Remediation effects of the WISMUT project to ground and surface waters in the Elbe watershed: A synopsis.

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The mitigation of environmental damages to ground and surface water resources resulting from four decades of uranium mining in Saxony and Thuringia is one of the outstanding goals of the Wismut remediation project. The Wismut program comprises the full scope of environmental remediation activities, including waste rock remediation, stabilization of tailings management facilities, area clean-up, mine flooding and water treatment.

After 18 years of remediation tremendous achievements have been made in terms of abating the impact of the legacy of uranium mining and milling to water resources located downstream of the individual sites within the Elbe watershed.

The paper will analyse the effects of the environmental remediation activities between 1990 and 2008 related to ground and surface waters for WISMUT's mining and milling sites reached so far, but will, however, also highlight the remaining challenges in the field of long term water management.