

IPS Annual Convention May 28 – 31, 2017

Minna Arola & Harry Uosukainen

CUT-OFF PEATLAND AFTER USE PRACTICES IN NORTHERN FINLAND

Minna Arola, Oulun Energia Oy, P.O.Box 116, FIN-90101 Oulu, Finland

minna.arola@oulunenergia.fi

Harry Uosukainen, Turveruukki Oy, P.O.Box 116, FIN-90101 Oulu, Finland tva.fin@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Nowadays active peat production areas in Finland cover about 57,000 hectares, less than 1 % of the total peatland area of 9 mill. hectares. Besides there are about 40,000 hectares of peatland taken into production after 1970 which no longer are in use. Mires reserved for peat production in Northern Finland have approximately 20 – 25 years life cycle of peat production.

Finland has few large peat production companies and dozens of very small companies. Only a part of the production fields are owned by peat production companies, the majority has been leased. Ownership of land is the most significant factor in determination of after use option in each area. In addition other after use preconditions (topography, location etc.) are considered.

Nowadays the main after use practices include forestation, agriculture and wetlands. Beside there is a remarkable demand for new practices such as farming feed for reindeer, bioeconomy practices (energy willow, reed canary grass), restoration, ponds for fish breeding and water purification applications (nutrient recovery, waste water treatment).

Responsible management consists of both environmental and society activities, which are considered through each step of peatland management. Those activities include environmental permit process, supporting local practices, supervision, monitoring and risk management in company level. Main topics now are minimizing emission rate, risk management of acid sulfide soils and best water treatment practices.