

Waste Not, Want Not!

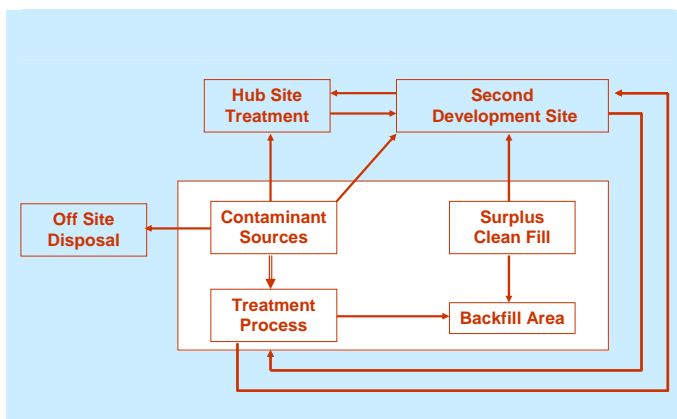
Steve Wallace, NICOLE Chairman, Secondsite Property Holdings Ltd

I'm sure that we would all agree that, all other things being equal, it is better to treat and re-use contaminated soils as opposed to disposing of them to landfill. However, in order to be able to do this a number of factors have to come together.

Obviously a technology has to be available to treat the specific type of contamination in the matrix in which it is present and at the right price. There also has to be a willingness to want to use the more sustainable approach and a regulatory framework that allows, and indeed, encourages, this to be done. Most critical of all, it has to be possible to re-use the treated material or it will still end up in a landfill site and the environmental gains afforded by the recovery operation will be lost.

It must be recognized that we are dealing with a contamination deriving from historic activities, not current ones. In sustainability terms therefore, the environment is best served by:

- Recovery of the soil resource either through destroying contamination or separating it from the matrix;
- Recycling and reusing site won material



(such as the crushing and re-use of concrete, and the use of recovered material on-site);

- Use of secondary fill from off-site sources as opposed to freshly quarried material
- Disposal of residual material, not amenable to treatment, in properly managed landfill

The range of material flows are shown above.

Unfortunately, there is an increasing body of case law (most notably the recent Van de Walle case – ECJ 7 Sept 2004) that, at first sight, appears to reinforce the strict interpretation that all contaminated soils are wastes and that even treated soils remain a waste until they have been re-used. Whilst calling a contaminated soil waste might seem like a trivial matter of labelling and cause no practical difficulties (after all, a responsible land

owner should have no less a regard for the environment, just because soil does or does not have a particular label), in practice, this single factor has significantly reduced the re-use of treated soils in many EU member states. In this context it is important to note that the Waste Framework Directive is forward-looking and not retrospective.

With the waste label comes a raft of legislative requirements and difficulties, many of which are exacerbated when the soil is treated at a location other than the site on which it was excavated. The added administrative burden alone is enough to put many developers off re-using such materials. When this is added to the restrictions on re-use, despite the material being demonstrably fit-for-purpose, and the stigma associated with trying to sell a development

built on 'waste', it is not difficult to see why the sustainable remediation technology industry is unable to fulfil its potential.

Whilst there is clearly a need to have a control mechanism in place for the handling of contaminated soils, a means of disconnecting treated soils from the definition of waste is ultimately required if maximum use of the advances in soil recycling technology is to be made.

It is clear that this need not be an intractable problem. Some member states have been more successful at finding solutions than others. For example, one approach is to deal with soil remediation under specific soils legislation and hence avoid the stigma associated with the term 'waste'.

There is no reason why member states cannot work together to share best practice in this regard. The organizational structures already exist to do this through the Common Forum and NICOLE network to name but two. An opportunity exists to make land remediation even more sustainable, to the benefit of the environment and society, and without the need to invest in multi-million Euro research programmes. All that is needed is a meeting room and a will to make it happen.

Steve Wallace,
steve.wallace@secondsite-property.com

INSIDE

Steering Group / ISG / SPG

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Projects and Meetings

The latest NICOLE events in outline, and news from the various NICOLE projects....pages 3-7

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Patricia de Bruycker

With deep regret and sadness we announce that due to a serious illness our dear colleague and friend Patricia de Bruycker died, much too young, on September 4 this year, leaving behind a husband and two sons.

Patricia stood at the cradle of NICOLE. It was she who arranged bottles of champagne at the first NICOLE Steering Group meeting at Solvay in Belgium early 1996, right after Brussels had given the green light for NICOLE. For many years she enthusiastically contributed to the NICOLE organisation in a highly professional and warm manner.

We will remember Patricia as a very kind, dedicated and



valued member of the NICOLE Steering Group and Industry Group. It was always a pleasure to work with her.

We will truly miss Patricia, but she will always remain in our thoughts and inspire us to continue the good work she did.

Next Workshop Ecological Risk Assessment

NICOLE's next workshop will take place in Stockholm on June 16 to 17, 2005. Although the title of the workshop is not yet decided, it will focus on risk assessment with on ecological risks as a special item. The acceptance of risk-based land management, RBLM, was an early priority of NICOLE. The Steering Group believes that now is the time to investigate the status of risk assessment with respect to the credibility and transparency of the results and to the degree of harmonisation throughout Europe. Because there seem to particular uncertainties in the assessment of ecological risks, the plans are to devote a special section of the workshop to define the state of the art in this area.

The Organising Committee welcomes your ideas about the theme as well as on particular contributions.

Contact: Bertil Grundfelt (bertil@kemakta.se) or Christer Egelstig (christer.egelstig@jm.se).

