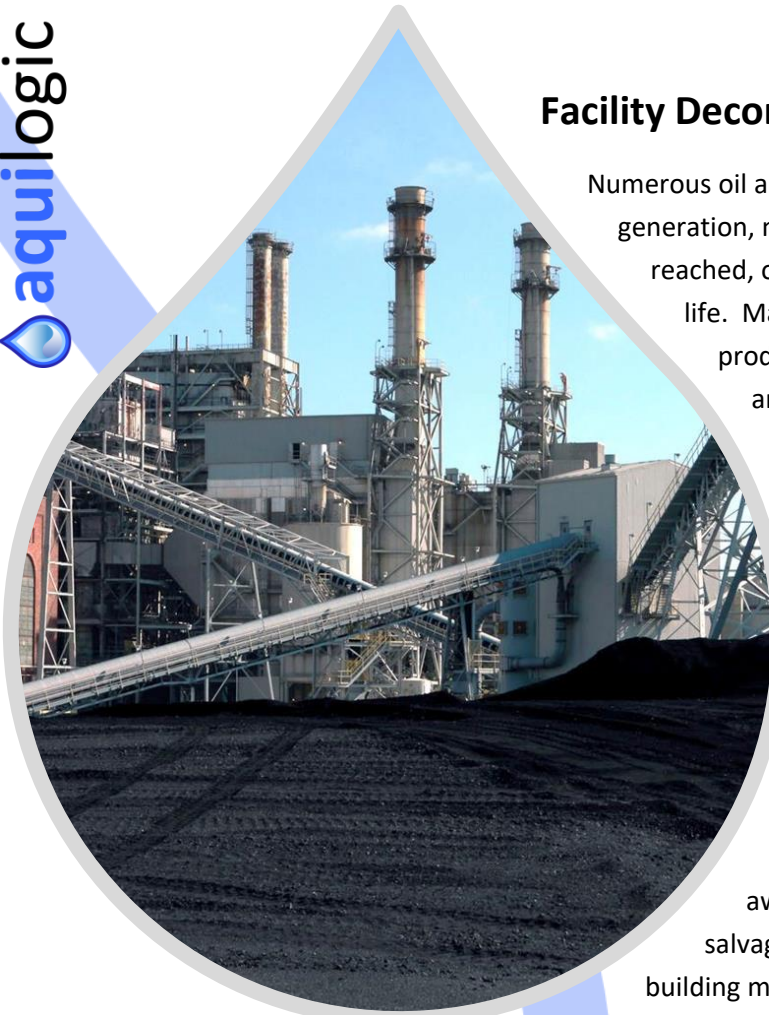


Facility Decommissioning



Numerous oil and gas, petrochemical, mining, power generation, manufacturing, and other industrial facilities have reached, or will soon reach, the end of their operational life. Many of these facilities can be reverted to productive use and value returned to the land owner and community. However, to maximize this value, extensive remediation may be required. The process of restoring an industrial facility to productive use includes: deactivation, decommissioning, decontamination, demolition, remediation, and redevelopment.

Deactivation and decommissioning require knowledge of operations to “de-engineer” the facility in a safe and efficient manner. Demolition must be conducted by contractors aware of industry operations and cognizant of the salvage value of process units, scrap steel, and building materials. Decontamination and remediation are usually performed by environmental consultants familiar with the complex scientific issues and regulatory requirements associated with such actions. Decontamination often involves the safe removal or destruction of process fluids, excess raw materials and finished products, and hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. In addition, building materials may be contaminated with asbestos, lead-based paint, metals dust, biological agents (e.g. mold), and even radionuclides.

During historical operations of a facility, practices may have resulted in the discharge of chemicals to soil and groundwater. In many instances, extensive investigation of the contamination is required, followed by the implementation of remedial actions. Given the time to conduct investigation and remediation, and the fact that they are addressing subsurface contamination, remedial actions may proceed while the property is being redeveloped and even after redevelopment.

Aquilologic staff has participated in many facility decommissioning, remediation, and redevelopment programs. Our involvement has focused on the decontamination and remediation phases of the redevelopment process.