

SC 6: Natural resource damage assessment in Europe under the Environmental Liabilities Directive with case studies

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Abstract

The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) (ELD) of the European Parliament and Council entered into force on 30 April 2004. The ELD aims to establish a framework whereby environmental damage would be prevented or remedied. The Commission's framework is, in large part, based on the "Natural Resource Damage Assessment" (NRDA) procedures and precedents that have been employed in the U.S. since the mid-1980s. The short course will provide participants with an overview of the ELD and NRDA procedures, methods, and examples of ELD type damages that have occurred in the E.U., and to discuss approaches to evaluating potential environmental impacts and application of restoration-based compensation approaches in Europe. The course will include a presentation of the history of the ELD, NRDA in the U.S., will describe methods to determine and quantify environmental injuries including use of eco-toxicology, and will describe methods to calculate damages, including alternative approaches to developing restoration-based measures of compensation. The course will also describe update to the ELD since initial development and country experience. Case study examples of NRDA's (including both hazardous waste sites and oil/chemical spills) will be presented to illustrate methods and outcomes.

Course objectives

The objective of this short course is to provide participants with an overview of the ELD, application of NRDA procedures, scientific assessment methods, and discuss application of restoration-based compensation approaches to environmental damage assessment in Europe.

Course level

Introductory - Intermediate