Consoil '05

Bordeaux, October 2005

The 9th International FZK/TNO Conference on Soil-Water Systems "ConSoil 2005" will be held in Bordeaux, France from 3-7 October 2005, in co-operation with BRGM, France. The ConSoil conferences offer a platform to scientists, companies and authorities to present and exchange news and knowledge on soil-water systems. The Programme Committee invites those who wish to contribute to the conference. To submit an abstract for an oral presentation or a poster. The deadline for submission is 7 December 2004.

For detailed information on ConSoil and the Call for Abstracts: www.consoil.de/consoil/call.html.

www.nicole.org

The NICOLE web site was visited 68,374 times over the past 12 months and 69,806 pages of information were viewed. Did you know that the web site knowledge base has 525 web links related to contaminated land, soil, sediment and water management. It's a great place to try before delving into the major Internet search engines. We also have a gallery with 71 pictures, and a library with 73 publications. We really want to develop the NICOLE knowledge base, so if you are a NICOLE member and have a picture or a technical paper to share, please let us know.

Contact Paul Bardos, paul@r3environmental.co.uk

Useful Web Links

European Commission DG Environment
home page for sustainable development

http://europa.eu.int/comm/sustainable/index_en.htm

European Common Indicators (sustainable
development)

<http://www.sustainable-cities.org/docroot/sustainablecities/indicators/index.htm>

European Databank Sustainable
Development

<http://www.sd-eudb.net/>

European Environment Agency - Data
Service

<http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/>



NICOLE Workshops

Lille October 2003 and Runcorn February 2004

Paul Bardos, r³ environmental technology limited (UK)

Lille workshop

The NICOLE workshop at Lille focused on two main themes: the management of “megasites” and “sustainable land management”. In broad terms the initial description for megasites has been that they are large conurbations of sites where contamination has arisen independently. However, often over time, as contamination has spread, these environmental problems caused by these sites have become inter-linked. The management of such conurbations may therefore be facilitated by taking an overarching approach, rather than trying to deal with each site on an individual basis. Even where contamination problems remain relatively discrete there may be economic, social or environmental advantages in an overall approach. Sustainable land management is a phrase that has been coined by NICOLE to describe a risk-based approach to land management that also takes into account the principles of sustainable development, a balanced environmental, economic and social approach.

These are only initial descriptions. Neither term, megasite nor sustainable land management has yet been explicitly defined, for example in a regulatory or spatial planning context. At this point in time, these are terms that describe a philosophical approach to land management. The purpose of the Lille workshop was twofold: to explore whether a consensus existed to define these terms more closely, and to see how these philosophies might be

translated as more operational approaches.

It is important to have an overall vision when managing the rehabilitation of a megasite, and also to stress the opportunities as well as the problems. The goal must be to achieve a better future.

A “can-do” attitude is very important, with goodwill, foresight and common sense, solutions can be found, even to apparently intractable problems. Problems often seem difficult to solve because as technical people we tend to approach them from a narrow perspective. To use a common modern cliché, looking for solutions to megasites may mean that individuals have to think “out of the box”, especially because the solutions will be a puzzle made up of a large number of pieces.

The importance of involving multiple stakeholders in the development of a vision for managing each megasite was stressed by many. Equally important is the need for “someone” to “own” management of the process and therefore draw together the different strands into a vision and a means of delivering it. Looking at brownfields projects that have been successful (or are at least moving in the right direction), this is the common indicator of success.

A report is available on www.nicole.org.

Runcorn workshop

In 2004 NICOLE also held a project meeting for both NICOLE projects and EC-funded projects with a strong NICOLE connection,



The Rotterdam Megasite

or connection with NICOLE members.

The presentations at the Runcorn meeting focused on highlighting practical solutions underpinned by good science and logic. Whilst it would be unfair to attribute all of the facilitation of these projects to NICOLE, NICOLE members have been involved in the initiation, development and execution of all of them, and the NICOLE connection helps ensure that individual projects deliver meaningful outputs that will be of use to contaminated land problem holders.

NICOLE needs to capture both interim and final information from these projects in a way that maximises its value to NICOLE members, and keeps the work of these projects in the attention and thinking of practitioners who stand to benefit from any new advances. Several EC-funded projects support this goal: EUGRIS (see page 9), SNOWMAN (see page 11), EURODEMO (see page 9), and AQUATERRA (see page 10).

NICOLE’s perspective differs from that of researchers, research funders and

regulators in that it is necessarily much more applied in the sense of technical performance, economic performance and sustainability. In fact this applied approach is one that these other stakeholder groups look to NICOLE to provide. Of specific concern to many NICOLE members is that regulations intended to support environmental improvement have also stifled, limited, or may yet stifle, innovation in developing the range of options available for site management, for example:

- the potential impacts of the Groundwater Daughter Directive on *in situ* groundwater treatments
- limiting the use of removal to landfill, which may make some site redevelopments uneconomic, so stalling brownfield re-use and stimulating Greenfield development).

NICOLE members at this meeting have also commented that a similar event where NICOLE members could present information about their non EC-funded research would be beneficial, perhaps at Consoil ‘05?

NICOLE Workshops in Frankfurt and Sofia

Frankfurt workshop Paul Bardos (UK)

The May 2004 NICOLE workshop at Frankfurt focused on the management of contaminated sediments and industrial sludges. EU soil and water legislation is now moving towards a more integrated approach of contaminated land, water and sediments, a 'system approach'. Sediments are therefore growing in importance to industry. Likewise, many industrial companies have to deal with impoundments at their sites, containing contaminated sludges.

