

STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE (NORM) MANAGEMENT FROM THE RARE-EARTH RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THAILAND

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THE RARE-EARTH RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THAILAND

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Abstract: The rare-earth extraction and the U-Th extraction pilot plans from the Rare-earth Research and Development Center at Pathumthani province, Thailand was operated during 1995-2005 after that the activities were no longer in operation. After the big flood occurred in 2011, the pilot plants and areas around were unfortunately contaminated with radioactive materials (NORM). This paper introduces the survey procedures for checking contamination of the rare-earth extraction and the U-Th extraction pilot plans for the further decontamination, and radioactive waste management. The environmental samples, such as sludge, waste water, aquatic plants, and fishes around the site are investigated. The radiological parameters under investigation are gross-alpha, gross-beta, and radionuclides from soil, water, aquatic samples on-site the plants. Radioactivity level compared with the base-line radioactivity level before the operation of the plants (1988-1985) were found relatively high. The results confirmed that the site was contaminated by residual radioactive material. The environmental remediation is need for the safety aspects.

Country or International Organization

THAILAND

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