

Tour de table presentation

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ADEME's activities in the field of contaminated sites and soils

- Steering and funding research and innovation (€ 1,3M/year)
- Conducting operations to secure orphaned contaminated sites
 - 50/55 sites in operation every year
 - 10 new sites opened every year
 - € 10M/year
- Providing financial aid for decision making
 - 30 environmental audits or feasability studies / year
 - Targeted to local authorities
- Facilitating re-use of industrial brownfields
- Participating in national, European and international exchanges
 - ERA-NET SNOWMAN
 - EURODEMO...



The contaminated sites management policy : « a tough adolescence »

- Policy set up in the 90's in the frame of the hazardous facilities regulation
- Main goals
 - Inventory of abandoned and active industrial sites
 - Evaluation / prescribed methodology
 - Establishment of priorities
 - Treatment
- No generic values, site specific approach



The contaminated sites management policy : two periods

- 1994/1996 : simplified risk assessments, a scoring system
 - 1 : site requires further investigation and DRA
 - 2 : site requires monitoring and possibly restrictions of land use
 - 3 : site may be used for a specified purpose without treatment or control measure
- 1999 : detailed risk assessments, the basis for determining the remediation objectives related to the land use
 - Quantification of risks for human health and water ressources
 - Specific tools for ecosystems risk assessment were planned...



Lessons learned : +ve

- Relevancy of the management of contaminated sites according to the land-use for a site and the risk base management
- High importance of environmental audits and mechanisms understanding (conceptual layout : source – transfer – target)
- Interdependence of sources treatment and monitoring
- Necessity for keeping in mind the industrial history



Lessons learned : -ve

- Necessity for moving out of the inventory system
 - 180 000 sites in the database (former industrial activity)
 - The whole country should be covered soon

Necessity for breaking away from the linear system

- Preliminary site investigations;
- Simplified risk assessment (SRA);
- In-depth audit;
- Detailed risk analysis (DRA).



Lessons learned : -ve Limits of the Simplified Risk Assessments

- What knowledge have we gained ?
- What decision could we make ?
- Incorrect use of the « Fixed impact values » based on highly conservative scenarii as remediation objectives
- Necessity to take into account :
 - Inhalation exposure,
 - Comparison with existing statutory values (outdoor air quality, food, drinking water),
 - geochemical background



Lessons learned : -ve Limits of the Detailed Risk Assessments

- Open tool approach : the selected model and the outcomes were often discussed by the actors involved
- Modelling was sometimes inconsistent with the real uses of the milieus
- Soil ingestion is not the main exposure pathway, inhalation is !
- In too many cases DRA lead to justify to maintain contamination sources
- Comparison of the treament techniques and evaluation of their costs were often careless



New policy 8 Feb 2007 : different ways of management in different situations

- Former industrial activities, a common legacy : site management according to land-use
 - Pollution sources should be investigated and treated taking into account treatment costs.
 - Residual pollution might remain when contaminant transfers are brought under control and we must remember where it is.
 - A global environmental audit should be carried out.
- The future : prevention of any effect on the environment
 - Applying all the hazardous facilities regulations, including environmental monitoring;
 - If prevention fails : we need to repair the damages and to restore the environment to its original condition.



Two ways of management







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NATO 2007





Selected management plan





Other on going topics

- Certification of consultants and contractors
- Management of excavated soils
 - Conditionally reuse of excavated soils with low contamination
 - Specific limit values
- Development of financial guarantees to avoid orphaned sites
- Integration of the contaminated sites management policy in town planning