

An Environmental Remediation Plan

The remediation of uranium mining sites is an expensive and complex process, involving significant financial, technical and human resources. Typically, a remediation plan includes the following preparatory steps:

- characterisation of sites to evaluate the extent and nature of all problems;
- determination of appropriate remedial actions; and
- preparation of plans for the remedial work all to be completed before actually undertaking the necessary works.

In many cases the legacies that remain from former uranium mining operations have been inventoried, but many details still remain to be clarified before the final remediation objectives can be determined. This will involve a considerable amount of further survey work and data collection, as well as establishing monitoring and surveillance programmes to ascertain if the present situations is stable. This allows to evaluate remediation progress and sustainability in the longer term.

An appropriate institutional infrastructure in each Member State has to be established and made functional. This will need to ensure that each state has in place the necessary legal framework of laws, standards and regulations to enable a regulatory authority to function. Governments will have to demonstrate support for the remediation programmes by ensuring that these regulatory authorities are independently administered and have adequate resources in terms of finance, equipment and staff.