

International Conference on the Management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) in Industry



Contribution ID: 214

Type: **Poster**

Approaches for site characterization

The paper provides an overview of the characterization of the sites where NORM has been encountered in the past or is being currently mined and/or processed.

The contents of the paper includes:

- What is site characterization?
- The phases of site characterization: review and assessment of available historical information, specifically geology, seismology and potentially impacted water resources.
- The Conceptual Site Model (CSM), identification of potentially contaminated areas and media.
- Collection of new data, sampling and testing.
- Non-radiological contaminants.
- Data management and relevant regulatory issues.

Several examples of the approach to the characterization of mining and/or processing sites are provided, both for the currently operational facilities (where all or most of the required data is available) and for the 'legacy sites' (where the vast majority of necessary data is not available).

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Session Classification: Session IV - Characterization in Industrial Facilities and in the Environment

Track Classification: NORM Characterization, Measurement, Decontamination