

Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Noxious Emissions by Energy Enterprises into the Atmosphere of the Mining Region

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Abstract. The article addresses the impact of harmful emissions on the environment from the activities of energy companies. The purpose of the study is to assess the environmental impact of emissions of harmful substances by energy enterprises into the atmosphere of the mining region. The analysis of the harmful impact on the environment of noxious emissions by energy enterprises into the atmosphere of the mining region is carried out. The main result of the work is the generalized SWOT-analysis of the assessment of the negative impact on the environment by noxious emissions from power plants into the atmosphere of the mining region of the Kemerovo Region; and the system of measures aimed at solving environmental problems.

1 Introduction

The fuel and energy complex plays an important role in the economy of the Russian Federation. As to the emission of harmful substances into the atmosphere, the fuel and energy complex takes a leading position among other industries, at the same time it has a negative impact both on the ecological and the social situation in the region creating a high social tension in the areas where energy enterprises operate. In 2016 emissions of pollutants into the air from stationary sources in 1,142 enterprises of the Kemerovo region amounted to 1,349.484 thousand tonnes, which is 5.025 thousand tons more than in 2015 from 1,115 enterprises. The air pollution load per unit area by stationary sources of the region was 14.101 tonnes / km² [1].

The enterprises, which are part of the energy complex of the Kemerovo Region, ensure the operation of all branches of the regional economy. There are 8 thermal power plants in the region with a total installed capacity of 5041 MW: Tom-Usinskaya GRES (state district power plants) (1272 MW); Belovskaya GRES (1200 MW); South Kuzbass GRES (554 MW);

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Kemerovskaya GRES (485 MW); Novo-Kemerovskaya TEC (combined heat and power station) (565 MW); West-Siberian TEC (600 MW); Kuznetskaya TEC (108 MW); Kemerovskaya TEC (85 MW). In parallel with the power system, there are three block stations: KMC TEC with installed electric capacity of 71 MW, Yurginskaya TEC - 91 MW, and Anzhero-Sudzhenskaya TEC - 10 MW [2].

Electricity generation at CHPP, KES (GRES), where coal is used as fuel, is accompanied by a huge amount of air emissions. Combustion products contain gases and particulate matter, the entry of which into the air environment causes great damage to the environment. Ensuring sustainable and environmentally friendly development of the regional economy is becoming one of the priority tasks of the energy policy [3]. For this reason, the analysis of environmental activities of enterprises of the fuel and energy complex at the regional level is an urgent study.

2 Research Methods

The Kemerovo region operations generating and distributing electricity, gas and water are the targets of this study.

The analysis of the negative impact produced by energy enterprises on the environment by emitting noxious pollutants in the atmosphere of the mining region was carried out by an analytical method on the basis of statistical data by natural indicators (volumes of noxious emissions in the air).

A generalized assessment of the negative impact produced by energy enterprises on the environment by noxious emissions in the air of the mining region (Kemerovo Region) was performed using the SWOT analysis method

The Kemerovostat data and the official report of the Department of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Kemerovo Region were used as the source of information for the study [1].

3 Results and Discussion

Currently, the environmental situation in the Kemerovo region is characterized by a significant impact of economic activities of manufacturing enterprises of the fuel and energy complex. The enterprises generating and distributing electricity, gas and water in the Kemerovo region are the third by the mass of pollutants emissions into the air after mineral mining enterprises and manufacturing enterprises (Figure 1) [1,4].

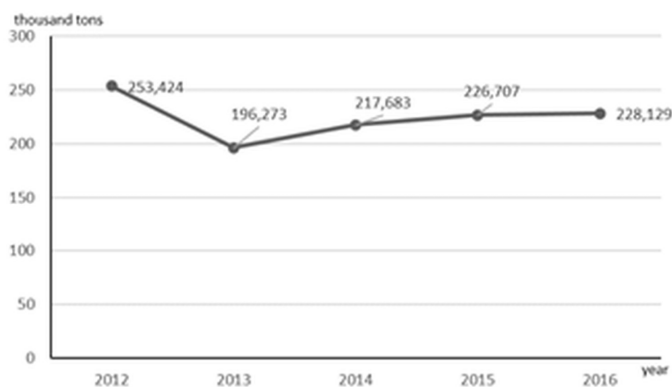


Fig. 1. Pollutants emissions in the air from stationary sources

The trend in emissions of pollutants in the air from stationary sources by types of economic activity is shown in Table 1 [1].

