

## **Contaminated Land News – October 1999**

On both a personal and a professional note it is with great sadness that I report the death from cancer of Professor Colin Ferguson. Professor Ferguson has had a major impact on contaminated land policy and practice over the past decade. Through his research work for the DETR and Environment Agency he took sampling strategies past the sterile approach of DD 175 and into the realm of design intelligent and statistically robust sampling patterns. Much of his work for the DETR remains unpublished - although that could change at any time. The Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment model was developed to help derive new guideline values for soil contamination with respect to human health. It was the first probabilistic model and encouraged others around the world to adopt similar approaches. His work in European Concerted Actions CARACAS and CLARINET won him the friendship and respect of leading scientific and policy advisors around the world. But it is for the daily inspiration that he gave those around him that he will be most sorely missed.

The NICOLE web site ([www.nicole.org](http://www.nicole.org)), run by Paul Bardos of r3, has added several new features to encourage more interaction with its visitors. One facility of great interest is a DIY way of posting classified adverts. You simply register with the site (it's free) and then type in the details of what it is you want or are offering or announcing - and it's all done on line.

CLAIRE (Contaminated Land - Applications in Real Environments ) was formally launched on 21 September with a remit to encourage the development of new remediation technologies in the UK by providing, with help from industry, a network of sites for demonstrations of remediation technologies and to disseminate information about such technologies in easily digested form. CLAIRE should help educate land owners, regulators and consultants about the broad range of options available to help clean-up the contaminated land resource we have and thereby contribute to more sustainable contaminated land management.

Dr Paul Nathanail