



PROJECTS

CONTAMINATED LAND & GROUNDWATER

Contam14

WA BASED MINER

Investigation of former solvent extraction mineral processing plant

An initial appraisal of land contamination associated with a former solvent extraction mineral processing plant was undertaken at an operational minesite.



The extraction process used an hydrofluoric acid digest, with tantalum and niobium selectively stripped using an organic solvent, MIBK. Acidic waste effluent was neutralised with lime prior to discharge to a natural wetland. The plant was decommissioned in 1989.

The study identified potential migration pathways to site workers, surface water and groundwater.

Recommendations were made for further investigation of the site.

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