



SCARY WATER FACTS:

WHAT'S BREWING IN

THE JAMES

1) 11,821,961 million pounds of pollution were dumped into Virginia waterways in 2012, with the Lower James ranking 9th highest for discharges of developmental toxins.¹

2) The James River is at risk from 1,100 toxic storage sites, up to 5 billion gallons of coal ash, and millions of gallons of crude oil traveling along the shore each week.²

3) The Hopewell Inc. Plant dumped 170,077 pounds of toxic chemicals into Virginia's James River in 2012; they also spent over 5 million in campaign contributions the same year.³

¹ Environment Virginia. (2012, March). *EnvironmentVirginia.org*. Retrieved from <http://environmentvirginia.org/news/vae/118-million-pounds-toxic-chemicals-dumped-virginia%E2%80%99s-waterways>

² James River Association. (2015). *Our River Is At Risk*. Retrieved from River At Risk: <http://riveratrisk.org/>

³ Environment Virginia. (2015, February). Virginia's Major Polluters Spending \$5,140,000 to Pollute Politics. Retrieved from Environment Virginia: <http://environmentvirginia.org/news/vae/virginia%E2%80%99s-major-polluters-spending-5140000-pollute-politics>

4) Area veterinarians have issued warnings to dog owners to keep pets away from and out of parts of the James River because of blue-green algae that can cause skin and stomach irritation.⁴

5) The Striped Bass population has been in steady decline since 2010 due to algae limiting the oxygen flow in the water.⁵

6) More than 200 miles of the James River are under a “fish advisory” that limits the number of fish that can be safely eaten due to contaminants.⁶

7) E. Coli, a harmful bacteria, has appeared in the waters around Tredgar Iron Works swimming area at levels 5 times higher than the 250ml quality standard.⁷

⁴ Spencer, P. (2015). *Pet Lovers Beware of James River Algae*. Retrieved from Style Weekly: <http://www.styleweekly.com/richmond/pets-lovers-beware-of-james-river-algae/Content?oid=2231755>

⁵ James River Association. (2015). *Habitat*. Retrieved from James River Association: <http://www.jamesriverassociation.org/the-james-river/state-of-the-james/habitat>

⁶ Virginia Department of Health. (2013, March). James River Basin. Retrieved from Virginia Department of Health: <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/epidemiology/dee/publichealthtoxicology/advisories/JamesRiver.htm>

⁷ Department of Environmental Quality. (2015). Water Quality at James River Park Swimming Locations. Retrieved from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/WaterQualityMonitoring/WaterQualityatJamesRiverPark.aspx>

8) Traces of the chemical Kepone, which affect the reproduction system, can still be found in the James though the Kepone plant was shut down in 1975.⁸

9) 90% of the water samples collected in the summer of 2015 from the freshwater portion of the James Estuary tested positive for the algal toxin microcystin.⁹

10) 57% of Virginia's streams, and drinking water for over two million Virginians, are not guaranteed protection under the Clean Water Act because polluters and their allies have halted the Clean Water Rule in the courts.¹⁰

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For more information, visit www.environmentvirginia.org

⁸ Street, B., & Nichols, S. (2015, July). 40 Years of Progress on the James. Retrieved from Richmond Times Dispatch: http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/article_54042a14-6b9f-5670-affc-2d298a0fa3ee.html

⁹ Joseph Wood, R. F. (2012). Exposure to the Cyanotoxin Microcystin Arising from Interspecific Differences in Feeding Habits among Fish and Shellfish in the James. Environmental Science and Technology.

¹⁰ Environmental Protection Agency. (2015, October). *Clean Water Rule Litigation Statement*. Retrieved from <http://www2.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule/clean-water-rule-litigation-statement>