

Assessment of radium and radon activity concentrations in water sources near selected former uranium mines in the West-Rand area of Johannesburg.

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Abstract:

Radioactivity has existed since the beginning of time and is part of our planet Earth. Several studies have been well documented to monitor natural radioactivity as a source of radiation exposure to the environment and to human beings. In order to determine the effects of natural radioactivity in around areas of former uranium mines in the West-Rand area, an investigation of radiation exposure through ingestion of contaminated water will be carried out. In the present work, focus will be on Uranium daughter radionuclides; Ra-226 and Rn-222. Measurements will include the use of Alpha and Gamma spectroscopy to identify radionuclides concentrations, as well as Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) and Radiochemical Neutron Activation Analysis (RNAA) to analyze the isotopes of interest.

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