

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN WATER POLLUTION LAW AND POLICY IN CHINA: EFFECTIVE ENOUGH TO COPE WITH WATER POLLUTION CONFLICT?

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Water pollution is one of the most serious environmental issues facing China. In 2005, an exceptionally serious water pollution accident in Songhua River, caused by an unintended and sudden chemicals explosion, heralded an official recognition of a water pollution crisis in China. Chinese enterprises often fail to assume responsibility for compensating victims and for restoring the environment. Although there have been new developments in recent years of national law and policy concerning water pollution that respond to issues around: social conflict caused by water pollution; government accountability; liability of polluting entities; and citizens' rights in cases of water pollution, the challenges for the rule of environmental law in effectively reducing water pollution accidents and resolving water pollution conflict still exist. There is an urgent need to strengthen compliance and enforcement. This paper discusses the issues of water pollution conflict and the possible resolutions offered through law and policy.

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