

Emission reduction for priority and priority hazardous substances of the water framework directive

Commissioned by:

Federal Environment Agency (FKZ 203 21 280)

Carried out by:

Fraunhofer Institut für Systemtechnik und Innovationsforschung (ISI)
Germany

Co-operation partners:

Ökopol – Institute for Environmental Strategies, Germany
Ecologic – Institute for International and European Environmental Policy,
Germany

Duration:

2003 - 2006

Background

An important goal of the European water framework directive (WFD) of the year 2000 is to reach a good chemical state in European surfacewaters.

According to article 1(c) specific measures for a stepwise reduction off discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances are to be implemented. For the priority hazardous substances, discharges, emissions and losses are to be ceased or reduced in a stepwise manner within 20 years after passing the respective measures at Community level. The list of priority and priority hazardous substances was defined with the decision 2455/2001/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 20.11.2001. It consists of 33 substances and substance groups respectively.

According to the requirements of the WFD, the Commission has to especially propose measures for the limitation of emissions from point sources. If no agreement can be reached at Community level until the end of 2006, the Member States themselves are to decide on and implement measures to limit emissions. The target of a good status of surface waters is to be reached by the year 2015.

Objectives and tasks

The project aims at accompanying and supporting the upcoming negotiation process with consideration of the German position. The support comprises the development of proposals for emission limitation and the evaluation of measures as proposed by Commission as well as an assessment of potential problems in their implementation. An important basis for these tasks is the detailed knowledge of emission sources and emission pathways for single substances. The project content is subdivided in the following steps:
updating and complementing existing results
systematic sorting of emission pathways according to international systems
development of proposals on emission limitation and evaluation of the proposals by the Commission
assessment of the proposals with view to their fitting into the German legal framework.

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