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Cc: Sarah Trask; Yolan Pothier
Subject: An Urgent Request-Uranium Exploration and Mining
Date: June 5, 2025 3:33:02 PM
Attachments: [Uranium Mythbusting-CAPE NS factsheet-june4.pdf](#)
[Uranium Pamphlet.pdf](#)
[Solterra.png](#)
Importance: High

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Councillors of the Municipalities of West Hants, Kings County, Halifax County, and Pictou County,

I am writing this email with an urgent request for help and collaboration. Many of you in West Hants and Kings have known me for years. For those of you who don't I am a concerned citizen, business owner, and resident of Hants County. I want to start this by saying I am not an environmentalist or activist. In fact, I am a card-carrying conservative who actually helped Tim Houston on his campaign. I believe that we need investment and growth in this province as long as it is done responsibly and addresses all stake holders, and I am all for resource projects that meet these criteria.

The reality we are facing with uranium mining and exploration however is a much different story. The Houston Government has pushed this project through at lightning speed after the moratorium/ban was lifted- the RFP for these projects was announced May 14th, the bidding concludes June 11th (next Wednesday) and the prospectors are decided June 12th-26th. The names of the mining locations were seemingly chosen to obscure their locations- I have a home directly across from "Millet Brook" but it is not referred to that locally. It is directly adjacent to the beautiful community of Falls Lake. I assume it is a similar story at the "Louisville" location as it is a stones throw away from River John. The Provincial Government did not consult with Municipalities, First Nations, or land owners. Land owners have no rights to prevent this on their property- the province can force them to allow access to the mining companies. I have stood in front of this issue and have had a flood of calls, emails, texts, and messages from people asking for help. There has been zero transparency around this project, and the Houston Government is letting mining companies dictate the policy. Oddly enough a company named Solterra Geo-Resources announced a claim to the project before the RFP was even awarded, raising a number of other ethical questions about this project. After we released this at our meeting and they received questions about it they deleted their entire LinkedIn account (screen shot attached).

The environmental, economic, and societal impacts of this project will be catastrophic to our regions. We have partnered with the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) and geological experts. They have informed us that the radiation from these projects will directly affect an area of up to 100 kms from the mining sites, with residual effects reaching as far as 400 kms. The 100 km radius impacts the entire Annapolis Valley, much of HRM, and an extensive area around River John. The 400 km radius impacts the entire province of Nova Scotia, NB, and PEI. The projects release large amounts of Radon, a colourless odorless gas which is carried by the wind and settles on plants, water, and whatever else it touches. It can then move around through rivers and water systems and pollute areas far removed from the mining locations. The mining operations results in large tailing ponds. After the mining is finished 85% of the radioactivity of the uranium remains in these ponds, and needs to be managed virtually forever (by the Province with tax-payers dollars). It can remain radioactive for more than 10,000 years. The exploratory drilling and mining will contaminate watersheds, and all of the citizens around the Millet Brook and East Dalhousie sites rely on well water. The mining sites in our area are in extremely close proximity to **all 3** of our municipal water sheds (Mill Lake, French Mill Brook, and Davison Lake, see attached map). We had 2 tragic rain events in our county in the last few years in which lives were lost. An event such as this would breach these tailing ponds and devastate the entire region. All three mining sites are on major river systems that lead into the Lahave River watershed, the Avon River watershed, and the Northumberland Strait. The fishery operations in these areas sustain a sizeable portion of our province.

The economic impacts of this project could devastate our entire region. No one wants to buy radioactive apples, lobster, wine, or oysters. No one wants to live in in a radioactive area. About the only industry that will benefit is the film industry, the movie they make about this will blow Erin Brokovich out of the water. It will far outweigh the economic benefits and will persist in perpetuity.

I have a 12-year-old boy to look out for and do not want to see his future or the future of our province compromised. There is **NO safe way** to mine Uranium in close proximity to established communities. This is not Northern Saskatchewan hundreds of km away from the closest town- our province is 130 kms wide.

