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### Jarðvegsmengun - Áskoranir á Íslandi -

# Contaminated Land – presentation overview

- Iceland's perspective, current status and where we are heading
- Vapour intrusion remediation case study in Iceland
- FUMÍS Professional Association on Contaminated Land in Iceland

What causes contamination and results in contaminated land?



What causes contamination and results in contaminated land?

Naturally occurring

Contamination

Anthropogenic influences; intended or accidental Natural disasters: Floods, Eruptions, Avalanches, Wildfires

Natural geogenic sources: Geological and pedological processes High naturally occurring background concentrations

> Past and present industrial use Insufficient/improper pollution prevention and controls

Leaking underground storage tanks Manufacturing National defence activities Aviation Fires Waste disposal Illegal dumping

Pesticide use and fertiliser application

Depending on the infrastructure that is affected, mix of contamination can occur

For example organic contaminants (e.g. PAH), Heavy metals, Petroleum products

Heavy metals, Asbestos, Radionuclides

Heavy metals, Petroleum products, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Pesticides (fungicides, herbicides, insecticides)

### Contaminated Land in Iceland – Main challenges

Lack of statutory requirements for professional work processes Lack of enforcement for regulations that are in place



Some background values higher than maximum guideline values for certain land use (e.g., vanadium and nickel)



Available equipment & facilities

Availability of Icelandic guideline values



Travel distances, both within Iceland and to other countries

For fieldwork For laboratory analyses

No soil remediation/management facilities

**Certified laboratories** 

Remote field sites

Access to remediation options



Inclement weather

Limited time for field work

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### Iceland – laws, regulations & standards

- Regulation on contaminated soil no. 1400/2020
  - Includes maximum values for certain contaminants based on land use
- Building regulation no. 112/2012
  - Article 15.1.2 Contaminated construction site
- Icelandic Standards (IST) the national standards body of Iceland
  - ISO 18400 Soil quality Sampling
  - ÍST EN ISO 21365:2020 Soil quality Conceptual site models for potentially contaminated sites



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### Iceland – other guidance and recent developments

The Environment Agency of Iceland

Operates under the direction of the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources. Its role is to promote the protection as well as sustainable use of Iceland's natural resources, as well as public welfare by helping to ensure a healthy environment, and safe consumer goods.

- Reference limits for contaminated soil Guidelines of the Environment Agency (2023)
- Reuse of soil waste in fills Guidelines of the Environment Agency (2024)
- Database for contaminated land <u>Umhverfisstofnun | Mengaður jarðvegur (ust.is)</u>





Soil is a vital non-renewable resource

Soil Remediation in Iceland

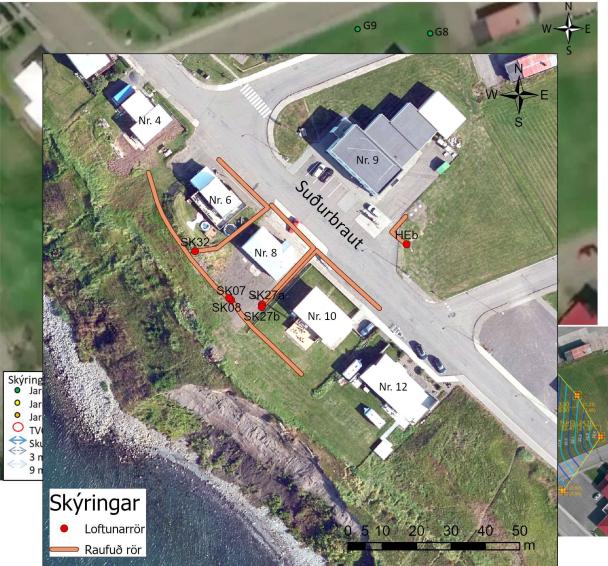
- Common clean up methods for contaminated soil in Iceland have been "dig and dump"
  - Contaminated soil taken to landfill, often long distances away from its origin
  - Followed by backfilling with clean soil
- > Only moves the problem and does not solve it
- Sustainable Remediation Preferred Methods

### Vapour Intrusion Case study - N1 Petrol Station in

Hofsós, Iceland

- Petroleum odour
  - First complaints of odour from drains was received by N1 during autumn 2019
  - Odour also detected indoors in two buildings near the petrol bowsers





### Soil sampling & \*\*\*\*\* Remediation Action Plan

June 2021 :

• Soil sampling from test pits to delineate the contamination

January 2022:

- <u>Remediation</u>
  - Vapour intrusion mitigation methods
    - Sub-slab active vapour extraction
    - Ventilation in buildings
    - Sealing preferential pathways through floor slabs
  - Clean-up
    - Soil vapour extraction & biodegradation
    - Removal of contaminated soil
  - More detailed investigation
- July 2022, ongoing:
  - VOC monitoring

#### Main challenges

- Authorities' initial lack of knowledge and understanding
  - Local health authorities
  - Environment Agency
- Community engagement
- Distance from Reykjavík
- Available equipment in Iceland
- Lack of suitable waste facilities for contaminated soil
- Unfamiliarity and inexperience with different remediation methods
  - Difficulty accepting that "dig & dump" was not the most feasible option









### Main challenges

• Daylight hours very short – approx. 4.5 h







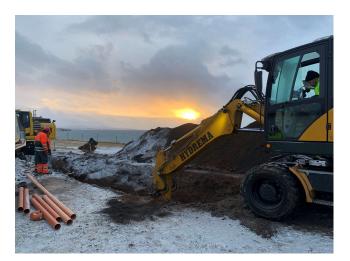




### Main challenges

- Icelandic winter weather
  - Frequent snow blizzards!
  - Freeze-thaw











## Fagfélag um mengun á Íslandi

Stofnað 12. febrúar 2024 Vefsíða <u>FUMÍS</u> <u>FUMÍS á Facebook</u>

Hver erum við? Af hverju erum við hér? 🌿







