

Decommissioning of NORM facilities in Belgium: lessons learnt

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Abstract

A few projects of decommissioning of NORM facilities from the phosphate industry have recently been carried out in Belgium. They raised challenges both for the operator and the regulator:

- characterization of large-scale facilities with very inhomogeneous patterns of concentration, both in the magnitude of the contamination as in its nuclide-vector.
- choice of the most relevant decontamination or disposal techniques for the NORM residues resulting from decommissioning. This choice requires a multi-criteria analysis of the different options (radiation protection of the operators, volume and degree of contamination of resulting waste, financial costs of the different options,...)
- definition of responsibilities

The presentation will focus on the lessons for the regulators: definition of liabilities, especially in a context of bankruptcy, decision-making process, enforcement policy, need to take into account decommissioning aspects already in the operational phase,...