I have written this plea to all of you to request collaboration to **put a stop-order** in the same valiant manner as Pictou County's council did 2 days ago. Even though Municipalities do not have jurisdiction it sends a powerful message that all stakeholders need to be involved in policy and basic democratic principles must be upheld. It also tells the community members in your ridings that you are looking out for their best interest. Virtually **NO ONE** wants this to go through, we have proven this through the huge outpouring of support we have received. I beg you to please put all of your differences aside and do what is right. This affects all of us, and

what happens now could forever shape our collective future.

I have attached the link for an interview I did with 95.7 Talk Radio below and several fact sheets outlaying the concerns mentioned. I beg you to read and listen to them and follow your hearts on what is right, for all of our sakes!

Interview: <https://youtu.be/nZhQNnVUhQ4>

Thanks!

Chad Pothier, BBA
Owner/Dealer Principal



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“Safe uranium mining?” Nova Scotia physicians respond to industry claims

June 4, 2025

Does the uranium ban make us less safe?

Proponents of uranium mining, such as the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS), would have us believe we need more uranium exploration to understand the location of deposits in Nova Scotia,¹ precisely because uranium and the carcinogenic radioactive gas it emits, radon, are so dangerous – present as they are in some drinking water and in some homes in Nova Scotia.²

In fact, the government of Nova Scotia knows a great deal about the uranium deposits in the province, and has published numerous reports and maps in recent years detailing both uranium and radon risks. Large multinational companies did extensive exploration for uranium in Nova Scotia in the 1970s and 1980s.³ The recent requests for proposals issued by Nova Scotia’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for uranium exploration in East Dalhousie, Millet Brook, and Louisville,⁴ and numerous DNR reports, show there is already a great deal known about uranium deposits in the province.

The ban on uranium exploration and mining was not a ban on research and data collection, as MANS would have us believe. Rather, it was a crucially important ban on activities that would disturb uranium deposits, which could very well increase the already dangerous levels of uranium in drilled wells in Nova Scotia.

Can uranium exploration and mining be done safely?

¹[“Take the ‘no’ out of Nova Scotia: End the uranium ban,”](#) Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS), January 2021

² [Potential for Radon in Indoor Air, Nova Scotia](#)

³ [A Background Summary for the Uranium Inquiry, Nova Scotia](#)

⁴ [Uranium exploration: request for proposals, Nova Scotia](#)

Mineral exploration and mining activities that disturb the land can change groundwater flow and cause fissures that mobilize uranium, and release large amounts of radon.⁵ Radon gas can travel hundreds of kilometres in the air, emitting radioactive particles as it moves. When ingested or inhaled, these can damage DNA and human cells, potentially leading to cancer.⁶ The decay chain continues to produce new radioactive products that can enter water, crops, trees, soil, animals, and humans.⁷

It is not possible to take uranium out of the ground without bringing to the surface other radioactive materials, including radium, a “notorious killer.”⁸

Uranium mines have tended to be located in remote, sparsely populated areas, often on Indigenous lands. As in other extractive industries, this has led to “sacrifice zones,” with a lack of proper health monitoring of nearby populations. As a result, often the remote populations impacted by uranium mining have not been properly studied.^{9 10}

Will there be strict regulations to protect our health?

In Nova Scotia, underground mineral deposits belong to the province, not landowners. Anyone with an exploration licence can access private land to explore for minerals, including uranium. If a landowner refuses access, the Mineral Resources Act gives the Minister of Natural Resources the authority to overrule the property owner, and grant the exploration licence-holder access.¹¹ If exploration leads to a mine proposal, and the landowner refuses to sell to the mining company, the Minister can order the land expropriated, as happened in 2013.¹²

Anyone who has taken out a mineral exploration licence in Nova Scotia can simply register with DNR to undertake extremely disruptive exploration activities using powerful machines. This includes drilling, test-pits, trenching and even the excavation of up to 100 tonnes of ore-bearing materials. When the exploration is for uranium, this means massive amounts of chemically toxic and radioactive material being unearthed, without any environmental or health impact assessment.

