



# NICOLE

Network for Industrially Co-ordinated Sustainable Land Management in Europe

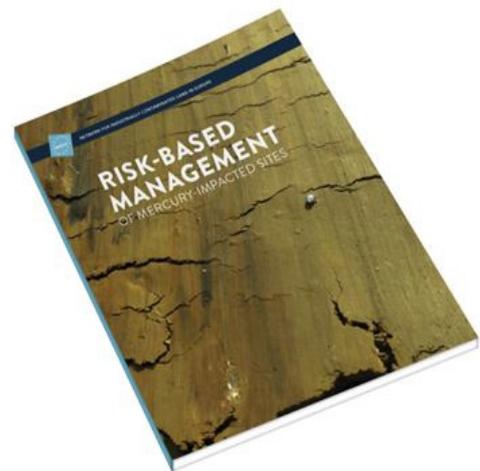
## Risk-based Management of Mercury Impacted Sites, NICOLE Report available now

Mercury (Hg) is listed as a priority hazardous substance and is being subjected to phase-out. Recent legislative texts and government policies restrict the industrial use of Hg in Europe, ban the export of metallic Hg outside of the EU, require safe storage of metallic Hg and will undoubtedly lead to the closure and redevelopment of some industrial operations using Hg.

The European Commission's updated Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF) for the chlor-alkali industry, published in December 2013, states that Hg cells are no longer considered as Best Available Technology (BAT). Consequently, Hg cell technology can no longer be used in EU-based chlor-alkali sites permitted under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) beyond 11th December 2017.

Most of the affected facilities will need to be investigated and management measures may subsequently be required. This concerns not only chlor-alkali plants using the Hg cell process, which are the majority industrial user of Hg in Europe, but also other industrial activities, such as chemical production using Hg catalysts, wood impregnation, precious metals recovery, oil and gas production, and the manufacture and/or recycling of batteries, thermometers and electrical switches.

The NICOLE Mercury Working Group finalised the report Risk-based Management of Mercury Impacted Sites by the end of 2015. It has been available for NICOLE members since. This technical report has been prepared to share case studies and best practice related to the characterisation and management of industrial sites impacted by Mercury (Hg).



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NICOLE was formed in February 1996 for the stimulation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge regarding industrially contaminated land. Its 100 members from 20 European countries come from industry, trade organizations, service providers, technology developers, universities, independent research organizations and governmental organizations. More information about NICOLE can be found at [www.nicole.org](http://www.nicole.org).

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