

NORM Management in Conventional Hazardous Waste Disposals

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Abstract

Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) are generated in huge quantities in several industries – NORM industries - and their management has been formerly carried out under considerations of industrial non radioactive wastes. As the concentration of non radioactive toxics in several of those materials is relatively high, they were treated as toxic materials. This implies that the materials must be previously conditioned using conventional methods and that the waste disposal itself must be prepared to isolate the toxics from the environment for long periods of time. Spanish regulation for these conventional toxic waste disposals includes conditions that assure adequate isolation.

After the 96/29 European Directive (the European BSS), radiological implications on NORM industries and their residual materials must be considered. One option that can be considered for the disposal of NORM with activity concentrations above the unconditional clearance level is the use of the same hazardous waste disposals.

Radiological implications of the management in these disposals of NORM wastes with radioactive content over IAEA clearance levels are assessed. Generic dose assessments for workers and for the public are considered, with special attention to possible variations in Europe and focus in Spanish situation.

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