⁵ Dr. Gordon Edwards, president and co-founder Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

⁶ [Bill 6 submission-Dr. Nancy Covington, CAPE NS](#)

⁷ [Uranium mining and health - PMC](#)

⁸ Dr. Gordon Edwards

⁹ Dr. Dale Dewar, physician who has worked in northern Saskatchewan serving a population of Cree, Metis and Dene peoples, member CAPE and International Committee of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, former Executive Director of Physicians for Global Survival.

¹⁰ [Uranium mining and health - PMC](#)

¹¹ [Mineral Resources Act](#)

¹² [EXPROPRIATION: VESTING ORDERS | CanLII Connects](#)

DNR is solely responsible for mineral exploration. There are few regulations for this, and DNR is conflicted as a regulator because of its role working with industry to promote uranium exploration.

The federal government's impact assessment and regulatory framework for uranium mining is required only if a mine is planned. So far, no uranium mines have been proposed in Nova Scotia, but mining is the obvious goal of uranium exploration.

The Nova Scotia Registry of Claims "NovaRoc" map shows that there has been a flurry of new exploration licences granted since the province said it was lifting the ban on uranium exploration and mining. The door has been opened for widespread uranium exploration in Nova Scotia.

It's important to remember that while some of the risks to human health and the environment can be reduced through strict regulation and technologies, they cannot be eliminated.¹³

It's going okay in Saskatchewan, isn't it?

There are only two uranium mines in operation in Canada.¹⁴ Both are in Saskatchewan. The Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS) claims that Saskatchewan shows us uranium mining can be done "safely and environmentally responsibly."¹⁵ Its claim is not supported by medical and scientific evidence.

There are many reasons why it's unwise to compare Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan when it comes to mining uranium. Saskatchewan is nearly 12 times the size of Nova Scotia, with a population density of just two people per square kilometre (km²).¹⁶ The Saskatchewan mines are located more than 600 km from any towns or cities.¹⁷ Nova Scotia, by contrast, is the second most densely populated province in Canada, with 18.4 persons per km². Uranium mines in Nova Scotia would be situated much closer to towns and rural communities.

Furthermore, Nova Scotia's average annual precipitation is more than three times that in northern Saskatchewan.¹⁸ This is especially important to know as uranium is highly soluble in water, making exploration and mining riskier in areas with high precipitation.

Physicians have anecdotal evidence of health problems in Indigenous communities that appear to relate to uranium exposure in northern Saskatchewan. Yet there has never been an

¹³ [Potential Human Health Effects of Uranium Mining, Processing, and Reclamation](#)

¹⁴ [Uranium in Canada](#)

¹⁵ [Take the "no" out of Nova Scotia](#), MANS

¹⁶ [Population and dwelling counts: Canada, provinces and territories](#)

¹⁷ [Uranium mines and mills](#)

¹⁸ [Average annual precipitation, by ecoprovince, 1979 to 2016](#)

independent health study undertaken in the region to monitor for health problems associated with uranium, including cancer and kidney disease.¹⁹

What is Canada's Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)?

Canada's Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) reports to Natural Resources Canada, which promotes uranium mining. It does not report to Health Canada or Environment and Climate Change Canada, both of which are far better placed to study and protect human and environmental health.²⁰ The Canadian Environmental Law Association has criticized the CNSC for its implicit conflict of interest, and the lack of transparency and consultation in its regulatory oversight.^{21 22} Medical professionals have noted that CNSC health standards are set by physicists and those involved in the industry, "based on financial and technological convenience," and not by healthcare professionals and researchers committed to public health and safety.²³

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) claims that there are no "significant impacts to the health" of people who live around uranium mines and mills.²⁴ CNSC provides no sources for this claim. In contrast, a detailed report from the U.S. National Research Council finds that "Uranium mining and processing are associated with a wide range of potential adverse human health risks," which can also extend to the "general population."²⁵

Is Nova Scotia's uranium a valuable untapped resource?

