

The Ministry of Environmental Protection Issued the Work Plan for Law Enforcement Inspection of Discharge Permits for Thermal Power Generation and Paper Industries

In order to carry out the *Implementation Plan of the Pollutant Emission Controlled Permit System*, in accordance with the relevant requirements in the *Notice on the Implementation of the Management of Discharge Permits for Elevated Sources from Thermal Power Generation, Paper Industries, and Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Pilot Cities*, and *Notice on Printing and Distributing the Key Points of the National Environmental Monitoring and Law Enforcement Work in 2017*, the Ministry of Environmental Protection formulated and published the *Work Plan for Law Enforcement Inspection of Discharge Permits for Thermal Power Generation and Paper Industry* (No.66, Environmental Monitoring Management Measures [2017]) on August 14th, 2017.

In the second half of 2017, the Ministry of Environmental Protection carried out law enforcement inspections of pollutant discharge permits in the thermal power generation and paper industries so as to strictly strike unlicensed pollution discharge. The Ministry of Environmental Protection claimed that enterprises that have been ordered to stop polluting but refused to execute shall be transferred to public security department according to relevant regulations and laws.

I. Inspection Area

The inspection area of the thermal power industry is the enterprises installed thermal power unit implementing *Emission Standard of Air Pollutants for Thermal Power Plants* (GB13223-2011) (excluding the enterprise with self-equipped power plant). The inspection area of paper industry includes all pulp enterprises, paper enterprises, integrated pulp and paper enterprises,

and paper products enterprises listed within the range of environmental statistics in 2015.

II. The Mission

Strictly strike unlicensed pollution discharge, identify the enterprises according to the list of suspected out-of-phase permits enterprises that were checked in the previous stage (as of June 30th, 2017, hereinafter referred to as the list), the enterprises that have not obtained permits shall be punished according to *Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention and Control of Atmospheric Pollution*, *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution*, and other related laws and regulations; for those who are ordered to stop the pollutant discharge and refused to implement, they shall be transferred to public security authority according to relevant regulations. For unlicensed polluting enterprises outside the list, they shall be penalized once discovered, maintaining a high pressure on environmental law enforcement.

Investigate and Penalize Pollutant Discharge Exceeding the Allowable Concentration limit

For enterprises that have issued emission permits, it is important to check whether the discharges from major discharge outlets meet the requirements for permitted emission concentration limits, if possible, other discharge requirements specified in the discharge permit can be checked. This inspection takes the self-monitoring data of the enterprise as the main basis to determine whether it meets the requirements of the permitted emission concentration



limits. Enterprises that do not conduct self-monitoring or who have doubtful monitoring data during inspections shall be organized for law enforcement monitoring. Enterprises that have exceeded the allowable emission concentration limit for pollutant discharge shall be penalized strictly in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. Enterprises whose pollutant discharge fail to meet the discharge regulation must clarify the time limit for their final compliance. If they do not meet the standard requirement by the deadline, they must be reported to the local government for shutting down according to law.

Supervising Enterprises to Strictly Implement Self-Monitoring Requirements

For enterprises that have been issued emission permits, inspections should be conducted on self-monitoring, focusing on checking whether the company conducts self-monitoring and whether the spots, factors, and frequency of self-monitoring meet the discharge permit requirements. Those who have not monitored the discharged pollutants in accordance with the regulations with preservation of the original monitoring records shall be punished strictly in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations.

III. Inspection Requirements

Strengthening Organizational Leadership

All localities should give great attention to the enforcement inspection of the pollutant discharge permits in the thermal power and papermaking industries and carry out law enforcement inspections according to the principle of “the one who has issued shall supervise”. The environmental monitoring and law enforcement organization and the pollution discharge permit issuing department shall strengthen communication and coordination, clarify respective responsibilities, refine the work requirements, closely follow the timeline, and ensure that the tasks are completed on time. All localities must earnestly sum up the working experience in conducting inspections on pollution discharge permits, objectively analyze existing problems, and take the initiative to practice, actively innovate, and constantly regulate

the supervision of pollutant discharge permits.

Promoting Information Disclosure

The law enforcement inspections should be conducted in accordance with the requirements of “double randomization and one publicity”, and the list of inspected companies, inspection contents and results should be recorded on the national wastewater discharge permit management information platform. For illegal actions discovered during the inspection of law enforcement, the list of illegal enterprises and the status of investigations and punishments should be promptly disclosed on the government website Environmental Illegal Exposure Platform. At the same time, efforts should be made to strengthen publicity and coverage of law enforcement inspections, to expose a batch of environmental illegal actions of thermal power and papermaking companies, and play a role as a deterrent of typical cases.

Making Work Scheduling

All provincial environmental protection authorities must make arrangements for the inspection work. Prior to August 31st, 2017, the inspection and penalization of the unlicensed pollutant discharge behavior of thermal power and paper-making enterprises within the list shall be completed. Prior to November 30th, 2017, the inspection and penalization of license-holding enterprises exceeding pollutant discharge limits and failing to implement self-monitoring requirements shall be completed. For Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shaanxi and Henan, these six provinces (Regions, cities) involved in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei air pollution transmission channel “2+26” cities, inspection should be completed by October 31st, 2017.

Strengthening Information Communication

Each provincial environmental protection authorities shall assign one inspection liaison officer in each of the Environmental Monitoring and Law Enforcement Organization and the pollution discharge permit issuing department, and the list of the liaison officers and their contact information should be submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection before August 21st, 2017. ▮