The role of risk assessment in sustainable remediation

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Abstract:
The risk based management of contaminated land is a key policy tool that has been adopted in many countries. The concept of sustainable remediation is now emerging as a new policy driver though as yet the practical implications of this evolving area of policy on the methodology and technology selection for contaminated land remediation are not yet known. In many cases sustainable remediation is considered at the point of remedial options appraisal after the risk assessment has been completed, however there is also the opportunity to integrate sustainability at different stages of the risk assessment process leading to streamlined and consistent decision making.

This paper will examine the role of risk assessment in delivering sustainable remediation and the opportunities for closer integration of these two key disciplines. It will draw on work that two of the authors are doing within NICOLE (Network for Industrially Contaminated land in Europe).