Uranium concentration in northern Saskatchewan deposits is very high, while the concentration in Nova Scotia is very low, according to the 1995 McCleave Report.²⁶ This means very large amounts of uranium-bearing ore would have to be unearthed in Nova Scotia to recover miniscule amounts of uranium, producing a great deal of radioactive waste or mine tailings that require care and maintenance in perpetuity. When uranium is extracted from the ore body, 85% of the radioactivity remains in the waste or tailings.²⁷ These waste sites have to be monitored and maintained "virtually forever,"²⁸ as uranium tailings remain radioactive for 100,000 years.²⁹ This is the case regardless of the method of mining involved – open pit, underground, or in situ leaching.

¹⁹ Dr. Dale Dewar

²⁰ Dr. Nancy Covington, retired family physician, CAPE Nova Scotia, board member International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada.

²¹ [Canadian Environmental Law submission on CNSC](#)

²² [Regulation vs promotion: Small modular nuclear reactors in Canada - ScienceDirect](#)

²³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3653646/>

²⁴ [Mythbusters. CNSC](#)

²⁵ [Scientific, Technical, Environmental, Human Health and Safety, and Regulatory Aspects of Uranium Mining and Processing in Virginia - NCBI Bookshelf](#)

²⁶ [McCleave Report, 1995](#)

²⁷ [Uranium mining and health - PMC](#)

²⁸ Dr. Doug Brugge, professor and chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Connecticut, with more than three decades of professional experience working with uranium mining and contamination. Co-author of 2024 academic book, "[Dirty secrets of nuclear power in an era of climate change.](#)"

²⁹ [The health dangers of uranium mining and jurisdictional questions](#)

Is in situ leaching better for the environment?

In situ leaching is a process of injecting solvents into the earth to dissolve the uranium.³⁰ The solution is then pumped to the surface, where the uranium is extracted. In situ leaching leaves less waste rock and tailings than open pit or underground mining, but is very dangerous because there is a high risk the chemical solvents will spread underground and contaminate groundwater.

Doesn't uranium save lives?

Proponents of uranium mining and nuclear energy make many claims that are either misleading or just false. One is that uranium has to be mined because it “saves lives,” used as it is in smoke detectors. The tiny amount needed for smoke detectors is retrieved from existing nuclear waste,³¹ which is – unfortunately – very abundant. Nuclear waste “must be contained and managed for a duration longer than the age of civilization.”³²

Do we need uranium mining for medical isotopes?

When the Nova Scotia government announced that it had added uranium to its list of “critical minerals” and was lifting the decades-long ban on uranium exploration and mining, it claimed the heavy metal was needed for “medical applications.”³³ The government was repeating an industry argument that we need to mine uranium for medical isotopes used in diagnostic tests. This claim is a “red herring;” medical isotopes are produced in research reactors that don’t require uranium, and are most safely made in devices called cyclotrons.³⁴

Won't it help us address climate change?

Contrary to industry claims, nuclear power is not going to be a “significant or major contributor to addressing climate change.”³⁵ This means uranium is not a critical mineral when it comes to tackling the climate crisis. Wind, solar and batteries are much less expensive and faster to develop than nuclear power facilities, which take many years and immense amounts of money to build. Commercial small modular reactors are still in the early stages of development.³⁶ There is a need to tackle the climate crisis quickly, not slowly.

³⁰ [Radioactive Waste From Uranium Mining and Milling | US EPA.](#)

³¹ [Processing of Used Nuclear Fuel](#)

³² [Dirty Secrets of Nuclear Power in an Era of Climate Change | SpringerLink](#)

³³ [Nova Scotia Updates Critical Minerals Strategy](#)

³⁴ Dr. Tim Takaro

³⁵ Dr. Doug Brugge

³⁶ [Small Modular and Advanced Nuclear Reactors: A Reality Check | IEEE Journals & Magazine](#)

The push for nuclear power comes from the nuclear industry – which also involves military applications – trying to renew and revive itself, as detailed in the 2024 academic book, *Dirty secrets of nuclear power in an era of climate change*.³⁷ The International Energy Agency forecasts minimal future growth in nuclear energy, compared with massive growth in far safer renewable solar and wind energy.³⁸

Is there a shortage of uranium?

No, there is no shortage of uranium in Canada, and no need for a new source in a province as small and densely settled as Nova Scotia.³⁹

About CAPE

CAPE is a non-partisan, physician-led organization with over 36,000 supporters across the country. It brings an evidence-based approach to issues that intersect with health, the environment, and justice. CAPE Nova Scotia represents more than 100 physicians and other healthcare providers across the province.

