

Contaminated Site Assessment under Challenging Environmental Conditions: Policymaking Strategies

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The contaminants at a contaminated soil site are usually a cocktail of chemicals, rather than just one chemical, which adversely affects public and environmental health. Rapidly changing environmental conditions can lead to changes in the bio-availability and accumulation of contaminants. Therefore, of importance is to conduct a thorough site assessment before prescribing any remediation strategy. The United States of America, Australia, and the European Union have developed targeted policies and regulations for tackling contaminated site assessment and remediation. A similar robust policy framework is lacking in most other countries. For example, in India, only less than 500 contaminated sites are listed, out of which < 20 sites have so far been monitored and assessed for remediation measures.

This presentation will highlight the challenges associated with contaminated site monitoring and assessment, for example, factors related to prioritizing contaminants that require elimination from a site. We would discuss possible institutional mechanisms for executing systematic monitoring and assessment strategies. We would conclude the presentation by prescribing reformed policy and regulatory guidelines in order to control soil and groundwater pollution in contaminated sites.