Uranium

Element classification: Actinide
No. of isotopes: 9
Typical elemental concentrations:
- Soil (dry): 2 mg/kg
- Sea water: 0.0032 µg/L
- Fresh water: 0.0004 µg/L

Why is it of interest?
♦ It's a natural occurring element and present throughout the environment.
♦ It’s the parent nuclide of important dose contributing daughters such as Po-210 and Ra-226.
♦ Primordial long lived Radionuclide
♦ Both radiotoxic and chemically

Key sources
♦ **Nuclear cycle**: Mining, nuclear power plants, reprocessing, waste
♦ **Fallout**: Nuclear weapons testing
♦ **Nuclear accidents**: e.g. Windscale, *Chernobyl*
♦ **Natural sources**: Yes

For more information ...

- **U EPA Factsheet**
- **238U IRSN factsheet**

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