For more information contact: ns@cape.ca

Media contact: Tynette Deveau, Atlantic Regional Coordinator, CAPE, tynette@cape.ca

³⁷ [Dirty Secrets of Nuclear Power in an Era of Climate Change | SpringerLink](#)

³⁸ [Executive Summary – World Energy Outlook 2024 – Analysis - IEA](#)

³⁹ [Uranium Mining Overview - World Nuclear Association](#)

Facts About Uranium Mining

Uranium mining releases radon gas, a highly carcinogenic, odorless substance that is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

- **Uranium can't be mined without inherent radiation and pollution risks.** In our small province of Nova Scotia (130 kms wide), there aren't large tracts of vacant land that are able to be safely mined. The tailings from a goldmine end up being relatively stable whereas a uranium mine does not have that chemical stability. They will remain radioactive for thousands of years.
- **Radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.** The risk of lung cancer increases proportionately with increasing amounts of radon.

The Nova Scotia Government Is Moving Ahead With Plans To Mine 3 Populated Areas In Nova Scotia

The areas affected are Millet Brook (Falls Lake) Vaughan, Louisville (River John), and East Dalhousie. All three of these areas are in the middle of established communities.

Uranium mining can contaminate drinking water, air and soil with heavy metals and can cause radioactive contamination of foods and water even up to 400 km away.



There Is No Safe Way To Mine Uranium In Populated Areas!

The Houston Government has executed this project without any consultation to land owners, First Nations, or Municipalities. The majority of the proposed sites are on privately owned land. If you deny the mining companies access the province can force you.

Contact Us!

Website-www.knowuranium.ca

facebook.com/groups/NoUraniumNS



Citizens Against Uranium Mining and Exploration In Nova Scotia



The radiation from these mines is not like other types of mining. it will persist in our rivers, lakes, and communities for over 10,000 years.

Uranium Mining & Exploration In Nova Scotia

What's the risk? Uranium mining can cause contamination of the environment including water tables, well water, road dust, soil and air. Contaminants include radioactive material, radon gas, heavy metals and hazardous chemicals (such as sulphuric acid). Contamination can be widespread and remain in the environment for decades or even 1000's of years. Tailing ponds are where mining waste is deposited, and where contaminants leach into the environment.

Facts and What Can I Do?

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen"-Winston Churchill

Does This Affect Me? >>>

Property values in the immediate area of mining operations will be significantly affected. You may be directly subject to radiation, radon gas and other contaminants. If you are further away from mining operations, your property value may still be affected and you are still at risk of exposure to radioactivity and contaminants. Mining companies state, without giving credible references, that there is a negligible amount of radon released with new mining techniques. Digging or drilling holes in the ground where high concentrations of uranium exist can release significant amounts of radon gas.

Uranium and arsenic in well water is already a serious issue for many Nova Scotians as these elements occur naturally in our soil. Forty percent of Nova Scotians use wells. Mining can increase the number of wells affected which happened after gold mining in our province. Uranium, lead and arsenic are all heavy toxic metals which our bodies can't use and if ingested cause kidney, liver, and other diseases.

Radon gas from uranium mines and tailings has been shown to enter the food chain. Radon lands on lichens and is then eaten by caribou, which in turn have significant burdens of radioactivity in their bodies.

After uranium ore is mined, the rock is ground up or milled on site to extract the uranium. This process creates toxic radioactive dust particles which can be blown around or washed away, thus distributing the radioactivity into the environment.

The waste in the tailings contain 85% of the total radioactivity removed from the mine. A continuous stream of radon gas will emanate from the tailings, as radium which produces radon directly, is in the tailings.

The tailings will remain radioactive for hundreds thousands of years. After the mining company leaves, the responsibility for looking after the tailings would fall on the province.

It Is Not Worth It! >>>>

Low level ionizing radiation causes disproportionate harm to children, women and especially the unborn. Women are twice and children are five times more sensitive than men, yet the "permissible" exposure levels were derived from "Reference Man" ignoring these facts. "Permissible" does not necessarily mean that the level is safe.