This workshop considered the many challenges to be overcome in managing contaminated sediments and sludges. It focused on recent policy and legislative developments in sediment/sludge management and effective approaches and technologies for mitigation and clean-up. Presentations also addressed liability aspects (what is facing industry?) and technical issues regarding environmental forensics, sediment and sludge characterisation and promising treatment methods

The meeting based its conclusions on two working descriptions:

- Sediments: *eroded or deposited materials existing on bottom of waterways, resulting from natural processes that can be affected by human activities*

- Sludges: *by-product of manufacturing processes or residues in ponds or tanks, usually within footprint of industrial property*

The table below summarises the status quo for the current management of these materials, and likely future changes. There was a general consensus that source reduction (point and diffuse) at the river basin-scale is the best solution in the long-term to problems of sediment contamination, environmentally as well as socio-economically.

A key message is that site owners should try to avoid exceeding permitted discharge levels as such exceedance could nullify legal protection.

A major complication in assigning liabilities is the multiple sources and mixing that occurs as sediments are carried through a river system. "Environmental forensics" such as chemical, radionuclide and paleological (pollen, diatoms) fingerprints offer the possibility of linking contamination to its sources in some cases.

Sediment is an issue for society. Industry is involved but cannot be the main player in the issue as it is in the case of contaminated soil. Historic contamination of sediments is a legacy of the past, for which industry is only partly responsible.

EU approaches to the management of sediment

problems should be risk-based, pragmatic and linked to the principles of sustainable development. Unfortunately, the EU Water Framework Directive ignores risk and the link between water and sediments.

Sofia workshop Ian Heasman, Taylor Woodrow (UK)



The next NICOLE Network Meeting: *Unlocking the Barriers to the Recovery of Soil and the Rehabilitation of Contaminated Land*, takes place in Sofia, Bulgaria on November 15th to 16th 2004.

The meeting aims to give participants an appreciation and understanding of the barriers that can deter soil recovery, and hence successful contaminated land rehabilitation. Within Europe, soil recovery processes have developed rapidly in many areas including risk assessment for decision making, clean up technologies and

legislative frameworks. Nevertheless, most remedial projects still hit complex obstacles at one or more of the feasibility, planning or implementation stages. The workshop will encourage participants to challenge those barriers in order to see ways to overcome them, and thus to unlock the potential of contaminated land.

Novel technological approaches from industrial case studies will be presented, both from Western and Eastern Europe, to illustrate practical instances of problems and successes, differences and common ground. Legislative and financial obstacles will also be addressed. For example, new EU-countries face the challenge of the implementation of EU environmental law, whilst established countries wrestle with the application of waste legislation to contaminated land. Funding can be a key in Eastern Europe, whilst environmental liability transfer through mechanisms such as environmental insurance is becoming more important in Western Europe.

An interactive problem solving session around the 'pentagon' of barriers for the sustainable recovery/re-use of land (technical, legislative, financial, contractual and perceptual) forms part of the workshop programme. The emphasis of the sessions will be identifying problems and sharing solutions.

The workshop will be held in Bulgaria to give participants from Eastern and Western Europe the opportunity to share problems and solutions.

For further information about the conference and booking please contact:

Marjan Euser:
M.Euser@mep.tno.nl

Contemporary Management of Sludges and Sediments

OPTIONS	SLUDGE	SEDIMENT
Removal and Disposal/Relocation	Landfill Directive will make more difficult	Normal approach
Removal and ex-situ treatment	Emerging	Occasional - large volume problems
Containment	OK, until pond is closed	Concerns over permanence
Removal and land-based treatment	Land-farming may be OK if liner is used	Common for dewatering purposes

NICOLE Projects

Multi-barrier Project **L.Bastiaens, L.Diels,** **Vito (Belgium)**

In many cases of soil and groundwater contamination pollutants do not occur singly, but as mixtures. The remediation of mixed pollution is on the whole very difficult because remediation technologies are often specific for a single pollutant or a group of similar pollutants.

In order to define a technology applicable to a large diversity of groundwater pollutants the EU-project MULTIBARRIER was started in 2001 with 8 European partners. It focuses on multifunctional permeable reactive barriers in which different pollutant removal processes (biological and physicochemical processes) are combined to treat *in situ* groundwater containing mixed pollutants.

Different 'MULTIBARRIER' concepts were designed, evaluated and compared using a model pollutant mixture containing PCE, TCE, Zn, As, and BTmX. It was found that several sequential systems could be used. While this approach appears that it will be more economic, it is technically complex. A range of different pollutant removal processes need to be able to function in parallel. However, lab scale experiments have shown that removal of the defined pollutant mixture is possible in mixed barriers.

All the possible combinations were tested at batch and column level. Now a container test system is underway in order to demonstrate the mixed MULTIBARRIER approach on the mentioned groundwater composition.

Ludo Diels
ludo.diels@vito.be

PURE Project **Anje Sinke, TNO** **(Netherlands)**

PURE; Protection of groundwater resources at industrially contaminated sites

The project "protection of groundwater at industrial contaminated sites", PURE, (EU code: EVK1-CT-1999-00030) has been carried out in the 5th Framework program. The roots of the PURE project lay in the NICOLE network. A former chairman, Paolo Cortesi, is the coordinator of the project. In PURE industrial partners of NICOLE took the challenge to work together with service providers and research centres of outstanding skill in the field, to undertake a project aiming to explore innovative solutions for cost-effective and eco-efficient characterisation and remediation of multi-polluted industrial sites. The first task was to develop cost saving techniques, reducing characterisation costs by 20 % and remediation costs by 40% as compared to benchmarked conventional methods.

