



Call for abstracts for Technical Meeting NICOLE on 4 December 2012 at Solvay in Brussels

MERCURY CONTAMINATED SITES

Mercury may not appear to be a hot topic in the EU. Nevertheless it is listed as a priority hazardous substance being subjected to phase out. In this context, the Council and the European Parliament adopted on 22.10.2008 the regulation on the banning of export and the requirement for the safe storage of metallic mercury (regulation (EC) No 1102/2008). The export ban is in place since 15 March 2011. Mercury uses will only be allowed in strictly controlled cases.

In the last decade and in the years to come many industrial activities using mercury were or will be closed. Those sites will have to be investigated for mercury contaminations and could require further management measures to control health and environmental risks. Although at first glance you may think of chlor-alkali plants, many other industrial activities are dealing / have dealt with mercury compounds like wood impregnation, oil and natural gas production, batteries manufacture and recycling, other manufacturing activities (thermometers, electrical switches, Hg-lamps), mercury based catalysts...

Mercury has properties (liquid metal, surface tension, vapour pressure) that make it unique in the world of contaminants. Try to characterise a site contaminated with metallic mercury... a nightmare.

This technical workshop on mercury contaminated sites will aim at identifying and disseminating state of the art strategies, techniques and technologies for the management of such sites while minimising risk and maximising sustainability.

For the purpose of the workshop, the following topics will be addressed:

- Characterisation, how to deal with a non wetting heavy liquid phase during ground water and soil **sampling** (nugget effect, tendency of droplets to sink into the boring hole, how to assess mercury **speciation** in soil and groundwater matrices?
- Understanding the **fate and behaviour** of the mercury in terms of speciation and mobility
- **Risk assessment**
- **Risk management** measures (containment, remediation...).

This call invites abstracts of papers to be presented at the workshop. Abstracts based on case studies (both technical and non-technical) will be favoured. All results need not to be positive, as failures are as good lesson learning as successes.

The organising committee would greatly appreciate if case studies could be assessed in the frame of the NICOLE sustainability roadmap (see appendix).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors are requested to submit a one-page abstract of the paper they would like to present, together with an outline of the structure of the presentation and short biography. Abstracts on cases should preferably answer the following questions:

1. where is the case situated?
2. which stakeholders (in company and external) have been involved?
3. what issues were/are important?
4. what was/is the most difficult issue to tackle?

5. what issue has been solved in a highly creative or innovative way?
6. what issue would you like to elaborate on in your presentation?
7. from what (stakeholder-) perspective will you present?
8. could the NICOLE roadmap for Sustainable Remediation be usefully applied?
(NB: the roadmap can be found on www.nicole.org)

Abstracts should be sent by May 25th 2012 to the NICOLE Secretariat, email:
marjan.euser@deltares.nl

Abstracts will be considered by the Organising Committee. The authors of abstracts will be notified of acceptance or rejection of their submissions by September 21st 2012 .
Speakers' final abstracts and presentations must be submitted by November 9th 2012.
The workshop will take place on December 4th 2012 in Brussels, Belgium.

The Organising Committee:

Roger Jacquet, Solvay, Belgium (chairman)
Laurent Bakker, TAUW, the Netherlands
Thomas Keijzer, Deltares, the Netherlands
Oliver Phipps, ERM, UK

NICOLE is a network for the stimulation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge about all aspects of industrially contaminated land. Its 120 members of 20 European countries come from industrial companies and trade organisations (problem holders), service providers/ technology developers, universities and independent research organisations (problem solvers) and governmental organisations (policy makers).

The network started in February 1996 as a concerted action under the 4th Framework Programme of the European Community. Since February 1999 NICOLE has been self supporting and is financed by the fees of its members.