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NORM waste disposal options in the Philippines

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the Philippine experience with respect to managing naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) solid waste produced by the Philippine phosphate, and electricity generating industries using coal and geothermal energy. The three main residues in these NORM industries are phosphogypsum, fly ash/bottom ash and scales respectively, are either reused or they are disposed of. Therefore, the disposal of NORM waste is an important issue considering radiation protection in the field of NORM. The basic principles of radiation protection, e.g. the ALARA principle have to be applied to both workers on a waste disposal area and persons living in the surrounding disposal area. This requires information on the radioactivity of the relevant waste to be disposed and assessments of the radiological consequences. The problems to be solved and practical experience gained in disposal of NORM waste are discussed in this study.

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