

Securing Water

Current water quality in Germany

Most of the water in Germany to the public is supplied by the groundwater; the second most is the surface water. Germany uses sewage treatment to remove the impurities in the water for the public. According to Stephen Natz, a Berlin's water utility company's spokesman, Natz said Berlin has the best tap water quality than other cities in Germany, Natz also mentioned that the water in Berlin even contains healthy mineral such as calcium and sodium. The water quality most people are satisfied with it. Water in Germany nearly 90 percent connects to sewage, and comparing with other European countries Germany has a high standard water quality in Europe. More than 90 percent of wastewater connects to public sewerage and goes to wastewater treatment. However, the mining industry in Germany did the most damage to the water and rivers, those pollutants mainly contain irons. Also there are some old buildings still using old lead water pipes, people are not suppose to drink water contains lead substances according to the World Health Organization.

Current policies for water protection in Germany

The water in Germany is shared between the EU, because Germany has stored a large amount of water. In each year, Germany uses 5.4 billion cubic meters out of 182 billion cubic meters in each year. The drinking water in Germany is monitor by the health departments of municipalities and counties. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety sets some water protection policy in Germany, water in Germany should secure for the long term for serving the public, leisure and even generating electricity. The water protection policy is based on the precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, and protect the users and stakeholders when they use water. The government has law on the substances, water charges, regulatory, and liability and criminal.

Resolution for the water pollution

For the resolution the government will meet the regulatory law to protect the ecology and water bodies, and keep high standard of the water quality for the public to drink and use. The country main industries are from mining and chemicals, so mainly of the pollutants may come from engineering and chemicals industries. The country government should limit the industries releasing heavy metal wastes and chemical substances to the river. Government should pay more attention to the mining factories and put a higher rate on the coverage of cost. Another problem is because some old buildings still use lead water pipes, according to the world health organization, the poisonous lead mostly flows through water and may dissolve in water. The Germany government will try to give subsidies to older buildings to paint and plumb the lead water pipe.

Precaution and Response to Oil Spills

Current Germany precaution and response to oil spills

Germany has growing industries on automobile, chemical, mining and steel, the country also is the world's fourth highest GDP in the world. But Germany does not have

many natural resources so the country imports a lot of gas and oil. Although Germany does not have a large oil industry, the country still contribute to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to protect the marine environment with other countries.

Policies that shows how Germany will response

Germany is a member of the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), and the country is responsibility to cleaning offshore and responsible to maintain the water clean for the five coastal states, the Wadden Sea and on shorelines. Whenever Germany receives alert from CCME, the country's equipment will have to take action on their responsibility, such as fire fighters and disaster relief corps will take action. The country has the priority on mechanical recovery. The CCME have instructions and regulations for Germany to use the dispersants, there is restrictions in shallow coastal waters, and no restrictions in waters deeper than 20 meters.

Resolution for oil spills

Germany is incorporate with many other countries in the world for oil spill and resources, other countries provide resources and assists on oil spill, and Germany will provide resources to other countries as well, since the country is a member of the IMO. The country has to monitor seas by using detector and to make sure the technology are the best always keep up to date, especially put more concentration in the only one oil field in Germany, to make sure the oil field is always safe. The country has responsibility to keep the sea clean and the sea will not harm the ecosystem.

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