Contaminated site management : the French status

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Keywords: site remediation; legal framework; methodology; certification; French market

There is no law as such, in France, on the subject of contaminated sites and remediation. Rules are to be found within the neighbouring legal frameworks of waste, ICPE (ICPE, standing for “Installation Classée pour la Protection de l’Environnement”, which gathers the regulation of polluting/dangerous facilities) industrial emissions, urban planning, and to a lesser extent, water. We will start this presentation with a tour of these related legal/regulatory dispositions.

On the specific topic of site remediation, the main legal reference is a letter from the environment ministry to the local authorities, issued in 2007, which describes the remediation methodology. All the different steps are developed, thoroughly explaining the “what”, “when”, “how” of diagnosis, historical studies, interpretation, and sites management plans. Data bases of industrial and/or polluted sites also exist and are used as a tool for historical references. This is what we will look at in our second part.

On another level, the remediation trade has been translated into a norm since 2003, on the basis of which a private label was created in 2005. According to the new methodology of 2007, the norm was updated in 2011, and this first label has been replaced by a certification, grounded in the new norm. Our third part aims at presenting these two new tools, and their consequences in terms of work and management for our remediation firms.

We will conclude the talk with an overview of some remediation market figures and of its evolution.

Part I : Regulatory framework

- Polluting installations regulation (ICPE = installations classified for environmental protection purposes)
- Waste regulation :
- Liability - sale of an industrial site.
- Land planning regulation (code)

Part II : The remediation “Methodology” and guidance “tools”

Part III: Norms and certification

Part IV : The French remediation market

References

http://www.upds.org
http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Installations-classees-.html