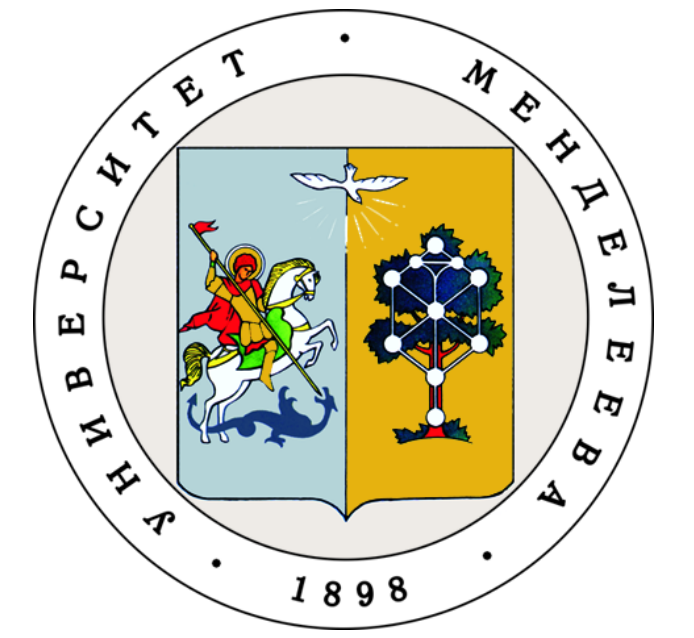




INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL: CURRENT PRACTICES AND PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT IN RUSSIA



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Introduction

Opportunities for implementing Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) approaches have been discussed in Russia since about 15 years. Positions pro and contra coexist while industrial lobby remains strong enough to prevent from passing national IPPC legislation and turning to Integrated Permits for key polluters operating in the country.

Research

EU experience proves that IPPC Directive has been one of the most effective and efficient instruments of environmental regulation. This is why it is not surprising that many countries are eager to learn from the EU, adopting or developing BATs for major industrial polluters and introducing national IPPC based legislation. In the Russian Federation (RF), international and national projects promoting BATs and Integrated Permits (IP) have been implemented since late 90s.

Most IPPC projects implemented in the RF were funded by the EU or Member States. Most known projects are "Harmonisation of Environmental Standards" (two phases, 1997-1999, and 2007-2010), "Air Quality Governance in ENPI East Countries" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the RF, and Ukraine, ongoing) as well as Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development initiatives sector oriented projects implemented in 1998-2012 and funded mostly by the UK and the Netherlands.

Since the 90s such projects have been implemented in iron and steel production, ferrous metals processing industry, large combustion plants, ceramic manufacturing industry, manufacture of glass, production of cement, pulp and paper industry, etc.

Getting involved in the projects, managers of industrial enterprises were looking for cost effective ways to reduce pollution as well as for establishing better relations with regional environmental authorities.

1	Air pollution conditions	IPPC Directive
2	Water abstraction	
3	Waste water discharges	
4	Waste management	
5	Soil protection	
6	BAT measures - Improvement plans	Integration
7	Minimization of transboundary pollution	
8	Energy efficiency	
9	Prevention of accidents	
10	Ceasing of operations	Integration in some EU countries
11	Outside noise	
12	Vibration, heat	
13	Odour	
14	Veterinary conditions	
15	Forestry and nature protection	
16	Combination with EIA procedure	

Figure 1. Scope of IPPC integration

Results

Opportunities and barriers for the practical implementation of Integrated Permitting system in Russia are discussed. Results of sector pilot projects aimed at the implementation of Best Available Techniques and environmental performance enhancement are analysed. Recommendations on the gradual transition to Integrated Permitting are formulated.

The Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation has been drafting IPPC legislation and discussing it with stakeholders since 2009. However, at least 10 years have been missed by the country on its way to the implementation of Best Available Techniques and transforming its environmental permitting system to the integrated one.

