

Soil and Groundwater Remediation Processes and Technology in Taiwan

Based on the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act (the Act), local environmental authorities can take immediate measures to enact site investigation and pollution verification once a site (the site) is considered one of high potential for soil and groundwater contamination. If illegal release, injection, or disposal of contaminants are found, the authority shall take emergency actions to prevent contaminants from spreading. The authority shall investigate the site so that remediation can be carried out, and after the pollution source is verified and the contaminant concentrations meet regulated standards, the authority shall enlist the site as a pollution control site.

Before the site is enlisted as a pollution remediation site, the authority can issue an order to reinforce a pollution control plan prepared by the polluter after such a plan is reviewed by the authority. If the contaminant concentration decreases to meet the regulated standard after the pollution control action is fully finished, the polluter can issue a request for the site to be delisted.

Before the delisting, if the 2 conditions listed below exist, the site is still considered to be listed as a remediation site:

1. The potential impact value for the contaminated site exceeds 1,200.
2. Other conditions that are regulated by the EPA.

After the site is enlisted as a remediation site, the polluter is asked to perform remedial investigations to verify the intensity and area of the contamination. The polluter will design a remediation plan based on the investigation results. The remediation plan will be carried out by the polluter after review. After the remediation work is finished, the report on the remediation results will be reviewed. If the site is entitled to be delisted, the local environment authority or the EPA shall conduct the delisting process.

The factors affecting remediation technology selection in Taiwan include characteristics of the hydrogeological environment, physical and chemical

properties of contaminants, time limits imposed by environmental authorities, and financial resources.

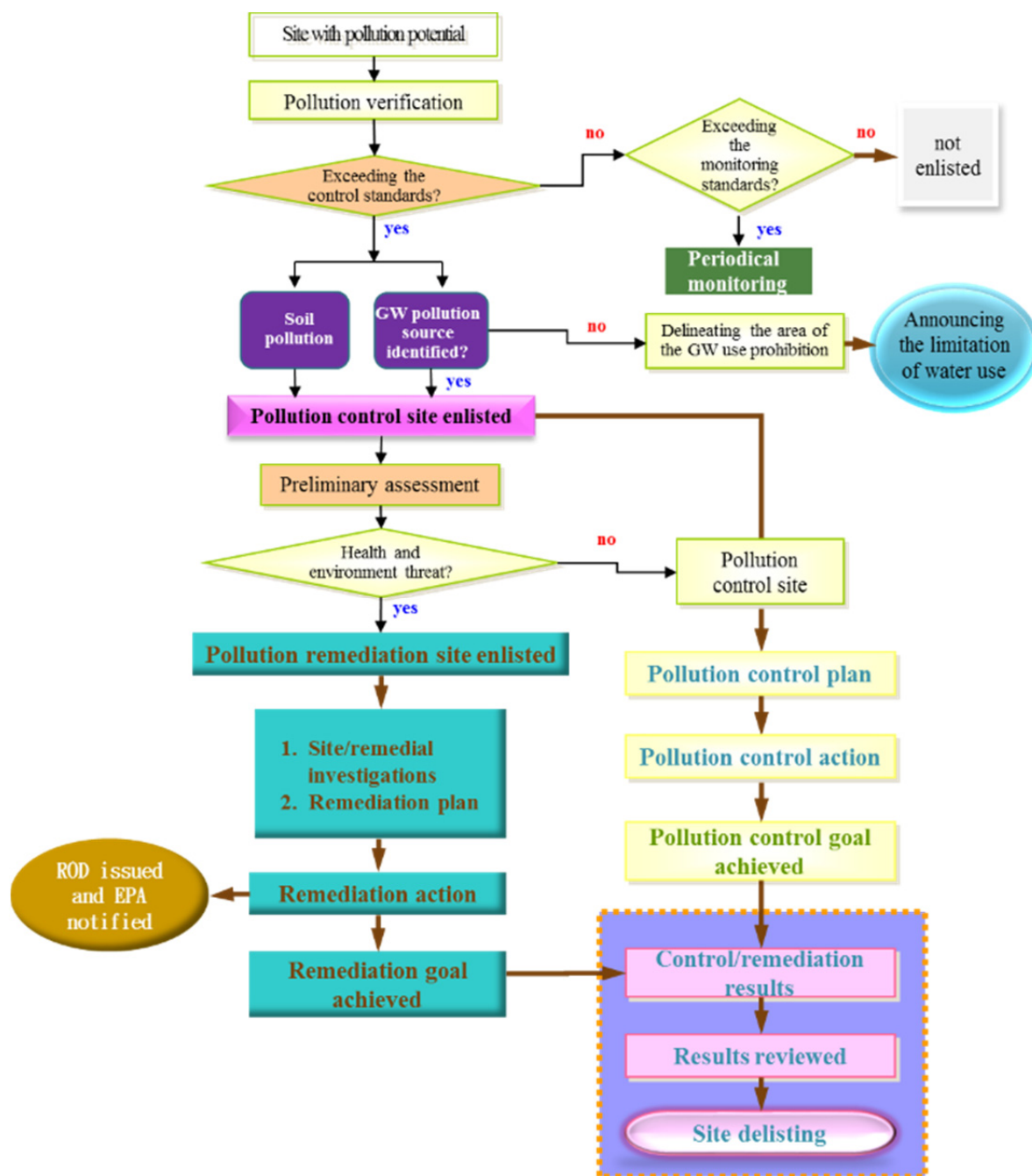


Figure 1 Process for Soil and Groundwater Remediation in Taiwan