All uranium, once mined and processed, ends up as nuclear waste, nuclear weapons or radioactive fallout.



Act And Get Involved Today! Your Community Depends On It!

Contact Us!

facebook.com/groups/NoUraniumNS

Website-www.knowuranium.ca

What Can I Do?

**Get involved to make your opposition known!
Write your MLA, MP, and Municipal Council and be heard!
(we can help)**



Solterra Geo-Resources Ltd.

Solterra Geo-Resources Ltd.

Discover with intent. | Mine without waste.

Mining • Halifax, Nova Scotia • 212 followers • 2-10 employees

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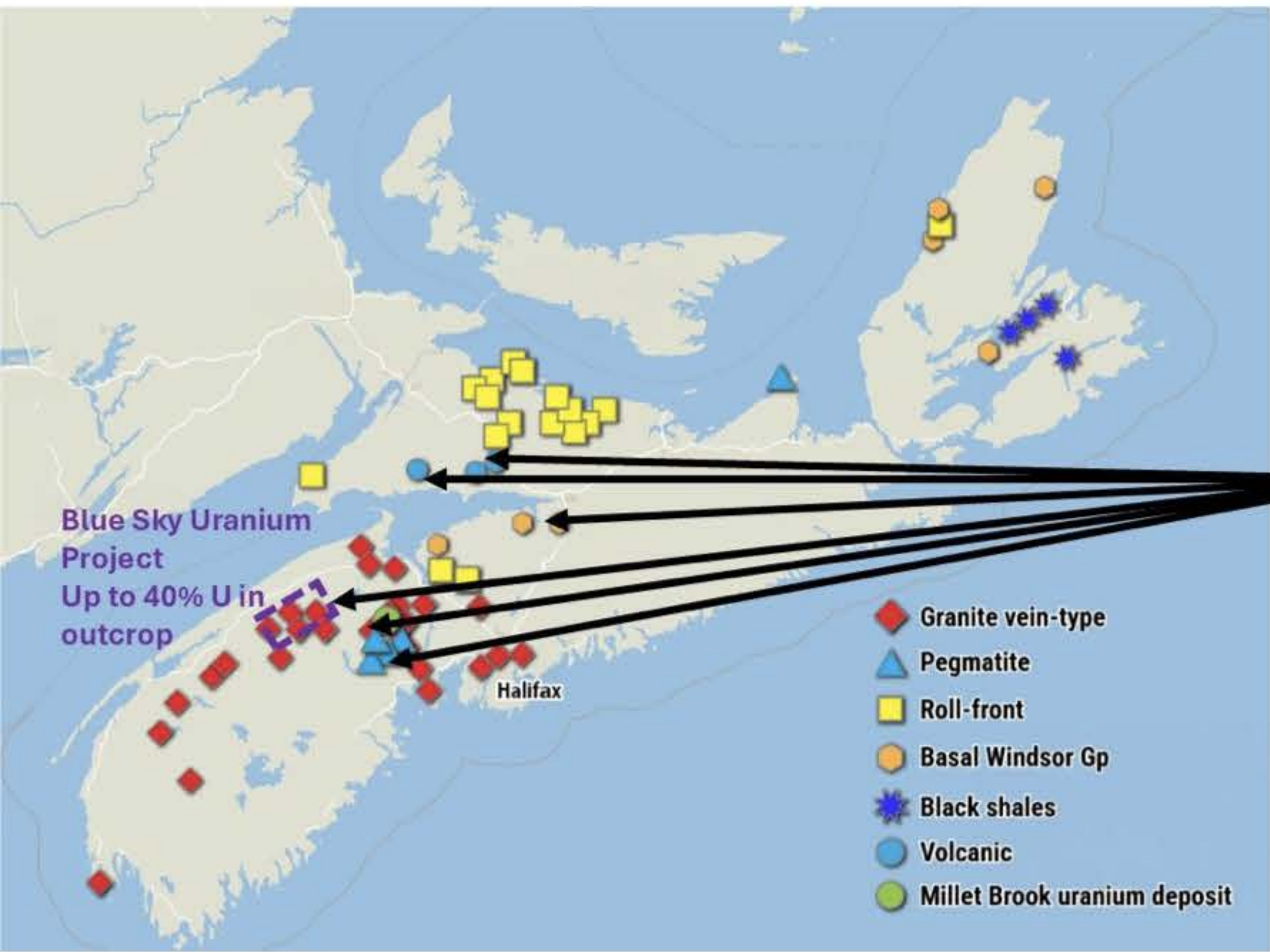
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Where are Solterra Geo-Resources Ltd. #uranium projects?



