



NICOLE

Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Europe

First Announcement & Call for Papers

Unconventional contaminants

NICOLE Network Spring Meeting & Workshop

Manchester UK, 24-26 June 2015

The NICOLE network continually strives to develop and promote site specific risk based and cost effective management and remediation of contaminated land, optimized through careful consideration of the environmental, social and economic impacts and benefits in choosing the most appropriate management plan.

The Manchester workshop aims to explore the application of this philosophy in the context of particular groups of contaminants that may be considered less 'mainstream' in terms of the nature of their occurrence or perceived impact on many industrial operations, or because our understanding is in the early stages of development, as we begin to explore these newly identified or 'emerging' contaminants.

We therefore intend to use the Spring workshop in Manchester UK to explore a range of these "Unconventional contaminants", through both oral and/or poster sessions on the following:

- **Pharmaceutical and personal care products** (including dioxane)
- **Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** – otherwise referred to as Perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), including contribution from the NICOLE Emerging Contaminants working group on PFOS.
- **Asbestos** – investigation, risk assessment and novel techniques to remediate asbestos in the ground.
- **Challenging Metals** – for example, chromium 6+, arsenic, molybdenum, antimony and rare earth elements (REEs).
- **Radionuclides and Radioactive substances**, including naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM).

In planning for this workshop, the Organising Committee has approached various specialists from around the world that are known to be actively working in these scientific fields with the aim of raising awareness of current thinking and best practice. The workshop is also intended to help promote cross collaboration between different stakeholders groups (industrial operators, scientific and research institutes and service providers) as to how best to assess, manage and regulate such 'unconventional contaminants' within the environment.

In exploring these topics, we will seek a balance of the different issues, considering the different environmental characteristics and toxicity effects posed by each contaminant group, existing and developing methods for testing in the field and laboratory, the challenges of sampling and risk assessment considering the different environmental media in which they may occur and how best to manage and remediate such contaminants where this is deemed necessary.

As always, we will want to hear about good case studies in which we learn more about new and emerging technologies, innovative approaches and cost effective solutions, and/or where an interesting legal or regulatory interpretation may have been applied. Additionally, we are keen to understand more about what the current uncertainties are that need to be better understood in order to establish an improved and more sustainable approach in managing the liabilities associated with these contaminants groups in future, based on sound scientific knowledge.

The Spring conference is attracting a lot of interest and this First Announcement & Call for Papers is intended to advertise the date, location and theme of the conference to all those interested in attending so that people can plan their diaries accordingly. We also invite all those that have so far agreed to make presentations to submit abstracts of their papers. Of course, the Organising Committee cannot be aware of all the interesting work that is going on, so if on reading this you feel you have a valuable contribution to make, you are also invited to submit an abstract for consideration for inclusion as either an oral or poster presentation. Oral or Poster Presentations focused on case studies will be favoured, particularly those dealing with problems encountered, lessons learned and identified solutions.

Submission Guidelines

Authors are required to submit a one page abstract on the paper they would like to present, together with a brief outline of the structure of the paper (up to 6 bullet points) and a short biography. Abstracts should be submitted to the NICOLE secretariat (Nan.Su@nicole.org) by **27th March 2015** and should indicate whether they are intended as an oral or poster presentation.

Timeline to the Workshop

Abstracts will be considered by the Organising Committee and authors of successful submissions will be notified by **10th April 2015**. Both invited speakers and authors of papers accepted for oral presentation may be asked to modify their Abstracts in order to avoid repetition and to achieve a balanced programme. If it is not possible to accommodate all the oral submissions within the conference programme Authors may be offered the option of a poster presentation. Submissions that are not accepted will also be notified at that time.

A preliminary workshop programme will be published by **24th April 2015**. For invited and selected speakers', final presentations must be submitted by **22nd May 2015**.

The workshop will take place in Manchester UK on **24th to 26th June 2015**.