



First Notice of an International Workshop on

Radioecology as a Support to Regulatory Decision Making on NORM and other Legacies, Related Waste Management and Disposal

3 September 2017, Pre-Conference Event ICRER 2017, Berlin, Germany

Background

The fourth International Conference on Radioecology and Environmental Radioactivity will take place in Berlin, Germany, 4 - 8 September 2017. An important aspect of radioecology is to provide the underpinning science in support of regulation. Several facets of the interface between radioecology and regulatory needs will be in focus at ICRER-2017 in the following conference sessions: *Radiation risk at nuclear legacy sites: assessment, remediation and regulation, NORM and TENORM with respect to long-term human and environmental protection, Advances in radioecological modelling approaches to support regulation and underpinning databases.*

The practical role of radioecology, in support of the regulatory decision-making processes, is to develop and provide the science base, methods and tools necessary for underpinning the guidelines, for assessments prior to regulatory (remediation) actions, but also for post-remediation monitoring and compliance checking. Basically, radioecology provides answers to important questions and issues for which regulatory bodies need answers. Separate development of the scientific disciplines, regulations and regulatory mechanisms, as well waste management and disposal strategies linked with site remediation has previously been highlighted as hindering cooperation between them. To help resolve that, two successful international workshops, organized by the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) as pre-events at ICRER 2008, Bergen, and ICRER 2014, Barcelona, promoted cooperation between science and regulatory bodies and the use of good science within regulatory process for nuclear and radiation legacy sites.

Many countries have significant interest in management of NORM legacy sites. Beside aspects such as responsibility assignment, occasionally low awareness of hazards, remediation approaches, risk communication problems, NORM legacy sites are often complex due to sometimes large volumes of inhomogeneous radioactive waste that may, in addition, be mixed with other hazardous waste (e.g., heavy metals, organic compounds). Therefore, NORM legacies and related waste disposal and management may be a convenient case for addressing the supportive role of radioecology.

Following continued interest in this issue and suggestions arising from the workshops in 2008 and 2014, NRPA and SCK·CEN are jointly organizing a one day workshop in association with ICRER 2017 in

Berlin, with the cooperation of the European Radioecology Alliance and International Union of Radioecology.

Objective and topics

The overall objective of the workshop is to evaluate progress and enable further linking of radioecology with regulatory needs on example of NORM and other legacies and their waste. We aim to providing a general forum for discussion and understanding between scientists and regulators concerning various NORM legacy issues. Following topics will be considered:

- Presenting appropriate radioecology approaches and models to support regulation
- Identifying specific technical requirements of regulators,
- Identifying main practical operators' issues related to use of the scientific tools,
- Discussion on developing a holistic approach for assessments and consequently regulation of radiation and other types hazards
- Discussion on developing a holistic approach to risk identification and management for humans and biota at various NORM legacy sites
- Presenting appropriate radioecology approaches and models to support regulation
- Identifying future needs and collaboration opportunities

Apart from platform presentations we will organize discussion sessions on themes such as:

- Are present international and national criteria for restoration of legacy sites satisfactory?
- Are the current radioecological models and tools robust enough to support assessments that show compliance with restoration criteria considering the prevailing uncertainty?
- How to achieve public, governmental, and scientific consensus on restoration criteria or restoration outcome?
- How can we achieve enhanced international cooperation in policy development, setting and compliance with standards and the necessary scientific support to address the needs identified?

Conclusions from the discussion will be available for presentation and discussion during the main ICRER conference. Dissemination of the results and conclusions from the workshop will be ensured by publication of an internationally available workshop report.

Participation

Organizations with special interest in scientific research and regulatory supervision of NORM and other legacies are invited to participate and/or give presentations. Presentations covering for advances in radioecological models and methods, regulatory requirements (doubts) and good practice in terms of scientific analysis, examples of radioecological supportive roles in regulatory decision making at NORM and other legacy sites are welcome.

Administration

The workshop is being organized by Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) and the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK·CEN) in collaboration with European Radioecology Alliance and International Union of Radioecology.

To express interest in attendance, propose a presentation, or request further information please contact: Malgorzata.sneve@nrpa.no