to seek advice of those familiar with the science of uranium.

It would have been appropriate for some politicians to attend the recently held Uranium Conference at the Westin Hotel. This was a very factual presentation on the future of uranium and might have put the decision makers in a position where they could have made an informed assessment.

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