

Fate and Effects of Metals: Regulatory and Risk Assessment Perspective

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May 9, 14:20 - 16:00, Copper Hall

Regulations in Europe as REACH, CLP and WFD have been a trigger during the last 15 years of research on hazards and risks of metals in the environment. This has resulted in the development of new approaches to reduce the uncertainty associated with estimates of metal fate and toxicity in soils, sediments and aquatic environments (e.g. bio-availability models, fate models). The application of these significant advances in science and modeling of metals in aquatic and terrestrial environments can contribute to pollution prevention, better regulations, improved environmental quality setting and improved risk management decisions. More recently, the focus of research on metals has expanded to assessment of mixture toxicity, prediction of toxicity in tropical environments, bioaccessibility in humans. This session will review, through case studies, the significant advances in the science related to metals in the context of risk assessment and regulatory initiatives.