

Contaminated Land Management in Flanders

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The contaminated land policy in Flanders

- Triggers
- Status proceeding
- Bottlenecks
- Evolutions in policy
- Conclusions

Introduction

- Flanders in Belgium
- OVAM
- Soil Remediation Decree (1995)
- Soil includes groundwater
- Accredited experts and labs



Triggers

- Investigation duty risk-activities
 - transfer
 - stop
 - periodically
- Register of polluted land (public)



Triggers (2)

- New contamination:
immediate remediation if SRC are exceeded
- Historical contamination:
remediation after priority, if serious risk
- Remediation duty linked to transfer
transfer is possible < remediation, but
“engagement+financial guarantee”
- clean-up criteria: BATNEEC



Status

est. 76.000 potentially con'd sites

> 22.000 sites investigated

8.400: descriptive site invest necessary

> 5.500 descripte SI carried out

2.700 sites: remediation necessary

> 2.000 soil remediation projects

> 1.200 remediation works started

300 remediations finished



Bottlenecks

- Complex contaminations, brownfields
- Remediation duty may be too hard
- Financing certain SME-sectors
- Too strict procedures

Evolutions in policy

- Shorten + “flex” procedures
- Partial investigations and remediations
- Fast procedure for small problems
- Clear out remediation duty
- Management or remediation: choice?
- Procedure safe use excavated soils
- Limit definition “transfer”
- Funds for problem sectors



Conclusions

- A lot has been done since decree
- Market driven
- Very little government money spent
- Legislation needs optimisation
- We're working at it!

