



Water Environment Protection Legislation and Policies in China

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- **Introduction**
- **Water Environment Protection Legislation**
- **Main Water Environment Protection Policies**
- **Conclusions**





Introduction

- **Guan Ting Reservoir protection is a milestone for the Environment protection of China, and the First National Environment Protection Conference was hold in 1973**
- **Environment protection is one of China's basic national policies. Chinese government pays great attention to the environment legislative work (especially from the 1980s)**



Introduction

- **PRC Constitution stipulates: The state protects and improves the living environment and the ecological environment, and prevents and remedies pollution and other public hazards.**
- **PRC Environment Protection Law is the cardinal law and main body for the environment protection**

Based on PRC Constitution and Environment Protection Law, the legal system for water environment protection was setup.



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Water Environment Protection Legislation

- National People's Congress (Standing Committee)
 - ✦ **National Laws**
- Central government (State Council)
 - ✦ **Administrative decrees**
- Ministerial level (e.g. SEPA)
 - ✦ **Administrative rules**
- Local level (Provinces)
 - ✦ **Regulation, rules, decisions, etc.**
- **Environment Standards**



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Water Environment Protection Legislation

★ National Laws

- Law of PRC on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution
- Law of PRC on Water and Soil Conservation
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★ Administrative decrees

- Implementation Rules for the PRC WPPC Law
- Interim Regulations on the Prevention of Water Pollution in the Huai River Valley
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★ Administrative rules

- Provisions for the Administration of the Prevention and Control of Pollution in Protected Areas for Drinking Water Sources
- Interim Measures on the Administration of Key Water Pollutants Discharge Permit in Huai River Basin and Tai Lake Basin
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Water Environment Protection Legislation

★ Provincial legislation

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★ Environment Standards

- Compulsory environment quality and pollutant discharge standards
 - ◇ Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water, Sea Water, Ground Water, etc.
 - ◇ Integrated Wastewater Discharge Standard
 - ◇ Discharge Standard of Pollutants for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - ◇
- Non-compulsory monitoring and sampling standards, etc. Once cited by law, they will be compulsory standards
 - ◇ Water quality-Determination of colority
 - ◇ Water quality-Determination of barium-Potentiometric titration method
 - ◇



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Main Water Environment Protection Policies

1-TAC

- **Total Water Pollutant Discharge Amount Control Policy**
 - ★ Stipulated in PRC WPPC Law
 - ★ Three main factors: the total amount, region (water body) and time of pollutant discharge
 - ★ Two types: Objective-oriented and Capacity-oriented



Main Water Environment Protection Policies

1-TAC

- **Objective-oriented TAC**

- ✧ COD reduction from 2005 to 2010 is 10 %, i.e. from 14.14 to 12.73 million ton for the whole country

- **Capacity-oriented TAC**

- ✧ Based on the dilution and assimilation capacity for certain pollutant in certain water body
- ✧ At present, this type TAC only used in some small basins or water reaches



Main Water Environment Protection Policies

2-IRBM

- **Integrated River Basin Management Policy**

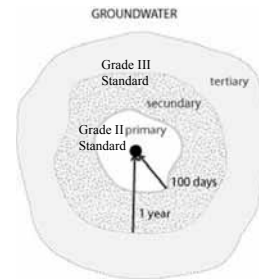
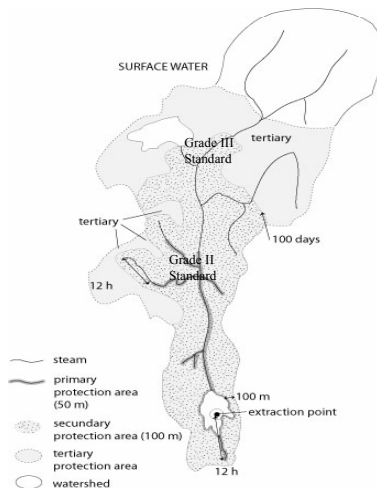
- ★ **PRC Water Law:** The development, utilization, preservation and protection of water resources, and the prevention and control of water disasters, shall be planned in a unified way on the basis of river basins or regions. The region plan within a river basin shall be subject to the river basin plan.
- ★ **PRC WPPC Law:** To prevent and control water pollution, it is necessary to make unified plans on the basis of river basins or regions.
- ★ The 9th (1995-2000) and 10th (2001-2005) five year plan for water pollution prevention and control in the key river basins were approved by the State Council



Main Water Environment Protection Policies

3-SWPZ

Source Water Protection Zonation Policy



Up to 2005, about 70% percent of the centralized drinking water source has delineated SWP zone of different grades for protection.



Main Water Environment Protection Policies

4-EIA

Environmental Impact Assessment Policy

- ★ Law of PRC on Environmental Impact Assessment was enacted in 2003
- ★ The construction projects can only start after the ratification of its EIA report, and the environment protection facilities must be planned, implemented and developed synchronously with the project construction (the **Three Synchronizes** policy)
- ★ Until 2005, more than 1.46 million construction projects implemented the EIA policy while more than 0.63 million new construction projects carried out the Three Synchronizes policy, which accounts for 99.3 and 96.4 percent of all the projects respectively.



Main Water Environment Protection Policies

5-PDC

➤ **Pollutant Discharge Charging Policy**

- ✦ Based on the Polluter Pays Principle, the idea of PDC was brought forth in late 1970s in China, and then stipulated in law
- ✦ Regulations on the Administration and Use of Pollution Discharge Fee (2003) make PDC an important policy for environment protection
- ✦ The policy has contributed greatly to the reduction, treatment and reuse of the industrial pollutants, and expanded the financing channel for the pollution prevention and control
- ✦ The pollutant discharge fee in 2006 reaches 14.4 billion RMB, and all of which will be used to solve the urgent environment protection problems



Main Water Environment Protection Policies

6-EID

➤ **Environment Information Disclosure Policy**

- ✦ Public participation in the environment protection is encouraged
- ✦ Measures for the Disclosure of Environmental Information (for Trial Implementation, 2007) prescribed the subject, scope, procedure and responsibility about EID
- ✦ At present, the information about environment laws and regulations, standards and methods, statistics and investigation, protection plans, quality situations, main pollutant discharge, EIA, etc. is open to the public through different kinds of media



Main Water Environment Protection Policies

- Other policies as Water Pollutant Discharge Permit, Pollutant Discharge Registration, Joint Ministerial Meeting for Environment Protection, etc. were also setup for the pollution prevention in China, and the implementation of these policies contributes greatly for the water environment protection.



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Conclusions

- The overall quality of surface water across China is under intermediate pollution. Among the 745 monitoring sections of surface water under national environmental monitoring program, 40 percent meet Grade I~III standard of EQSSW, 32% meet Grade IV~V standard and 28% fail to meet Grade V standard.
- The quality of much coastal sea water across China is good, while heavy pollution in parts of the sea areas. The quality of distant sea water is quite good.



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Thank you for your attention.

