



# Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development



## Romania Progresses in the Management of the Contaminated Sites

By

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Ministry of Environment and Sustainable  
Development is the governmental structure having  
competences regarding the Environmental issues  
in Romania

- It has in its composition the Soil-Subsoil Directorate.
- The Soil-Subsoil Directorate has in the Contaminated Lands Unit.

Starting with November 2007, two Governmental Decisions were published according to which started the activities of administration of the contaminated sites:

- Decision regarding the investigation and evaluation modalities of pollution of soil and subsoil
- Decision regarding the remediation of the areas where the soil, subsoil, the terrestrial ecosystems were affected.

In the Government Decisions were settled the following definitions that specify gradual activity steps:

- ***Cleaning*** – the totality of the effected workings in order to eliminate totally or partially the pollution and the contaminants, without treatment.
- ***Remediation*** – the totality of the effected workings in order to bring the pollution concentration under the alert level.
- ***Ecological reconstruction*** – the totality of the effected workings in order to bring a site as closest to the natural state.
- ***Geological environment recovery*** – the totality of cleaning, remediation and ecological reconstruction modalities.

Specific elements of the Government Decision regarding the investigation and evaluation of the soil and subsoil pollution:

### **To what it serves:**

- Establishment of a pollution with a potential danger;
- Elaboration of an environmental balance;
- Settlement of the environmental duties;
- Identifying of potential pollution sources;
- Periodically, to observe the evolution in time of the contaminated sites;
- Monitoring of the contaminated sites;
- Accidents to whose results the soil and subsoil were contaminated;
- Stopping of activity, changing of activity or changing of the terrain destination;

## How it is realised?

- by specific geological and pedological methods established by investigator
- minimal compulsory packet of geological/hydro geological, geochemical and geophysical methods

## Who is responsible for these activities?

- The economical operator or the land owner
- The environment competent authority which negotiates with the economical operator or with the land owner;

## Who pays:

- The economical operator or the land owner for the actual or historical pollutions.
- By the state budget or structural funds or cohesion funds for the orphan or abandonee sites.

## With what are the results compared?

- With natural funds and alert threshold or intervention threshold.

## Which is the result?

- A geological report of preliminary and final investigation and evaluation;

# What is the competence of the Environment Authority?

- ✓ Analyses the report;
- ✓ Decides whether there is a significant impact on the human health and environment;
- ✓ Requests the elaboration of the risk assessment;
- ✓ Analyses the risk assessment;
- ✓ Decides whether there is necessary the geological environment recovery and notifies the economical operator or the land owner on the general conditions to be realized the geological environment recovery;

For the practical applying of the Governmental Decision provisions regarding the investigation and evaluation of the soil, subsoil pollution, the following objectives will be realized in this year:

- List of historical, orphan and abandonee contaminated sites and the list of actual contaminated sites (august 2008);
- Technical guide for methodology applying, content of geological support in stages, criteria and indicators of evaluation of pollution (may 2008);

## The Romanian policy essence for the contaminated sites is and will be:

- To investigate and to find all the contaminated sites;
- To evaluate the existing report between soil-subsoil pollution and quality of the groundwater;
- To know the risk assessment;
- To analyze the costs and efficiency of some possible remediation;
- To remediate only what is necessary and how much is necessary to remediate, to spend efficiently.

We had a very important help from the German colleagues in 2006 and 2007. In this period, three seminars for the contaminated sites remediation in the framework of the Twinning project together with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Agency of Contaminated Sites from Saxonia - Anhalt Land took place.

- By finalizing a project in April 2008 financed by the World Bank and elaborated by the Royal Haskoning Netherlands, we will have soon the following:
  - ✓ Proposal of elaboration of the national inventory of contaminated sites;
  - ✓ Proposal of technical guides;
  - ✓ Proposal of National Strategy for the management of the contaminated sites.

It was real important and mostly useful the contact I have had with Common Forum last year in Stockholm:

- we have received many information from the discussions we had during the meeting;
- we have received information concerning the web-sites from where we have downloaded the technical data;
- I had discussions with many from you and I appreciated your experience and your professional levels existing in Europe and especially in other countries;
- We were continuous informed and helped by Common Forum;
- We have received many materials elaborated by other countries. In this way, I want to thank to Mr. Jose Lopez de Velasco for the law of soil and the technical guide.

## How we used your experience?

- We inserted in our Governmental Decisions the principle of negotiation between the environment authority and the beneficiary who pays. I learned about this principle at our last meeting.
- We will use the most of the absorbed novelties to the elaboration of the technical guide.

# What is the next developed collaboration?

- There is a PHARE project for NEPA, REPA's and LEPA's regarding the issues of waste management and contaminated sites.
- One of the project directly concerns the contaminated sites management and it is developed by the Spanish-French team in the Timisoara region (west of Romania)
- There were elaborated the Terms of References for another PHARE project regarding the “Technical assistance for preparation of a strategy and action plan for the rehabilitation of historical polluted sites”;
- It will be organized two seminars, one Government to Government (G2G) in May 2008 and one Business to Business (B2B) in autumn together with Ministry of Environment from Netherlands having as goal the experience exchange and starting of new Romanian-Dutch cooperation in the contaminated sites field.

## What are our needs?

- ✓ All the existing technical – scientific literature;
  - ✓ Experience regarding the risk assessments, management of the projects, methodologies, techniques and equipments for decontamination;
  - ✓ Experience regarding analyze of the financial of economical efficiency (costs for works, activities, projects, etc.).

## What can we offer?

- ✓ Experience for the subsoil investigation, because Romania has a complex geology and a various casuistry of the contaminants;
- ✓ The Romanian school of geology is very good and very well known, able to investigate any situation of contamination and as difficult as it would be;
- ✓ Romania is open for any collaboration.

## How can Romania be integrated in the Common Forum's activities?

- ✓ We don't know exactly;
- ✓ We are looking forward to such occasions.

*Thank you for your attention!*

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