

Phytoremediation: Some Unique Challenges in Obtaining Regulatory Approval. (S11-rog132911-Oral)

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Abstract:

Over the last decade phytotechnologies have attracted a high level of interest within governmental and academic research communities. Over 3,000 phyto-themed technical papers have been published recently, far surpassing any other emerging technology over this period. Even as phytotechnologies continue to show significant promise in research and field applications, many within the regulatory community remain reluctant to embrace it as a viable remedial option. As a result, the deployment of real-world phyto-applications lags significantly behind where a remedial technology with this level of technical promise and supporting research might otherwise be. This paper will explore several case histories of regulatory approvals (and non-approvals) of phytoremediation, exploring the roots of key issues and misconceptions commonly encountered in the regulatory approval processes. Suggestions will be presented for how to properly increase the deployment of phytotechnologies to a level commensurate with its increasingly well-demonstrated technical ability.

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