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International warning and alarm system for Odra River

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GliederungStructure

1. The Odra River basin
2. International Committee for protection of the Odra River against pollution
3. International Odra River warning and alert plan
4. Contingency plan

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1. The Odra River basin

Total area: 118.861 km²

Of this area:

- The Republic of Poland has 106.821 km² (89%)
- The Czech Republic has 6.453 km² (5,4%)
- The Federal Republic of Germany has 5.587 km² (4,7%)

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2. International Committee for protection of the Odra River against pollution

Established: 1999

Members: The Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic, The Federal Republic of Germany, EU (until 2005)

The goals of the International Committee for protection of the Odra River against pollution include:

1. Prevention against loading the Odra River and the Baltic Sea with pollutants, and decreasing the existing load,
2. Creating possibly quite natural water ecosystems, and interrelated land ecosystems, with appropriate number of species,
3. Facilitating the usage of the Odra River, primarily as a source of drinkable water from coastal filtration, and to se the water and sediments in agriculture,
4. Preventing and in a long term, decreasing the effects of damage cause by flooding, as well as
5. Coordination of implementation of the Frame Directive regarding the Odra River basin waters.

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Structure of the International Committee for protection of the Odra River against pollution

Committee

Branch managers advisory unit

Administrative office

G1 Task Force in charge G2 Flooding G3 Industrial accident pollution G4 Legal questions

GM Monitoring, GD Data management GP Important planning issues GE economic analysis GR reports

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- Activities of "Industrial accident pollution" Task Force
- Development and continuity of warning and alert plan, as well as a contingency plan
- Accident assessment
- Annual reporting exercise, aimed at checking communications paths
- Joint exercise in restoring normal conditions after an industrial accident.
- Suggestion as to recommendation decreasing the risk levels and effects of specific water pollution, taking into account existing national resources
- Sharing experiences between G3 and similarly oriented shareholder companies in other committees, including assistance in organising seminars, emergency exercises, and document exchange

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3. International Odra River warning and alert plan

List of Contents

1. General (goals, definition of an industrial accident)
2. Connection plan
3. Main international warning centres (IHWZ)
4. Reports

- 4.1 the first report
 - 4.2 confirmation of receipt
 - 4.3 questions and answers
 - 4.4 log book
 - 5-7. Reporting paths
 - 8. Alarm cancellation
- Appendices
- 1. Bibliography/sources (minimum equipment at IHWZ)
 - 2. Report form
 - 3. Confirmation form
 - 4. Alarm cancellation form
 - 5. Instruction for assessment of water load, for water following an accident

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Goals of the International Odra River warning and alert plan

The Goal of the International Odra River warning and alert plan is timely warning of appropriate services, administration offices, and users of water.

At the same time, the following goals ought to be attained:

- a) removal of the hazard,
- b) identification of the perpetrator,
- c) identification of causes,
- d) resources and steps taken towards removal of causes and effects of the accident,
- e) removal of damages that follow.

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Reporting paths

A report is passed between Main International Warning Centres located downstream.

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Alarm reports come by fax, on a special form in three languages .
 Report receipt must be confirmed within an hour by means of a special form .
 When pollution has been removed, areas which had been alerted must be notified about alarm cancellation.

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Water load classification according to types of accidents, with water damage index (GSI)

Material classification		Alarm thresholds		
Risk index	Water hazard class	[kg] or [1]	[kg] or [1]	[kg] or [1]
25 or 52, 53, 52/53	1 Negligible hazard	≥ 1000	≥ 10.000	≥ 10 ⁿ⁺²
28 or 45, 50, 51/53 and 22 or 25	2 hazardous	≥100	≥1.000	≥ 10 ⁿ⁺²
50 or 52, 53, 50/53, 52/53 28 or 45 45 and 28	3 Seriously hazardous	≥10	≥100	≥ 10 ⁿ
Water damage index (GSI)		≥1	≥2	≥ ⁿ

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Alarm thresholds for unlisted substances

Released substances mixture	Alarm thresholds		
	[kg] or [1]	[kg] or [1]	[kg] or [1]
Oils (unlisted)	≥100	≥1.000	≥10 ⁿ⁺²
Fire extinguishing water	≥1.000	≥10.000	≥10 ⁿ⁺²
Manure	≥1.000	≥10.000	≥10 ⁿ⁺²
Water damage index (GSI)	≥1	≥2	≥ ⁿ

Substances and substances mixtures unclassified from the viewpoint of water hazards, have been – for safety reasons – classified as Water Hazard Class 3.

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4. Contingency plan

A contingency plan includes:

- A list of potential pollution sources,
- A list of reaction centres,
- A list of buildings and areas requiring special protection,
- Accident documentation and its assessment

The following was developed further:

- Tri-lingual dictionary with most important technical expressions (<http://www.mkoo.pl/index.php?mid=7>)
- Requirements for equipment to contact water hazardous substance in flooded or flood endangered areas (<http://www.mkoo.pl/index.php?mid=4&aid=187&spis=1>)

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Any more questions?