The project has been a success from different perspectives: applying the developed techniques, cost savings of 20-40 % have been achieved at a demonstration site. Besides, the time reduction for site characterisation was considerable (up to 80%). In total more than 50 oral presentations have been given about different aspects of the results, and over 30 scientific publications have been published. Two patents have been deposited on basis of the PURE results.

Further information on the consortium and the results can be found at www.nicole.org.

Bridging the Gaps **Derk van Ree** **(Netherlands)**

This project executed between September 2002 and June 2004 is a joint study between NICOLE members and the SENSPOL-network to share expertise and identify available sensors and instruments that have a potential to be applied in site characterisation and monitoring of contaminated land.

Three main activities aimed at the identification and implementation of faster, cheaper and better technologies have been performed and reported by the participants. These are:

- SENSPOL Survey of Sensor Capabilities (available on CD)
- Technical support and expertise in two field technical meetings (Seville 2002, Koblenz 2003)
- Field demonstration of sensors for mercury related contaminated land problems at a site in the Netherlands (2004).

Four instrument supplying groups took part demonstrating instruments for on-site measurement of mercury in soil and groundwater. Although some of the instruments can detect more than one parameter efforts were restricted to mercury. For comparison samples were also analysed in the laboratory.

The meeting clearly demonstrates that the instruments can be successfully applied in a rapid site assessment approach with adequate detection limits.

Derk van Ree
Derk.vanRee@GeoDelft.nl

Risk Models Project **Terry Walden, BP** **(USA)**

The ISG-funded a study, begun in 2002, with Arcadis Geraghty & Miller's to critically appraise the human health risk assessment models used in Europe. The work has finished. Ten models were compared for a generic site, where model inputs were standardised as far as possible, and for five case studies, where default inputs were accepted when site-specific information was not available. Models evaluated were: CLEA, JAGG, P20, RBCA Toolkit, RISC, Risc-Human, ROME, SFT 99:06, UMS and Vlier-Humaan.

The overall results were that most of the models gave similar output in the generic case for the pathways: soil ingestion, vegetable ingestion, and groundwater migration. Different algorithms contributed to greater variability for dermal contact and the indoor air pathway, although the underlying cause of the discrepancy is clearly identified. Use of model default exposure parameters can lead to even larger differences, demonstrating the importance of understanding default data, which in some cases is 'hard-wired' in the software, for consistent use.

An extended Executive Summary of the study can be downloaded from the NICOLE website. For the full report, NICOLE members can obtain a free CD from Marjan Euser (non-members are charged 100 Euros). A paper copy is available from Marjan at a cost of 150 Euros.

Terry Walden

S-NA-BTEX Project M. Henssen, Bioclear (Netherlands)

With financial support of the NICOLE network Bioclear, Port of Rotterdam and Shell Global Solutions have recently started a project focussed on the important processes in natural attenuation (NA) of BTEX aromatics. *The Sustainability of Natural Attenuation of Aromatics* (S-NA-BTEX) Project seeks to identify which processes control the NA of BTEX and, to use these in predicting if degradation will last long enough to control or remediate contaminated sites? In other words: is the process sustainable?

The project has three steps:

- Step 1: Collecting latest knowledge on BTEX degradation and integrating new research results;
- Step 2: Performing measurements and/or tests with samples from participant's sites in order to get insight in sustainability of NA processes;
- Step 3: Description of new protocol for sustainability determination, report and knowledge transfer to NICOLE.

Test-work and analyses will be carried out at the sites of the project members. The aim is to produce a protocol as a management tool for decision-making about NA processes and its monitoring. The new protocol will support better understanding and use of cost effective and efficient NA processes.

A first update of results will be given at the next NICOLE-meeting in Bulgaria. Other interested companies are invited to join the project.

E-mail: Maurice Henssen
henssen@bioclear.nl

NICOLE Review T. Heimovaara, Royal Haskoning (NL)

The NICOLE network is nearing its 10 year anniversary and, over this time, contaminated land management has evolved and individual company representatives have joined and left the network.

Even though the network has been a success for the past 10 years, it is important that it continues to support the needs of its members so we now feel the need to re-evaluate the aims of NICOLE by asking the question "What is required in order to make the network as successful in its second decade as it has been in its first?"

The Steering Group has initiated a project which aims to take a close look at the current aims and activities of the network in order to generate new ideas for the future. As the network exists for the benefit of the members, the members of the network should play a major role in this project.

Feedback is requested therefore on the ideas generated within the project and the project needs to benefit from ideas living within the network. Within the coming weeks, all ISG and SPG members of the network will be contacted with a series of questions aimed to realign the NICOLE network for the future, so be prepared!

Matthias Sumann of TAUW, Anja Sinke of TNO-MEP and Timo Heimovaara of Royal Haskoning will carry out the project. What you tell us will be used by the Steering Group to help plan the future course of NICOLE.

E-mail: Timo Heimovaara,
t.heimovaara@royalhaskoning.com

Communications Booklet Lida Schelwald (NL)

NICOLE recognises the need for practical guidance on risk communication in the context of sustainable land management. Experience shows that effective communication can lead to a better quality of solution for all the parties concerned, and its wider acceptance.

