

CONTAMINATED LAND REHABILITATION



The National Environmental Management Act: Waste Act, 2008 (ACT No. 59 of 2008) calls for the development of a register of contaminated land. The Minister will identify, by notice in the government gazette, investigation areas:

Land on which high-risk activities have taken place that are likely to have resulted in land contamination.

Land that the Minister on reasonable grounds believes to be contaminated.

Once identified as contaminated, no person may transfer ownership of the contaminated land without notifying the prospective buyer of the land and, in the case of a remediation site, without notifying the Minister and complying with any conditions that have been specified by the Minister.



This places a strong onus on land owners to ensure that land owned by them is not considered contaminated. The law is specifically retrospective and has no period of prescription, implying that even if the ownership of land is transferred, the legal and financial liability of any contamination and/or necessary remediation remains with the original owner and cannot be transferred unless comprehensively identified, detailed and included in the sale contract. The Minister may still veto any sale agreement should he or she deem it necessary for the protection of the environment and/or if any of the conditions stipulated in a remediation order have not been met.



New regulations which are being promulgated do, however, detail the process to be followed for the remediation of land that is contaminated with an emphasis on reaching closure. Interwaste have been involved in the development of these new regulations and are intimate with the procedures that need to be followed in order to achieve a clean bill of health for any given premises .



In addition, we have extensive experience in remediation technologies from basic excavate and remove strategies through to in-situ treatments such as bioremediation, phytoremediation, physico-chemical treatment, thermal processes etc. We pride ourselves on developing the most environmentally sound, cost effective option tailor-made to suit each and every site. This coupled with our intimate understanding of the legislative requirements ensures our clients an efficient turn-key solution to contaminated land issues that they may face.



Earth2Earth product is used extensively by the Interwaste landfill division as an organic layer in the remediation of polluted land and the rehabilitation of de-commissioned landfill facilities involving phytoremediation (the treatment of environmental problems through the use of plants). Incorporation of the product conditions the soil structure, reduces compaction, aids drainage and improves water holding capacity. The material contains natural micro and macro nutrients and is rich in beneficial soil microbes which speed the rehabilitation process, increasing the earthworm population and promoting the growth of new vegetation.



For further information on our wide range of products and services or for details on our operational centres throughout southern Africa please contact Head Office.

e-mail: info@interwaste.co.za • www.interwaste.co.za

National call centre: 0860 WASTE 0 • Tel: +27 011 792 9330 • Fax: +27 011 792 8998 • Private Bag X23 Northriding 2162 Republic of South Africa