Granite-Pegmatite-Unconformity

- Blue Sky-Cloud Lake-Palmer Lake
- Millet Brook Area
- East Dalhousie Area
- Bezanson Lake
- Regional targets – Panuke Lake, Kehoe Hill, Central SMB

Solterra Holdings.

IOCG

- Westchester
- Regional Chedabucto-Bass River Area

Roll Front, Windsor Basal

- Maitland-Kennetcook

5



Home



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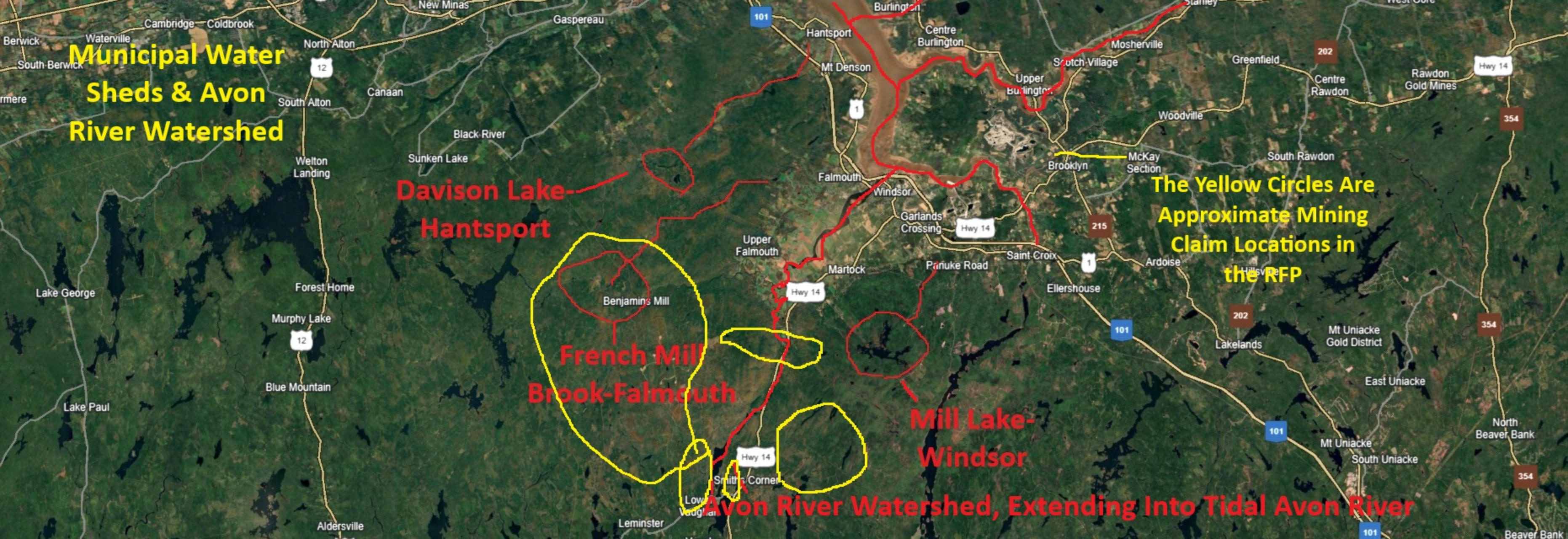
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**Municipal Water
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Windsor**

Avon River Watershed, Extending Into Tidal Avon River

**The Yellow Circles Are
Approximate Mining
Claim Locations in
the RFP**