



Stop Global Warming !

Team minus 6%



環境省

Ministry of the Environment

March 2006, Environmental Management Bureau



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Water and Soil Environmental Management in Japan

Ministry of the Environment, Japan

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Water and Soil Environmental Policy Framework

Ministry of the Environment develops comprehensive measures to conserve the water environment, from the perspective of all regions as a whole. It also works to prevent soil pollution, evaluates the safety of agricultural chemicals, and recovers soil and ground environments, so that future generations will not inherit the "environmental debt" of soil pollution-soil contaminated by toxic substances.

Measures to Conserve Enclosed Water Bodies

- ◆ **Water Pollution Control Law**
Control of total pollutant load, and countermeasures against eutrophication
- ◆ **The Law Concerning Special Measures for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea (Enacted in October 1973)**
Permit system for factory construction, conservation of natural coastlines, reduction of landfilling, etc.
- ◆ **Law Concerning Special Measures for Rejuvenation of the Ariake and Yatsushiro Seas (Enacted in November 2002 and jointly administered by the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport)**
Formulation of basic policy, implementation of studies, assessment by Ariake/Yatsushiro Sea General Study Committee, etc

Prevention of Pollution by Agricultural Chemicals

- ◆ **Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law (Enacted in July 1948, jointly with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)**
Establishment of standards to withhold agricultural license from the viewpoint of environmental conservation

Common Water Environmental Policies

- ◆ **Basic Environment Law (Enacted in November 1993)**
- ◆ **Third Basic Environment Plan (To be implemented in April 2006)**
- ◆ **Water Pollution Control Law (Enacted in December 1970)**
Factory effluent control, notification of factory establishment, modification orders, continuous monitoring
Measures for household wastewater

Maintenance and construction of sewers, rural village wastewater treatment facilities, septic tanks, and the like

Countermeasures Against Dioxins

- ◆ **Law Concerning Special Measures Against Dioxins (Enacted in July 1999)**
Establishment of environmental quality standards for water (including sediment) and soil pollution
Regulation of factor effluents
Promotion of measures against soil pollution
Continuous monitoring of water quality (including sediment) and soil

Lakes and Reservoirs

- ◆ **The Law Concerning Special Measures for Conservation of Lake Water Quality (Enacted in July 1984)**
Planning of Plan for the Preservation of Lake Water Quality, pollutant load control

Conservation of Agricultural Soil Environment

- ◆ **Agricultural Land Soil Pollution Prevention Law (Enacted in December 1970 jointly with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)**
Designation of polluted areas, implementation of land improvements

Potable Water Sources

- ◆ **Law Concerning Special Measures for the Water Quality Conservation at Water resources Area in order to Prevent the Specified Difficulties in Water Utilization (Enacted in March 1994)**
Planning and special regulations

Conservation of Urban Soil Environment

- ◆ **Soil Contamination Countermeasures Law (Enacted in May 2002)**
Measures to grasp status of soil pollution and prevent harm to human health

Conservation of Groundwater

- ◆ **Water Pollution Control Law**
Regulation in permeating of toxic substances from factories, purifying order of polluted groundwater, and continuous monitoring

Prevention of Ground Subsidence

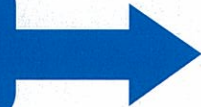
- ◆ **Industrial Water Law (Enacted in June 1956, jointly with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)**
Regulations on pumping-up of groundwater
- ◆ **Law Concerning the Regulation of Pumping-up of Groundwater for Use in Buildings (Enacted in May 1962)**
Regulations on pumping-up of groundwater
- ◆ **Outline of Measures for Preventing Ground Subsidence**
Promotion of voluntary activities in three regions: Nobi Plain, Chikugo-Saga Plain and northern part of Kanto Plain

How the Water Pollution Control Law Works

Nationwide regulations on factories or commercial facilities

Pre-regulations

Report installation or change of specified facility



Order to change plans

(Article 8 of the law)

The governor of a prefecture may issue an order to change or abolish plans for the report installation or change of specified facility within 60 days of the receipt of notification if they fail to meet effluent standards or involve seepage of toxic substances into groundwater.

Regular regulations

Measure and log pollution status of effluent

On-site inspections and Reports collected

Effluent regulations

Prohibition of water containing substances classified as toxins infiltrating into groundwater



Order remedy

(Article 13 of the law)

The governor of a prefecture may issue an order to: improve the structure/use of specified facility or wastewater treatment methods; discontinue the use of specified facility, the discharge of effluent or the seepage of effluent into the ground.

Penalty

Order to take measures related to purification

(Article 14-3 of the law)

The governor of a prefecture may issue an order to purify groundwater to the extent necessary if the seepage of toxic substances into the ground causes or could cause health hazards.

Emergency measures

Water pollution due to abnormal water shortage, etc.

Emergency measures and report of accidents



Order to take emergency measures

(Article 18 of the law)

The authorities shall make it known to the public if severe drought, etc. could result in pollution of public water sources and health hazards and may issue an order for those who discharge effluent in the areas concerned to reduce the amount of effluent or take other necessary measures.

Order to take emergency measures

(Article 14-2 of the law)

The authorities may issue an order for the owners, etc. of special business places to take temporary preventive measures if accidents such as damage to special facilities could result in the release or seepage of water containing toxic substances or oil into public water sources or groundwater, thereby causing health hazards. Such order is issued where the businesses in question have failed to take any temporary preventive measures.

Water quality monitoring at Public Water Areas

"Measurement Program" established the governor of a prefecture



Implementation of regular monitoring, announcement of monitoring results

Domestic wastewater control

Designation of important areas for domestic wastewater measures by prefectural governments



Establishment of "Plan for Promotion of Implementation of Domestic Wastewater Measures" by municipalities

Total pollutant load control in enclosed coastal seas

The government's "Fundamental Policy for Reduction of Total Pollution Load"



Establishment of "Plan for Reduction of Total Pollution Load" by prefectural governments and regulations, etc.