The WELCOME Integrated Management Strategy for large scale historical soil and groundwater contaminations: Introduction and example Rotterdam Harbour Region

NATO-CCMS, June 2005, Ottawa

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WELCOME project

- The WELCOME-project was funded by the European Union (FP5, EESD, EVK1-CT-2001-00103) and executed from January 2002 until December 2004
- 13 partners from 4 different EU member states and of different background; case study related end-users, research-institutes, universities, and consultants,
- interaction with an international group of end-users (see website: http//www.EUwelcome.nl/)
- Aiming at results with high research quality as well as with practical utility



WELCOME project

- Addressing groundwater, surface water and soil contamination on large (former) industrial sites:
 - Bitterfeld
 - Rotterdam and Antwerp harbour
 - Tarnowskie Gory
- Goal:
 - to make an Integrated Management Strategy (IMS) for Prevention and Reduction of risks at Contaminated Industrial Megasites for
 - Protection of groundwater and surface water resources in line with EU water framework and groundwater directives



WELCOME megasite cases

Protection of surface and groundwater resources according to the EU water framework and groundwater directives





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EU Groundwater directive

- Establishes specific measures as set out in article 17 of the WFD in order to prevent and control groundwater pollution. Measures include:
 - Criteria for the assessment of good groundwater chemical status
 - Criteria for the identification and reversal of significant and sustained upward trends and the definition of starting points for trend reversal
 - Requirements to prevent or limit indirect discharges of pollutants into groundwater
- Annex IV, indent 1.4 (version submitted to the EU parliament)
 - Specific trend assessment shall be carried out for relevant pollutants in bodies of groundwater that are affected by point sources of pollution, including historical point sources, in order to verify that plumes from contaminated sites do not expand over a defined area and deteriorate the chemical status of the groundwater body.
- The IMS aims to take these EU requirements into account during building megasite management plans.



Integrated Management Strategy (IMS)

- Aimed at guiding the user through the whole process of establishing a megasite management plan; from the initial screening to the final definition of the remediation scenarios and long-term site management plan
- The IMS includes:
 - basic strategies of the IMS
 - a manual for technical experts and environmental managers
 - examples of the implementation of the IMS at the Welcome megasite cases
 - an overview of the technical support tools



Integrated Management Strategy



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Starting the IMS

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Risk assessment

Management scenarios

RMS - Risk Management Scenario

LEGEND:

Implementation

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Two megasites in the Netherlands and their relation to Regional Groundwater Bodies

Application the IMS to the Rotterdam harbour region

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Starting the IMS 1: Organising stakeholders

- Stakeholders involved in steering group:
 - Port of Rotterdam (PoR)
 - Environmental Agency for Rotterdam region (DCMR)
 - Department of Environment (VROM)
 - Industry (united in the interest group Deltalings).

Starting the IMS 2: Conceptual model

Rotterdam megasite - planes of compliance - cross section

Risk assessment 1: megasite characterization

- Contaminant distribution
 - Availability of representative field data (from databases and industry)
 - Priority contaminants
 - Related to industrial activities
- Geohydrology
 - Regional scale
 - Complex soil stratification
 - Influence of heterogeneities (sand piles, groundwater extractions)
- Natural attenuation
 - Very important for long travelling times
 - Redox conditions
 - Biodegradation rates from representative field studies
- Prediction of fate and transport with model
 - Current and future impact at receptors
 - uncertainty quantified in Monte-Carlo analysis

Result regional risk assessment Rotterdam Harbour

Costs:

Mixed strategies: 15 to 20 M€/year Compare: current expenditure 10 M€/year; full clean-up,100 M€/year.

Effect of mixed strategy A

(impact on 2nd plane of compliance)

Effect of mixed strategy A

(impact on 3rd plane of compliance)

Conclusion

• The WELCOME IMS

- Is generic (attaching to national and EU regulations) and flexible (allowing for tailor-made region specific and iterative approaches)
- Includes stakeholder participation and is based on natural science principles (establishing trends and appropriate measures using risk assessment procedures, fate and transport models, and taking into account natural attenuation and immobilisation processes)
- Includes cost-indications
 - based on tools and practical engineering know-how,
 - to address the proportionality principle as mentioned in EU and national directives
- May serve as a basis for further technical detailing of the groundwater directive with regard to management of large scale historical contaminations

Acknowledgments

- The project was financially supported by
 - EU DG research (FP5, EESD, EVK1-CT-2001-00103),
 - various co-financing partners, such as LAF for the work associated with Bitterfeld, Germany, and POR, SKB, and Deltalings for the work associated with the Port of Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
- All Welcome partners contributed to the IMS and the tools included, as well as the team of end-users (see website: http://www.EUwelcome.nl/)
- The members of the Welcome team that has built the final version of the IMS were:
 - Martin Keil (LAF), Antje Ritter, Judith Sievers, and Jochen Grossmann of GICON, Andreas Bielke of QUADRIGA, Lida Schelwald of POR, Bert Satijn and Stefan Ouboter of NOK, Greg Malina of TUC, Janush Krupanek of IETU, Arno Kaschl from UFZ, and Jeroen Ter Meer, Natalia Hoogeveen, Hans van Duijne, and Huub Rijnaarts from TNO.
 - ICT related work was done by Jurand Bien as a post-doc of the Research Centre TNO/WU/TUC, Kees van Drongelen of Visualspace, and Alma Hollen, and Linda Maring from TNO.
- The Rotterdam Case Study was carried out by
 - Jeroen ter Meer, Johan Valstar, and Huub Rijnaarts (TNO), with support of Willem van Hattem (POR), Rolf Hetterschijt and Rinus Noordhoek (Deltalings), Anton Roelofzen (DCMR), Bert Satijn (NOK), Harry Vermeulen (SKB) and Miech de Steenwinkel (Ministry of Public Health, Spatial planning, and Environment).