Many industrial and service providing companies were willing to share their best practices and communication experiences in relation to contaminated land management. Their case stories have just been compiled, along with the key communication messages they illustrate, into a practical booklet.

"It was quite interesting to collect all the case material for this booklet and interview experienced environmental and communication managers", according to Lida Schelwald, who initiated and drafted the communications booklet. "While doing so, I tried to distil common, basic principles and find the key(s) to successful communication.

"The first thing that struck me was that most companies were quite open about their communication experiences, either good or bad. Being open and honest is also one of the key principles for successful communication. I also discovered that most companies put a lot of effort in their communication process with stakeholders and are usually well equipped to do so. Of course their reputation may be at stake, but the driving force usually lies deeper.

"As the case studies came from all over Europe, from Sweden to Bulgaria, it

became apparent that cultural differences need always be taken into account. What works in one place doesn't necessarily work in another place. Involving and working with local people, who are familiar with the local customs, appears to be a wise strategy.

"In the end it all seems to come down to a few basic communication principles, such as treating people with respect, listening to their concerns, involving them and taking them seriously. Not surprisingly emotions come into play, as soil contamination often affects the main things people care for, like their personal health, the health of their loved ones and the value of their property. So addressing technical issues alone is a strategy that nearly always fails.

"Another basic principle is to do what you promised to do and do it on time. Not obeying this rule greatly jeopardizes an organisation's trustworthiness. But perhaps one of the main communication lessons that I noted from the cases is that pro-activeness pays off. Pro-activeness means not waiting for problems to surface, having a structured communication system in place and building up trust before it is needed. Maintaining good relationships is based on mutual respect and regularly communicating with stakeholders, such as the local communities.

"Of course there is more to communication, than can be described in this brief introduction (or even in the booklet). Nevertheless the cases, for which I owe my thanks to everyone who contributed, cover an interesting range of issues, and I recommend you all to read the booklet!"

E-mail: Lida Schelwald-vd
Kley_lida@schelwald.nl

Industry Subgroup (ISG)

Lida Schelwald, Port of Rotterdam (NL) and Terry Walden, BP (UK)

The number of ISG members remains steady at 25. New members that joined the ISG this year are Cherokee and Dura Vermeer, both active in redeveloping contaminated land, and Umicore, an international metals and materials company.

The ISG is an important opportunity for industry to review EU and Member State developments in policy and regulation, and to contribute their joint experience to consultations. Examples include the latest draft of the Liability Directive and the Soil and Groundwater Directives (the ISG's main concern being the risk-based thinking behind it and mutual compatibility). Furthermore experiences were

and will be shared on local regulatory interpretation of national legislation, such as procedures for risk assessment and clean-up criteria in different countries.

ISG members can use NICOLE, both the whole network and the subgroup as an important tool for information gathering. For example, this year a questionnaire survey on the impact of waste legislation in Europe was collated by one of our UK members (Taylor Woodrow). It showed that the UK is the only EU country where there are major implications from the EU Landfill Directive and waste permitting regulations in terms of landfill closures and cost increases.

This especially affects brownfield housing projects, but also normal remediation practice.

And finally, of course, the ISG has been an enthusiastic contributor (in some cases major contributor) to the various projects of NICOLE, such as those described on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter, as well as contributing directly as peer reviewers for a number of EC Framework 6 programme R&D projects.

For more information about the ISG see our pages at the NICOLE web site or contact:

Lida Schelwald vd Kley,
Secretary, NICOLE ISG, e-mail: LSvdK@schelwald.nl



Service Providers Subgroup (SPG)

Johan de Fraye, MWH (Belgium), Bertil Grundfelt, Kemakta (Sweden) and Elze-Lia Visser-Westerweele (NL)

Since the last publication in NICOLE News the SPG has changed leadership. Thierry Imbert left Tauw and in doing so brought on a new member, Burgéap, from France and his new employer. This career change, however, meant Thierry could no longer carry on as a chair of the SPG. At the latest SPG meeting, during the Frankfurt workshop in May 2004 Bertil Grundfelt of Kemakta in Sweden was elected by the SPG members as the new vice-chair. Johan de Fraye became chair.

The SPG is a vibrant network of local and international consulting companies. SPG members are drawn

from a range of European countries: Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, UK, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Hungary, Finland. This range enables thorough discussions on soil contamination issues with views from many different national perspectives.

A few years ago the SPG started to combine some of its meetings with visits to soil contamination research institutes. Over the last few years Vegas in Stuttgart, CNRSSP in France, TNO in the Netherlands have been visited. At the time of publication the last SPG meeting will have taken place at VITO in Belgium. The idea

is to obtain state of the art information on applied research and have a discussion between researchers and service providers, who are often the first to apply research results.

SPG and ISG are taking the lead in redefining NICOLE. Two of its members hosted the NICOLE Steering Group in August 2004 to brainstorm the future direction of NICOLE. SPG members have taken part in consultations for both the EU Soil Protection Strategy and the Groundwater Directive.

To find out more about the SPG, contact: Elze-Lia Visser-Westerweele, e-mail: visser.vwma@planet.nl



New Jobs in NICOLE

New Steering Group and Secretariat Members

Divyesh Trivedi, BNFL, UK

Has become member of the NICOLE Steering Group this spring.

BNFL has been member of NICOLE since the start of the network, and Divyesh thought that after so many years of membership it would be appropriate to become more actively involved.



Bertil Grundfelt, Kemakta, Sweden

Bertil has been chosen as vice-chair of the NICOLE Service Providers Subgroup.