Table 1. Trend in pollutants emissions from stationary sources by types of economic activity.

Type of economic activity	Pollutants emitted in the air, thousand tonnes					Pollutant emission in % 2016
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Total for the region, including	1360.355	1356.297	1331.688	1344.459	1349.484	100
Generation and distribution of electric power, gas and water, of which:	253.424	196.273	217.683	226.707	228.129	16.9
generation, transmission and distribution of electric power, gas, steam and hot water	250.350	193.451	215.414	224.515	225.883	16.7
Water collection, cleaning and distribution	3.075	2.822	2.269	2.192	2.246	0.2

The analysis of the data in Table 1 showed that the amount of emissions into the atmospheric air from the enterprises of the electric power industry in 2016 amounted to 225.883 thousand tonnes. In the territory of the Kemerovo Region there are large power plants: Belovskaya GRES, Kemerovskaya GRES, Kemerovskaya TEC, Novo-Kemerovskaya TEC, Tom-Usinsk GRES, South Kuzbass GRES, the main fuel of which is coal. During its combustion, harmful compounds are generated including nitrogen and carbon oxides, sulfur dioxide etc. [5-6]. As a result, the population of the region is exposed to negative effects of harmful substances. From 2013 to 2016, there is an increase in the amount of pollutants released into the air (Table 2) [1].

Table 2. Volumes of basic pollutants emitted by enterprises generating, transmitting and distributing electric power, gas, steam and hot water.

Pollutant description	Pollutants emitted in the air, thousand tonnes	Contribution in the total mass of similar pollutants by the region, %
Total, including	225.883	16.7
Solid	60.155	42.3
Gaseous and liquid, of which	165.728	13.7
Sulphur dioxide	72.831	58.3
Carbon oxide	43.573	18.0
Nitrogen oxides	48.323	64.7
Hydrocarbons	0.058	0.0
Volatile organic components	0.048	0.8
Other gaseous and liquid	0.895	14.4

The major pollutants typical for emissions from power plants in Kuzbass include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen and carbon oxides, ammonia, and soot. The analysis of the data in Table 2 showed that sulfur dioxides (72.83 thousand tonnes), carbon oxides (48.32 thousand tonnes), and carbon oxides (43.57 thousand tonnes) account for the greatest amount emissions in the

pollutants structure. The major part of emissions is generated through the activities of energy companies on ensuring the operation of boiler and heating networks, supplying the population and industrial enterprises with electricity, heat and hot water [7]. In 2015, the volume of noxious emissions amounted to 224.515 thousand tonnes, in 2016, it was 225.883 thousand tonnes which is more by 1.368 thousand tonnes compared to 2015 or by 0.6% [1].

The volume of gross emissions of the main pollutants from stationary sources by types of economic activity is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Gross emissions of major pollutants from stationary sources by types of economic activity.

Type of economic activity	Pollutants emitted in the air, thousand tonnes					Pollutant emission in %
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
Total for the region	154.598	130.816	138.321	146.136	142.084	100
Generation and distribution of electric power, gas and water, of which:	74.716	53.442	57.837	60.316	60.77	42.7
generation, transmission and distribution of electric power, gas, steam and hot water	73.831	52.718	57.196	59.756	60.155	42.3
Water collection, cleaning and distribution	0.885	0.724	0.641	0.56	0.615	0.4

The data presented in Table 3 show that there is a positive decreasing trend in pollutants emitted in the air from stationary sources by economic activities. However, the share of these pollutants is significant, accounting for almost half of all emissions in the Kemerovo region.

To assess the negative impact on the environment by noxious emissions in the air from energy enterprises of the mining region (Kemerovo region), the SWOT analysis method can be used (Table 4).

