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17 September 2009

Dear Consultee,

### **Consultation on a Framework for Assessing the Sustainability of Land and Groundwater Remediation**

1. I am writing to invite your views on the final draft framework document for managing land and groundwater contamination in a manner compatible with sustainable development principles. This document has been developed by the Sustainable Remediation Forum – UK Steering Group under the co-ordination of CL:AIRE and with funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). It is a culmination of 18 months work and has been subject to wide remediation industry and regulation consultation through a series of “Open Forums” where in excess of 40 people attended each forum meeting.
2. The following pdf documents relating to this consultation may be found on the CL:AIRE website [www.claire.co.uk/surfuk](http://www.claire.co.uk/surfuk) and are also attached to this email:
  - Consultation letter
  - Framework document
3. The draft framework document has recently been reviewed by a number of key organisations including Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Environment Agency; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Welsh Assembly Government and Communities and Local Government. We wish the consultation to be as inclusive a process as possible, so please feel free to forward this consultation onto others who you think may wish to participate in this consultation.
4. We welcome your views and comments on this piece of work. This is solely an electronic consultation through CL:AIRE’s network of contacts and those who had indicated an interest in the SuRF-UK project.

## What consultees are invited to comment on?

1. We would welcome all constructive technical comments about the contents of this framework.
2. We would also like your views on the consistency and presentation of the information in the document, in particular any places where you feel the content is not adequately communicated.
3. Do you feel that Appendix F should be included in this document or should be a standalone expanded document?
4. The current SuRF-UK mission statement states that the framework should “embed balanced decision making” (see below):

***To develop a framework in order to embed balanced decision making in the selection of the remediation strategy to address land contamination as an integral part of sustainable development.***

However there has been discussion that it should read “embed optimal decision making” (see below):

***To develop a framework in order to embed optimal decision making in the selection of the remediation strategy to address land contamination as an integral part of sustainable development.***

## Do you have a strong view either way?

5. Now the framework document is nearing completion, we would welcome your views on what you feel should be the next steps and the order of priority. From previous open meetings and steering group discussions we have concluded the next steps needed are:
  - Case Studies/Practical implementation
  - Development of indicators to measure sustainability
  - Working with the planning community to ensure that there is a closer understanding of sustainable remediation
6. We would also like to hear whether you would be interested in staying involved in the Sustainable Remediation Forum?

## Responses

7. Please send your responses by email to: [nicola.harries@claire.co.uk](mailto:nicola.harries@claire.co.uk)  
Alternatively, responses can be faxed back on 0207 258 5322 marked for Nicola Harries attention or sent by post to:

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Responses should be received by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**.

A summary of responses will also be made available on the CL:AIRE website [www.claire.co.uk](http://www.claire.co.uk) in due course.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely,

**Nicola Harries**  
**CL:AIRE**