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MODELS AND LESSONS FOR DEVELOPING A CONTAMINATED SITE PROGRAM: AN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

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Abstract

This article contains a brief overview and highlights from two recent World Bank publications: one dealing with the development of a contaminated site program in low and middle income countries, and the second describing the alternatives available for financing the remediation and redevelopment of contaminated sites. The first report (1) provides a description of the various policy, legislative, regulatory, and implementation options for creating such a program (derived from a review of contaminated site programs in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia) and (2) suggests steps in developing a management plan for development of such a program. The second publication reviews established and emerging financing mechanisms for contaminated site clean-up and outlines the strengths and challenges of each based on the experiences of several countries.

Highlights

- Public health and environmental problems from contaminated sites are unavoidable results of industrial and commercial activities as well as new economic and urban development in many countries.
- While several foundational principles are common across countries with contaminated site programs, considerable flexibility is available to countries considering creating such a program in terms of legislation, financing, regulation, and implementation.
- The intersection of urban redevelopment and necessary contaminated site clean-up presents opportunities for innovative financing of site remediation.
- Five established financing mechanisms and several emerging approaches are used by governments and the private sector to fund the remediation of contaminated sites.
- While the financing approaches are largely implemented at the local, municipal, or state level, each approach requires tax, banking and finance infrastructure supported or defined at the national level—often consistent with existing practice in real estate, banking, and municipal finance.

Key Words Contaminated sites, international, policy, legislation, financing

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