The introduction of an Integrated Permitting system will require a new procedure for issuing permits. It should designate internal responsibilities and step-by-step actions of permitting authority staff as well as stipulate interactions with the applicant, statutory stakeholders, and the public. It is helpful to design as many standard document forms relevant to the procedure as possible to increase the administrative efficiency of the permitting authorities. It is essential to underscore that this procedure would only apply to a limited number of large installations covered by the Integrated Permitting regime (for small and medium enterprises, the procedure should be much simpler and shorter) and should lead to issuance of a permit that would be valid for at least 7 years.

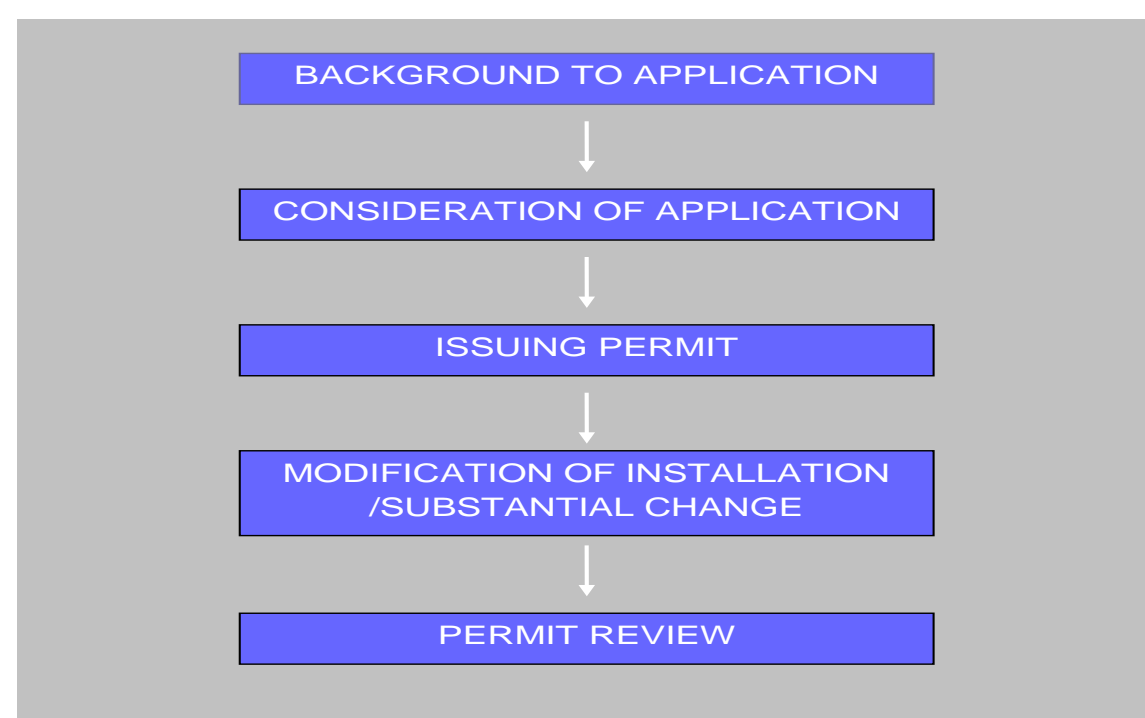


Figure 2. The basic steps of the permitting procedure

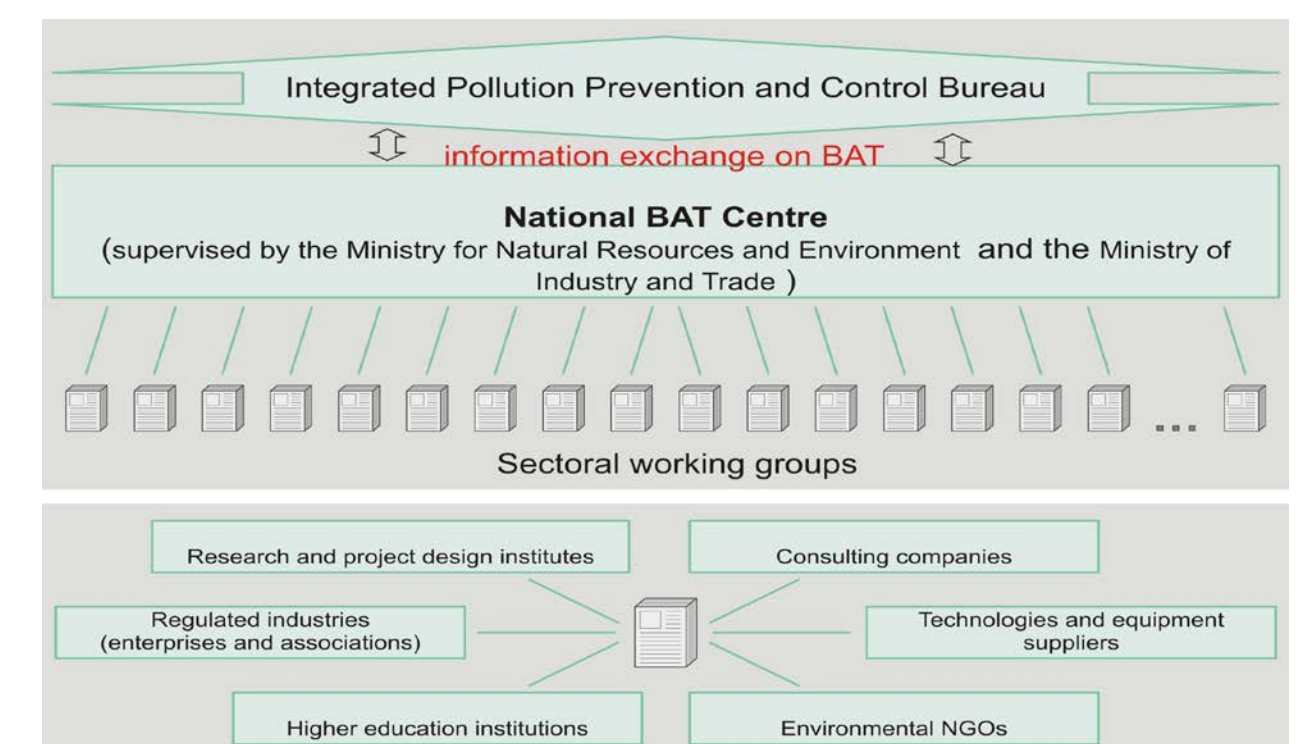


Figure 3. Information exchange scheme

Conclusions

In Russia, Best Available Techniques have been considered both as means for the protection of environment as whole and as powerful instruments that should be applied to modernise the national economy and to enhance its energy and resource efficiency. Though it is seldom mentioned in Directive 96/61/EC or Directive 2010/75/EU related publications, Integrated Permitting played a crucial role not only in reducing environmental impacts of European industries, but also in modernising the EU economy in general. Thus, the overall approach of the Russian Government is quite logical though different from that followed by the EU in the 90s when Integrated Permitting system was set by Directive 96/61/EC.

After long attempts of environmentalists to introduce BATs in Russia as means of the effective environmental regulation, it is now hoped to get the necessary support from major governmental authorities responsible for the economic development. The latter are at last required collaborating with environmental authorities forming conditions for wider acceptance of Best Available Techniques in industry.

Lessons learnt by completed and on-going international and national projects, recommendations on model IPPC laws and Integrated Permitting procedures, several Reference Books on Best Available Techniques made available in Russian and Guides, Handbooks and National Standards prepared on the basis of EU BREFs and Russian low scale benchmarking exercises provide decision-makers with a good fundament to build a reliable national Integrated Permitting System. Realistically thinking, the first results can be obtained within 5-7 years, though the complete system formation depends both of political and economic circumstances.

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