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Danville uranium meeting hears from experts on mining

By Morgan Donnelly



People in Pittsylvania County continue to search for answers to their concerns about uranium mining. On Saturday, dozens came out to listen to several presentations from scientific experts.

One of those people was Roy Crider, who wanted to hear the facts from an unbiased group of people.

"I think everybody should have questions about it, and hear from people who tell the truth, instead of the ones that make stuff up," said Crider.

For many Southside families, their biggest concern is whether uranium mining could cause serious health problems, including cancer.

"To me, all forms of mining have not been proven safe. There is always accidents. Mother Nature takes a toll on us by floods and earthquakes," said Deborah Dix.

Many of the experts at the conference say uranium already exists in the water and ground, and there is no evidence to show mining it would affect people's health.

"I would say there is no scientific evidence that they have... Major universities have studied the health status of populations over a 50 year period of time (who) have lived in the vicinity of these facilities, and there is no evidence that the health status of those populations are any different than similar populations not living nearby," said Colorado State University professor, Dr. Steve Brown

While this conference was another event for people to ask questions, many say this debate is far from over and there are still concerns. But others say science doesn't lie, and believe mining should be allowed.

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