

Regulating NORM and building materials in Poland

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Abstract

Considering the scale and frequency of occurrence, to date significantly less attention is paid to the occupational risk and environmental impact associated with residues originating from NORM industries than either to nuclear waste or releases caused by radiation accidents. In the light of the emerging NORM-related requirements introduced by the new European BSS some NORM industries or even whole Members States seem to be not well prepared to face the challenge. Recent meetings organized by HERCA (Bergen, May 2016), Risk Audit, (Brussels, June 2016) or IAEA (Vienna, June 2016) raised many problems and fears concerning NORM issues especially in the context of environment and construction materials. One of the most urgent challenges facing the NORM industry operators as well as regulators is the problem of proper classification and then, treatment of solid residues with radioactivity content significantly above the clearance level and extensive liquid releases from fossil fuels exploitation. The article defines the problem and discusses the possible solutions analysed by the team of experts involved in implementation of new regulation into Polish law, mainly in the context of coal mining industry.