

## COMMITMENT: ENVIRONMENT

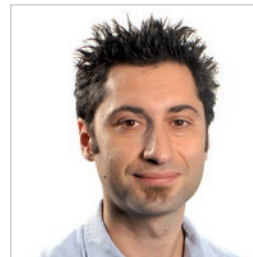
# Our R&D experts working for the environment with the “**Envir@Mines**” program



Remediated site of Escapière (Vendée, France)

Our teams are currently working in the following fields under the “**Envir@Mines**” R&D program:

- long-term changes in mill tailings in France, Niger and Gabon,
- the environmental footprint of waste rock in France under the French National Plan for the Management of Radioactive Materials and Radioactive Waste (PNGMDR),
- water treatment, notably in preparation for regulatory changes in France,
- understanding the mid to long-term rehabilitation of aquifers used in the in situ recovery process in Kazakhstan and Mongolia,
- the development of new measurement technologies.



**Michael DESCOSTES,**  
Environmental R&D Manager

« We are notably working on the stability of mill tailings. Our research will allow us to reflect and offer answers on this issue of stability over horizons of one year, 5 years, 10 years, or even several centuries.

As an example, in the course of our tailings management activities in France, we collect samples of solutions - the porewaters - and solid samples. What is most interesting is we find that these tailings form new minerals over time. These newly formed minerals will themselves trap radioactivity. The work we have done has enabled us to demonstrate that this offers a solution that can be stable and sustainable over time. »

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