

SAGTA/ Environment Agency collaborative workshop: *Guiding Principles for Land Contamination: Lessons and Approaches for a Second Generation and Beyond* Environment Agency Offices York 26th April 2018:

Aims and Objectives

Since its formation over 22 years ago, SAGTA has continually sought to contribute to the development of good practice guidance that serves the land management sector as a whole. As a group that has comprised Members across a broad range of industrial sectors, SAGTA has always been able to draw on the widest breadth of practical experience in managing industrial land.

Amongst the many now familiar titles it has supported, SAGTA's contributions to the development of the Environment Agency's suite of publications, *Guiding Principles for Land Contamination*, is a notable example. Originally published some 7 years ago, they were hailed as a significant contribution to supporting the implementation of good practice.

That success in creating an effective good practice route map has also found recognition through the efforts of representatives from sectors that were not originally involved in its original development displaying active interest in drawing on the merits of its approach. Notably, participants dealing with land quality issues within the nuclear sector have recently given active consideration to the merits of a similar form of document. This would aim to help identify key direction points to the extensive wealth of protocols and guidance available to that sector, which has to address conventional contaminants in addition to radiological hazards.

For the *Guiding Principles* themselves, the passage of time that has seen good practice continue to evolve has had an ever growing impact on its ability to remain representative and the time has come to consider the merits of an update.

This collaborative SAGTA / Environment Agency workshop now aims to assist all involved in land management to identify the issues that could be incorporated within any second generation of *Guiding Principles*. Drawing on SAGTA's key principle of inviting land interests across the sectors involving those who manage, help implement and regulate it, the aim of this workshop is to:

- Learn from experiences drawn from the use of the original *Guiding Principles*, in particular volume 2 (GPLC2) of that suite
- Going forward, consider:
 - Whether it should be simply updated?
 - Whether it should be extended?
 - *Scope of coverage* (e.g. waters and waste focus as in the current suite, or all relevant receptors and issues?)
 - *Jurisdictions* (e.g. England and Wales only as in the current suite – or wider?)
 - *Regulatory interests* (e.g. focus on EA / NRW regulatory interests or coverage of local authority and other agencies' interests? Whether / how to cover regulatory regimes specific to nuclear sites?)
 - How it may be structured, given there will be common ground as well as specific issues to different sectors

A comprehensive workshop programme is planned consisting of:

- Scene setting
 - The regulator's scene setting perspective of the *Guiding Principles*
 - Aims and achievements
 - Lessons learned to date
 - Ambitions going forward
 - Local authority view on extending the *Guiding Principles* as a key support
 - The current version

- Broadening coverage
- Experiences in use
 - A landholder's perspective
 - Benefits / reservations / watch points
 - Perspectives for deriving added value going forward
 - A practitioner's perspective
 - The *Guiding Principles* in action
 - A practitioner's wish list going forward
- Nuclear sector initiatives - where benefit can be derived
 - Nuclear sector regulation
 - Regulatory expectations
 - Addressing radioactive and non-radioactive contamination, hazards or waste
 - Addressing groundwater impacts and requirements
 - Devolved regulation
 - Land quality management perspectives of the nuclear sector
 - Varying needs from new build to final decommissioning
 - Proportionate and integrated land management
 - Implications for land quality management of potential changes to how sites will be released from nuclear / radioactive substances regulation
 - Case study approach - Providing a steer within the nuclear landholding sector
 - Aims
 - Key inclusions
 - Watch points
- Facilitated Breakout and Feedback
 - Questions / issues – appetite / activation / scope and architecture / QA and archiving etc

As with all SAGTA's workshops, the key objective is one of creating a forum that enables open exchanges to be made with the common purpose of benefitting the land management sector.

SAGTA again looks forward to an opportunity to help facilitate a valuable and positive day in the fashion that it has always championed.