



Feasibility study concerning remediation and rehabilitation of industrial polluted lands on the Absheron Peninsula, Republic of Azerbaijan

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ECOREM is carrying out a feasibility study focused on the remediation and rehabilitation of industrial polluted lands, located on the Absheron Peninsula (Republic of Azerbaijan), on behalf of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR). The objective of this study is to support SOCAR with specific technologies and capacity building for environmental remediation works on various sectors of the Peninsula. As an independent consultancy company, ECOREM provides sustainable and quality advice, seeking the balance to the interests of the client and the environment in the broadest sense of the word.

Within this study, it is important to underline that extraction activities in the country have been going on for more than a century. Given that the age of the environmental problems is equal to the history of the oil production, it is nearly impossible to point out the responsibilities of the various companies or to define the exact activities that occurred on a particular location. From the data gathered so far, more than 3600 ha of oil contaminated area are known in Baku and the Absheron Peninsula.

Within this feasibility study, ECOREM will advise SOCAR on suitable and best available remediation technologies to apply on prior contaminated areas. According to the Environmental Policy of the Company, SOCAR would like to act in priority on the numerous contaminated lands of the Absheron Peninsula.

Through the exploitation of the extensive GIS database provided by SOCAR, the oil contaminated sites will be examined in details in order to determine the most sensitive areas, on which remediation works or monitoring should be implemented in priority. To locate these sites, ECOREM will provide SOCAR with technical support in order to conduct risk analysis, remediation and monitoring of soil and/or groundwater oil pollutions. According to these results, practical solutions will be proposed concerning the possible reuse and management of contaminated soils and hazardous wastes in the local area and industrial sites where a known risk (for health or ecosystems) is demonstrated. Various aspects are being considered to prioritize needed actions. The client will be informed on the existing remediation technologies and their applicability on the concerned lands, not only taking into account the pollution extent and local geology, but also the operation costs, and existing technical means of SOCAR and the country. With this knowledge as a starting point, ECOREM p.l.c. will strive to offer the most recent, innovative and customized solutions to advise SOCAR with the best available techniques for oil-contaminated land remediation and rehabilitation, in order to reduce the environmental externalities associated with the extraction activities.

As a final aspect of this study, ECOREM will help SOCAR with the further development of their Strategic Action Plan for remediation and monitoring. Specific remediation measures will be defined in a realistic time schedule. Each and every stage of the proposed remediation technologies will be implemented in a realistic plan that needs to be technically and economically feasible for SOCAR.