Table 4. The generalized SWOT analysis for assessment of the negative impact on the environment by noxious emissions in the air from energy enterprises of the mining region (Kemerovo region) (Advantages and Disadvantages).

Advantages	Disadvantages
1. The Kemerovo region fully provides itself with electricity (uses its own fuel resources)	1. The use of coal as the main fuel without a high degree purification of combustion products
2. Implementation of energy saving projects in the territory	2. Violation of ecological regulations by TECs and KESs (GRES)
3. Major part of the region's electricity needs is covered by own generation	3. Boilers that run on solid fuels (coal) are poorly equipped or not equipped at all with dust and gas cleaning equipment, or the equipment is worn out and needs to be replaced
4. Relatively cheap cost of fuel	4. Low level of purification of energy sources
5. The possibility of heating and cogeneration	5. Use of non-renewable energy resources

As a result of the generalized SWOT analysis of the negative impact on the environment by noxious emissions in the air from energy enterprises of the mining region (Kemerovo Region), it is possible to see more clearly the opportunities for choosing effective ways to prevent air pollution and prevent threats contributing to the development of negative events (Table 5).

Table 5. The generalized SWOT analysis for assessment of the negative impact on the environment by noxious emissions in the air from energy enterprises of the mining region (Kemerovo region) (Opportunities and Threats).

Opportunities	Threats
1. The regulatory and legal framework established in the Kemerovo region regulating public relations in the sphere of the environment	1. Damaged atmosphere in previous years
2. Implementation of the state programs of the Kemerovo Region "Ecology, Subsoil Use and Rational Water Use" for 2017-2020 and "Control, Protection, Reproduction, Use of Forests and Objects of the Animal World of Kuzbass" for 2017-2020	2. Deterioration of technical infrastructure (equipment, power lines)
3. The developed regional system of environmental monitoring	3. Negative impact of combustion products (NOx, SOx, etc.) on the population (irritation of upper respiratory tract, eyes, headache, pathological changes)
4. The created regional network of specially protected areas	4. Formation of spoil heaps
5. Continuous improvement of Russian and regional legislation in the area of legal support for environmental protection	5. Increasing greenhouse effect

The conducted assessment of the negative impact on the environment by noxious emissions in the air from energy enterprises of the mining region (Kemerovo region) has shown that the amount of noxious emissions in the air is increasing, which leads to an increase in economic damage from air pollution. On the territory of the Kemerovo region there operate 8 thermal power stations, 1207 boiler houses provide heating operating on solid fuel (coal), a significant part of them is poorly or not equipped at all with dust-gas cleaning equipment, or the equipment is worn out and needs to be replaced [1].

Combustion of solid fuel (coal) is associated with the formation of combustion products containing fly ash, sulfur dioxide (sulfurous anhydride), nitrogen oxides and other products of incomplete combustion. This leads to a negative impact on the environment, as well as on the population of the region. Ensuring energy security and improving the environmental situation in the Kemerovo region is one of the priority tasks for the near future. Particular attention should be paid to the equipment used in the boiler houses, which must meet the new requirements associated with ensuring the allowable values of air emissions of certain combustion products of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels [5,6,8].

At present, the fuel and energy complex continues to produce a negative impact on the atmosphere in the mining region and this requires the introduction of new environmentally friendly technologies, including those operating on the principles of the best available technologies, and the development of effective regulators aimed at encouraging energy enterprises to environmental protection activities [9,11].

4 Conclusions

Thus, the conducted study of the assessment of environmental impact of noxious emissions in the air of the mining region from energy enterprises made it possible to draw the following conclusions:

- The analysis was made of noxious emissions from energy enterprises in the air of the mining region of the Kemerovo Region;
- The generalized SWOT-analysis was made for the assessment of the negative impact on the environment by noxious emissions from energy companies into the atmosphere of the mining region of the Kemerovo Region;
- The environmental problems that require immediate resolution were prioritized;
- The system of measures was proposed aimed at addressing the identified problems.

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