As a consequence he is now in the NICOLE Steering Group.

Bertil's increased involvement in NICOLE has resulted already in the idea of organising a next NICOLE Network Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, in spring 2005.



Anja Sinke, TNO, the Netherlands

Anja has succeeded Johan van Veen in the NICOLE Secretariat. Johan recently started new tasks within TNO and also thought that after almost 10 years of involvement in NICOLE it would be useful for the network to have fresh blood and new creativity in the Secretariat.

Anja fell 'with her nose in the butter' – a Dutch saying - because as you can read further on Page 12, a new NICOLE strategy is under development and Anja is actively involved in this process.

PS Let Marjan know if you would like to borrow a NICOLE flag for your next event! E-mail Marjan Euser: M.Euser@mep.tno.nl



A Farewell to NICOLE

Terry Walden, BP, USA

All good things must end, and my time in Europe and affiliation with NICOLE is sadly drawing to a close. This summer I have moved back to my home in the States (Cleveland, Ohio), where I will be BP's risk/remediation adviser for the Midwestern States. The NICOLE meeting in Sofia will be my last as chair of the Industrial Sub-Group and hopefully there we will confirm my replacement.

I have spent 8 years in Europe and all 8 years as an active member of NICOLE, beginning with the November 1996 meeting in Nancy. It's been very interesting to watch the evolution of NICOLE over this period. In those early years under Martin Bell and Dale Laidler, there were a very diverse set of participants at the network meetings with many anticipating NICOLE to be a generous source of R&D funding for soil and groundwater issues. By the time Paolo Cortesi and Bill Hafker led the organisation, the networking aspect of NICOLE emerged as its dominant theme. Then, through the energetic effort of Cees Buijs in growing the Service Provider's Group, the 'steady state' mode of NICOLE - as an equal partnership between the ISG and SPG - developed under the direction of Rae Crawford, Karen Cerneaz and now Steve Wallace. And during all this time our secretariat, Marjan Euser, kept everything wonderfully organised and communicated.

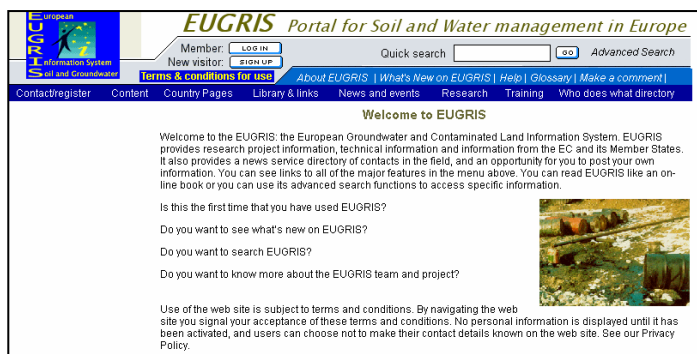
I have certainly benefited from my time spent with NICOLE. Sharing of ideas, understanding existing and emerging legislation, association with EU Framework program leaders, new business and technology contacts, and project initiatives within the ISG, such as the Risk Model Comparison and MNA studies, are key professional attributes of membership. On a personal level, the friendships, social activities and travel to the terrific venues for our meetings (a not-to-be discounted advantage for a non-European) will be things to remember. Finally, I would like to thank Lida Schelwald, our ISG secretary, for her constant support and friendship throughout my tenure. My replacement as chair will be 'in good hands' with Lida at his/her side.

Terry Walden

www.eugris.info

Portal for Soil and Water Management in Europe Goes Online

Maike Hauschild, Umweltbundesamt (Germany)



The European Groundwater and Contaminated Land Information System EUGRIS goes online in October 2004. The gateway offers information like links to resources, links to policy and regulation and links to research projects and their products on a European and national level. In the first step, national information is available for five pilot countries, but the structure allows other countries to join. If you are interested, please contact one of the authors.

The main sections of the site are: **CONTENT**, which outlines key points for contaminated land and water management (serving an education purpose) including

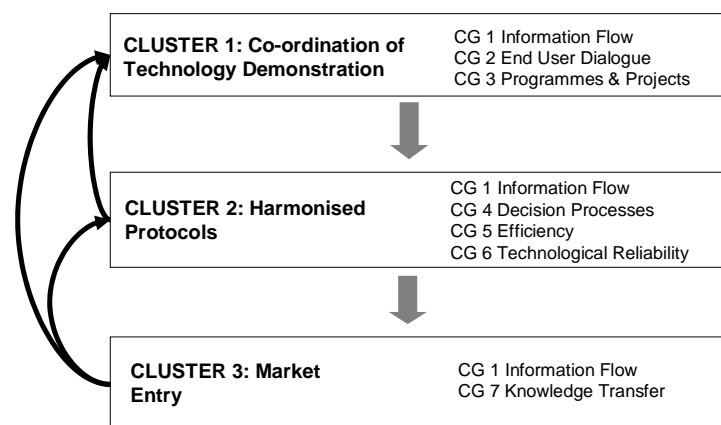
further information and resources (also of interest for experts). **COUNTRY PAGES** are an entry point for country-specific information in the system. **LIBRARY & LINKS** provide a quick means of finding any kind of resource in the system. **NEWS & EVENTS** lists European news and events. **RESEARCH** pages link to a database containing current and past projects and their available outputs. **TRAINING** pages link to a listing of training courses and conferences. The **WHO DOES WHAT DIRECTORY** is a user-driven listing of European experts in contaminated land and groundwater management. A **glossary**, a "what's new"-function and various **help** files will further assist the visitor with using the system. Registered users can submit information into the system, which aspires to act as a "central broker" for information in Europe.

