



1 For the sustainable management of natural resources and the surface and subsurface domains

BRGM is a French Public Institution responsible for mobilizing the Earth Sciences in the sustainable management of natural resources and the subsurface domain.

It contributes advice and expert assessments to the Government and its decentralized departments, to local authorities and to national agencies and other public bodies for defining and implementing their policies. It also aids companies that contribute to these policies.

BRGM's research and development programmes support innovation and work towards advancing the Earth Sciences in strategic areas, both nationally and internationally.

Based on the needs that governed its creation in 1959, BRGM is active in three fundamental areas: geological mapping and modelling, groundwater, management of mineral resources.

Faced with the increase in environmental concerns, BRGM has progressively expanded its activities in two other areas: geological risks and hazards, contaminated environments and waste.

Finally, among the specializations that BRGM uses in the context of its studies and that it also offers to decision-makers, are: information and data management systems, mineral characterizations and water and soil analysis, ore and waste processing methods.

Each of these areas benefits from innovative tools and methodologies developed through BRGM's R&D programmes.

The research programmes are focused on understanding the complex processes specific to the Earth Science field and are run from five research laboratories: Physico-chemistry of mineral and organic matter., Hydrogeology, Geophysics, Geomorphology and remote sensing, Geochemistry and Geology.

BRGM, with its Scientific and Technical Centre in Orléans and a staff of almost 900, is present in all the Regions of France through its network of Regional Geological Surveys. Active for many years in more than 40 countries throughout the world, BRGM's teams operate at all latitudes and place their expertise at the disposal of Governments, international financing organizations, etc.

2 Capacity of BRGM to meet the objectives of the project

Within about 40 years activities devoted to characterisation and processing of minerals, soil, water, waste and effluents, BRGM has developed methodologies and software to determine:

- contaminated sites evaluations
- risk management
- BRGM is charge of the management the French national inventory of abandoned contaminated sites and of the public dissemination of the information via the database of contaminated sites BASIAS (<http://infoterre2.brgm.fr/Basias>).
- BRGM is member of numerous national and international commissions on contaminated land assessment and remediation technologies (i.e. CLARINET, NICOLE networks, ...). BRGM experts are member of Steering Group for the European research project CLARINET (Contaminated Land Risk Network) where it is particularly concerned with water protection work..

On the process development side, the mineral processing department runs laboratories, development teams and an industrial pilot plant. This capacity was originally designed for the needs of ore and industrial mineral beneficiation development. It was adapted to the needs of modern biotechnology, and biological ore beneficiation techniques are currently developed there. It is also operated for environment-linked tasks, from waste recycling technology to soil or sludge characterisation or decontamination process development.