Regulatory risk assessment process in Russia

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Shortcomings of Environmental Regulation

- Traditionally in Russia environmental regulation to ensure health safety was based on a set of hygienic norms.
- Modern quantitative methods of assessment of health damage were not widely used. This created a barrier to formulation of environmentally sound health policies.
- Central problem is to define priorities in environmental decision-making.
Risk assessment in Russia

- History:
  - RA methodology has been used in Russia since 1995
  - Collaboration with US EPA, Harvard School of Public Health, WHO Regional Office in Europe

- Current state:
  - Continuing professional education in RA for 120 experts a year
  - Over 20 regional RA centers all over Russia
  - Over 100 RA studies in different regions of Russia

- International collaboration:
  - US EPA
    - Joint capacity building project in Ukraine (US EPA)
    - Periodic training of experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Azerbaijan
    - High demand for RA in most of CIS countries
Examples of RA projects in Russia

- Over 70 comprehensive, community-based risk assessments, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis, and policy recommendations have been completed in more than 30 regions of Russia.
- Large industrial companies (Gazprom, oil refineries) are exploring RA methodology to improve environmental management.
- Large cities use RA to mitigate health risk from transport systems and urban development (Moscow City, Voronezh, etc.)
Examples of RA projects in Russia

- As to the results of health risk assessment studies it was found that the most of GHG reduction projects generate collateral (ancillary) benefits.

- Particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) was identified as the major health risk substance in Russia.

- Estimate of additional carcinogenic risk.

- Economic valuation of human health risk reduction is conducted using benefit transfer approach, adjusting US EPA value of statistical life to Russian GDP per capita.
Current Application of RA/RM Methodology

- To ensure safety of the population in the areas of possible impact of industrial facilities – for substantiation the sanitary-buffer zones (SBZ)
- Prioritization of risk factors and sources for regulation
- To inform the federal and local authorities and population about the environmental quality; to conduct the proactive and preventive measures
Regulatory achievements in Russia

- Joint Decree by the Chief Sanitary Officer and the Chief Governmental Environmental Controller “On implementation of the risk assessment methodology for controlling environmental quality and human health in the Russian Federation”

- Decree by the Chief Sanitary Officer of Russia on introduction of the accreditation system for state entities to conduct risk assessment

- Approval of “Manual on Human Health Risk Assessment from Environmental Chemicals”

- Governmental Decree on ensuring safety of the population in the areas of possible impact of industrial facilities
Strategic perspectives

- Strategic Governmental Document - Concept of Long-Term Socio-Economic Development of Russia by 2020:
  - Very ambitious targets on improvement of demographic situation, environmental quality, standards of living, increase of life expectancy, etc.
- Achievement of these goals requires introduction of modern system of risk assessment and management
- Harmonization of domestic and international approaches to environmental quality management is of utmost importance
- It is due in Russia right now!
Proposals for the global RA dialogue

- Russia is an advanced leader in CIS region in RA
- Russia can be a real coordinator of RA and RM programs and their implementation in CIS
- Top priorities:
  - Harmonization of regulatory basis in Russia and CIS with the international safety standards and recommendations is required
  - Criteria and procedures to quantify, monitor and evaluate environmental and health damage should be further developed and implemented
  - Capacity building in RA in CIS
  - Joint research on applicability of RA criteria to domestic circumstances in Russia and CIS
  - Determination of possibilities for increasing both environmental and economic effectiveness of policy measures
- Need to act now!
Thanks for attention!

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