Contact: Maike Hauschild maike.hauschild@uba.de

EURODEMO

European Platform for Demonstration of Efficient Soil and Groundwater Remediation

Gundula Prokop, Umweltbundesamt (Austria)



The Co-ordination Action EURODEMO is funded under the 6th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technology Development and will start its operation by the end of 2004.

EURODEMO aims to be the principal platform concerning technology demonstration in the field of soil and groundwater management in the European Union and aims at achieving more efficiency with regard to funding targeted to technology demonstration, improving the access to results from demonstration projects and establishing harmonised protocols for the documentation of demonstration results and the verification of demonstrated technology.

Key activities will include (i) the co-ordination of scattered co-existing European funding programmes, (ii) the optimisation of demonstration funding by avoiding duplications and overlaps, (iii) the establishment of harmonised protocols for the documentation of demonstration results and for verification of technology efficiency and performance, and (iv) accelerated market entry of demonstrated technologies by broadly advertising the EURODEMO network.

EURODEMO consists of a consortium of 25 partners including public organisations, service providers and research organisations conducting applied research. The working structure of EURODEMO will consist of three thematic clusters. Key output will be: a secretariat for the demonstration of soil and groundwater management technologies, a catalogue of demonstration programmes (web based, public access), and harmonised protocols for proposing and verifying technology performance.

Contact: Gundula Prokop gundula.prokop@umweltbundesamt.at

The European Soil Strategy and the Common Forum on Management of Contaminated Land

Onno Van Sandick, VROM (Netherlands)

Within the NICOLE network Soil policy has been an issue in European policy for some years now, but in the last years the issue has been brought to a higher level. The European Commission document "Towards a European Soil Strategy" has been followed by positive advise of the Council of Environmental ministers the Committee of Regions, the Economic and Social Council and the Europeans parliament.

Furthermore a stakeholder-meeting has been organised and 5 Technical Working Groups (on contamination, erosion, soil organic matter/biodiversity, research and monitoring) have produced impressive

documents/ These have been discussed in a Expert Advisory Forum consisting of representatives of Member states, experts and stakeholders

The European Commission is working now on a strategy document and proposals for sewage sludge, biowaste and soil monitoring to be published mid 2005.

One of the steps in this process is a conference organised in november by the Dutch presidency and DG Environment. Aim of the conference is to give an impulse to the strategy process, bringing together the ideas of the working groups in a policy-oriented group of people. Some 150

participants to the Conference are invited: directors and officials responsible for soil policy in the Member states, representatives of stakeholder organizations, scientists and environmental groups.

The conference will be held in Den Haag-Scheveningen in The Netherlands on november 18 and 19. An inventory study for sensors and instruments has been completed. One of the information sources is the response to questionnaires that have been sent out. Field applications are needed as well to test the usefulness for specific categories. NICOLE is cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Onno Van Sandick,
onno.vansandick@minvrom.nl

Some notes on information sources:

The report of the last Common Forum Meeting (Birmingham, January 2004) can be downloaded from www.eugris.org.

Information on EC soil and water policy and its consultations can be found on the web-site of the Commission: europa.eu.int/comm/environment/soil/index.htm

Reports of the working groups are to be found on the CIRCA-web-site of the EU: www.forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/soil/library

AQUATERRA News

Johannes Barth, University of Tübingen (Germany)

The 2003 edition of NICOLE introduced you to AquaTerra. I am pleased to tell you that the contract has been completed and work began on June 1st 2004.

AquaTerra is one of the first environmental Integrated Projects in the EU Framework Programme 6, and will last for five years. The project hosts a multidisciplinary team of 45 partner organisations in 12 EU countries as well as in Romania, Switzerland and Serbia. Objectives include better understanding of the river-sediment-soil-groundwater system, development of specific tools for environmental

monitoring and integrated modelling of pollution as well as climate and land-use changes. Such an understanding will help to define schemes for long term environmental management.

The official launch meeting of AquaTerra was held at the Eberhardt-Karls University of Tübingen on the 13th and 14th of September 2004. The meeting had about 150 participants and consisted of an official first day with introductions by the European Commission, the city mayor, the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg, the Vice Chancellor of the University

and researchers from Europe and overseas. It had local and regional press coverage by radio, TV and newspapers. The second day consisted of workshops of the sub projects BASIN, FLUX, BIOGEOCHEM, HYDRO, COMPUTE, TREND, MONITOR, INTEGRATOR, & EUPOL. The meeting was a full success in exchange of plans and expertise on environmental issues from top European researchers, environmental protection agencies and small to medium enterprises.

Sampling work has already started in selected European river basins including the

Ebro, Elbe, Meuse, Brévilles and Danube, while analytical and laboratory preparations are underway. The project also produced its first peer-reviewed international publications.



The project is administered by Attempto GmbH, Tübingen. More information about AquaTerra is available from www.eu-aquaterra.de/.

Snowman:

Towards efficient Research in Europe

Johan van Veen, TNO (Netherlands)

The EU is keen to legislate against soil and water pollution and to provide for effective remediation of polluted areas. Such policies must be backed by appropriate scientific knowledge. It is essential that the knowledge development is carried out as efficiently as possible across Europe.

The ERA-NET project, SNOWMAN, is working to coordinate European research on soil and water pollution and contamination, and to encourage transnational research programmes relevant to environmental protection policy. It is being undertaken by a consortium of five partners from France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany and Austria.

