

Decommissioning of NORM facilities: a practical case

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Abstract

At an industrial site in the port of Ghent near Zelzate, an ammonium phosphate production installation was left in a state of decay after the bankruptcy of the previous owners.

Given the fact that the decommissioning of the site had not been planned in advance, there were significant risks to the environment including contamination pathways to the groundwater, soil and air.

DEC - DEME completely took over the site and undertook a full remediation of the NORM liabilities and redeveloped this brownfield into valuable industrial real estate.

A tailor made method was developed which makes use of acid baths to dissolve the scaling that was present in many components of the installation.

The presentation will focus on the diverse challenges that arise when combining demolition works with NORM decontamination and the necessary precautions that need to be taken to protect workers and the environment from the toxic NORM waste.