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Preliminary Discussion on Environmental Remediation Criteria for Areas Contaminated by Natural Radionuclides

In recent years, with the increasingly strict environmental protection requirements, more and more attention has been paid to the environmental remediation of areas contaminated by natural radioactive materials in industry. At present, there are many areas contaminated by past activities (such as mining of associated mines, storage of waste slag, etc.) in China .The contamination levels in these areas exceed the existing requirements for radiation protection and safety, and they pose potential risks to the public and the environment. They must be remediated as soon as possible. However, the current standards for the remediation of natural radioactive contaminated areas is based on the decommissioning for the uranium and tailings, and the standards are very strict. If natural radioactive contaminated areas in the industry are remediated according to the above strict decommissioning criteria, many projects will be difficult to implement from the perspective of cost-benefit. The discussion process of the environmental remediation criteria for the area used to store waste slag is taken as an example to initially discuss the problems based on the existing standards for remediation of radioactively contaminated areas, and aims to provide a reference for the establishment of remediation guidelines for natural radioactively contaminated areas outside the nuclear fuel cycle.

Primary author: Prof. WANG, Yongxian (China Institute for Radiation Protection)

Presenter: Prof. WANG, Yongxian (China Institute for Radiation Protection)

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