



Sandy Ridge accepts its first delivery of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)

- Tellus is approved to accept solid NORM, which provides a safe and cost-effective solution for clients in Australia’s exclusive economic zone
- Tellus has the internal expertise to manage the entire end to end process for its clients

RELEVANT INDUSTRY SECTORS

Oil and Gas, Mining, Power Generation

CLIENT’S WASTE TYPE

NORM

THE CLIENT CHALLENGE

Safe Disposal of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material(NORM)

Tellus Holding Ltd (Tellus) is pleased to announce that its Sandy Ridge hazardous waste facility in WA has accepted its first delivery of NORM for surface storage prior to disposal and permanent isolation in-cell.

NORM refers to materials containing radionuclides that occur naturally in the environment.

Although the radionuclide content is low in most environments, the processing of material extracted from the earth (e.g. minerals or hydrocarbons) can concentrate the NORM, which in turn poses a significant health hazard from inhalation of dust, exposure to radon daughter products due to radon decay, as well as direct exposure to low levels of radiation. Typical NORM streams include contaminated soils, sludges and scales deposited in processing equipment.

On the regulatory front, an exposure draft of the proposed Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Titles Administration and Other Measures) Bill 2021 has now been released by the Australian Government. It makes the legislative changes necessary to give effect to the enhanced framework for Decommissioning and safe removal of property and restoration of the environment associated with all equipment, infrastructure and wells associated in petroleum activity.

TELLUS SOLUTION

Safe and cost-effective storage and permanent isolation at the Sandy Ridge near surface geological repository

In accepting its first delivery of NORM contaminated soil at Sandy Ridge, Tellus provided an end-to-end solution for its client:

- Tellus experts inspected the waste type to identify, characterise and plan with the client the packaging, permitting and transport requirements;
- NORM contaminated soil was delivered in 1t bulk-bags within sealed shipping containers by road from Perth, using a Tellus audited and approved transport company;
- Pre-delivery safety assessments and waste verification processes were completed and tamper-proof seals were placed on the container doors prior to the truck departing Perth. This ensured security and simplified the waste acceptance process at Sandy Ridge;
- Upon arrival at Sandy Ridge, the delivery containers and vehicle were inspected, and paperwork verified, before an exterior radiation scan of the containers was performed by the Sandy Ridge Radiation Safety Officer;
- Containers were placed in a secure radiation storage yard within the Sandy Ridge facility, accessible only to Radiation Workers, wearing appropriate personal electronic dose monitoring devices (EPD) and passive dose monitoring devices;
- Further external wipe checks were conducted to ensure no leakage from the container during transport;
- Permanent isolation within Cell 1 of the Sandy Ridge facility will take place with WA Government approval later this year by direct placement of the bags containing the waste. Once in place they will be surrounded and covered with a mixture of kaolin clay and compatible materials to prevent the release and migration of radionuclides from the disposal area;
- Tellus will then issue a Tellus Permanent Isolation Certificate (Tellus PIC™), which will give the client positive assurance to derecognize liabilities under AABS137

Permanent isolation of NORM waste at our Sandy Ridge geological repository is a best practice solution and we believe is the safest place for this form of waste in Australia. Our first delivery of NORM waste to Sandy Ridge is a further step in achieving our mission of cleaning up Australia of hazardous waste and, by managing the process end-to-end, further builds our credibility as a trusted service provider in the marketplace.

Tellus CEO, Nate Smith