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Normal Response

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1. Please provide the following contact information

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1. Are cleanup goals used when remediating contaminated mining sites?

There are no set up numerical goals, but the remediation of contaminated mining sites must comply with general rules on contaminated land.

2. Is site-specific risk assessment used to clean up mining sites?

Yes

The remediation is led with regard to the final use of the land (industrial, housing, ...) If a pollution is found in an occupied place, the compatibility of the state of the soil with the use will be assessed. A management plan may be needed to restore the compatibility between the use of the site and its state. Due to the quantities of waste held in mining waste storages, their removal isn't possible for physical and economical reasons.

1. Are any Best Management Practices (BMP) or Best Available Technologies (BAT) implemented when treating mining waste, mine tailings and/or mine influenced waters?

The technologies used are quite current technologies, e.g. : - precipitation of metallic substances by a lime treatment - acid water treatment - drainage system to limit the leaching by raining waters. A document describing the best available technologies on the management of mining waste has been published by the European Commission

1. Is mining waste being reused for beneficial purposes?

Yes

It has been done by the past, but it is not encouraged anymore because of the risk of extending the contamination outside the mining sites. For uranium mining sites, the French Government has launched a campaign to detect uranium tailings that have been used by the past in construction materials.

2. Are there any initiatives or practices to encourage locating alternative energy facilities at contaminated or active mining sites?

Yes

There are a few examples of reuses sites in order to produce photovoltaic electricity.

3. Are reuse practices (such as carbon sequestration) and/or ecological revitalization activities implemented at contaminated mining sites (e.g., education centers, historical landmarks, commercial or industrial parks, wildlife refuge, etc.)?

Yes

1. Do you have a regulatory framework(s) or other programs in your country that addresses the cleanup of properties impacted by mining contamination?

Yes

According to the French regulation, the operator is responsible. The articles L163-1 to L163-12 of the mining code ask the operator to send a “closing mine file” to the administration before the end of the mining exploitation. This file presents the measures that will be set up to protect human safety and the environment.

2. What types of enforcement measures and/or programs are available to recover costs from mining companies that caused the contamination?

The article L155-1 of the mining code asks the operator to put bond for the damages he would cause before he starts operating under houses, other exploitations or their neighborhood. Nevertheless, this article was scarcely used and it doesn't represent a financial guarantee. The decree n°2010-1389 of the 12/11/2010 that transposed the European Directive 2006/21/CE on the management of waste from extractive industries created financial guarantees for mines.

3. Is cleanup and reclamation of mined land part of the mine permitting process?

Yes

4. Is “designing for closure and post-closure” actively practiced?

No

Because there is no recent new exploitation application.

5. Is an Environmental Impact Analysis/Statement (EIA/EIS) performed for proposed mining operations?

Yes

The presentation of the closure measures must be joined in the application file (article 6 of the decree n°2006-649 of the 02/06/2006).

1. What are the funding mechanisms used to cleanup abandoned mine/mining impacted areas?

A dedicated Program (post mining remediation program) has been launched for a few years to manage abandoned mines. The program budget is about 30 M€ It finances both the remediation and the surveillance of the sites. The public organization, BRGM, is in charge of the remediation and the surveys of former mine sites.

2. How are these mechanisms funded (e.g., public or mining industry contributions)?

The funds are public.

3. Are there any laws, regulations, and policies and practices setting the approach for environmental financial assurance for mine closure?

No

1. How does the local community participate in mine permitting, design/construction, financial responsibility calculations and the mine closure process?

Mayors and services concerned by the mine are consulted for the permit and the mine closure process (articles 12 and 46 of the decree n°2006-649).

2. Are there any regulations/programs that address/manage social impacts of mining and mine reclamation?

The Program 174 of the Financial law « Energy and post closing mining » addresses social impact of the closures of mines.