SNOWMAN has three main objectives:

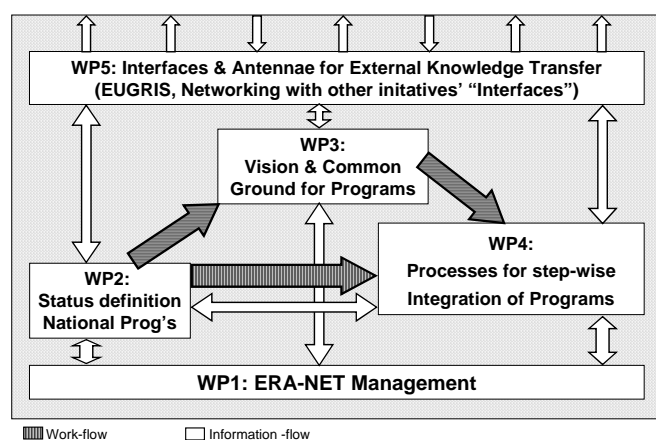
- Compilation of a database of national research programmes relating to soil and groundwater protection.
 - Production of a vision paper outlining a coherent direction for a pan-European research policy on groundwater and soil pollution. It will indicate gaps in knowledge and emphasise areas where countries could usefully work together.
 - Preparation for transnational research programmes. A legal framework will be outlined, current collaborations that could be built upon will be highlighted, and related projects from different countries will be brought into direct contact.
- Overall, SNOWMAN will improve communication between science funding bodies, researchers and

pollution control professionals across Europe. At present, research in one country is not effectively communicated in others, often resulting in unnecessarily expensive remediation. The network has strong links with EUGRIS which provides

information to professionals in the field. All results and information generated by SNOWMAN will be published on EUGRIS.

Johan van Veen,
H.J.vanVeen@mep.tno.nl

SNOWMAN Project Structure



CABERNET:

Interesting Times for Brownfields

Kate Millar, University of Nottingham (UK)

It is interesting times for those working in brownfield regeneration with EU enlargement realised, important EC policy instruments being finalised and discussions of the new European Research Area and 7th Framework Programme well underway. All of these aspects have been high on the CABERNET agenda during 2004. Drawing from the Network's Position Papers, CABERNET has submitted evidence to DG Environment (e.g. Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment) and DG Research (e.g. Framework 7). The role of the Network for

sharing good practice experiences is exemplified by a Workshop held in Latvia (June 2004) with Riga City Council to discuss their Brownfield Strategy and City Development Plan.

Looking forward, topics in the current CABERNET work programme include the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in land management and the impact on brownfield regeneration of the new EC regulations for renewed Structural Funds and instruments.

In terms of events, CABERNET is holding a Plenum Workshop in Sofia on

Wednesday 17 November 2004 as part of a three day Network meeting. A key event in the CABERNET calendar next year is CABERNET 2005: The International Conference on Managing Urban Land to be held on 13-15 April 2005 at the Belfast Waterfront Hall Conference Centre, Belfast, NI, UK. The conference will bring together the wide range of stakeholders involved in managing urban land. See www.cabernet.org.uk/conference2005

Kate Millar,
kate.millar@nottingham.ac.uk.



Challenges of preserving Cultural Heritage: One of the many Art Deco Buildings in Riga's old town

Words of Thanks

NICOLE Steering Group

Terry Walden

After some two years as Chair of the Industry Sub-Group and on the Steering Committee, Terry Walden is leaving NICOLE due to his relocation to America. Terry has been an enthusiastic supporter of NICOLE for many years and the success of the network over this time is in no small part due to the effort that he has put in. As well as his role in the organisation of NICOLE, Terry has contributed to specific projects including the Comparison of Risk Models study - a prime example of the added value that can be gained from NICOLE members working together as a European contaminated land community. The SG wish Terry every success in the future.

Johan van Veen

Although Johan van Veen has tried to hand over his role in NICOLE to Anje Sinke with the minimum of fuss, it ill behoves us as a network to allow him to leave us without a decent farewell, and recognition of the enormous contribution he made to the establishment of NICOLE and its successful operation as a network. Behind the founding members of NICOLE were two people with the energy, vision, enthusiasm - and

determination to turn NICOLE from an idea on the drawing board into a funded project. Those two people were Johan and Dale Laidler of ICI. Of course many others contributed to the planning, proposal writing, contract negotiation and organisation work, but the majority of the *donkey work* (an English expression) was done by Dale and Johan. And it was not easy. It needed a firm but diplomatic person to steer NICOLE forward, and defend NICOLE's vision of applied pragmatism.

At the end of the period of EC funding, when NICOLE had to stand on its own feet, Johan was one of the major architects for NICOLE's new existence. The new model for NICOLE allowed its work to continue into the future, yet only demands a manageable level of commitment from its members. Over the years we have refined this model, but a large part of the original design and subsequent development has been Johan's work. This article is likely to come as something of a surprise to Johan. He could hardly be called unassuming, but equally he has been very modest about his contribution to NICOLE, so now is the time to recognise his work and to thank him

Checking *What's New*

From www.nicole.org

There is now an express way to find out the latest information on www.nicole.org.

First: click on the "What's New" link:



Then select the period you wish to view... SIMPLE!



Johan van Veen

NICOLE News is published by TNO-MEP, The Netherlands. NICOLE Secretariat E-mail m.euser@mep.tno.nl

Editor: Paul Bardos / Printed by TNO, The Netherlands

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