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MANAGEMENT OF NORM CONTAMINATED HYDROCARBON WASTES IN GABON

ABSTRACT

In Gabon, the experience of the regulatory authority regarding radiological safety of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) is relatively new. In the oil and gas industry the NORM encountered include scales and sludge formed in the inner surface of production equipment and pipelines. Contaminated soil with NORM as a result of uncontrolled disposal of production water may also be of concern. The main radionuclides involved include Ra-226, Ra-228 and Pb-210. The present paper describes the radiological safety measures put in place for the management of NORM contaminated hydrocarbon wastes from a local operator, from their storage in authorized waste storage installations to their transport for their disposal in a dedicated centre in Europe. In particular, radiological assessment of the storage installations, workplace and individual monitoring are presented.

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