






Issues of Legal Support of Socio-economic Policy and Environmental Security of Russia in the Context of Digital Transformation

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Abstract: The article deals with the introduction of new digital technologies, methods and approaches into the system of ensuring environmental safety in Russia within the framework of the current socio-economic policy. The purpose of the article is to consider the problem of introducing digital technologies into the system of environmental safety and environmental protection in the Russian Federation. To achieve this goal, the authors set a number of tasks, in particular, to analyze the provisions of the Constitution of Russia and the norms of the current legislation in the environmental sphere, to consider the issues of the environmental policy of the Russian Federation in relation to digitalization in the framework of socio-economic development. Taking into account the versatility of this topic, the authors focus on the role and specific steps currently being taken by state authorities at the federal level, as well as the vector of development that the President of Russia sets in this direction. Attention is drawn to the main legal problems and difficulties that exist in the context of digital transformation. The authors propose a number of legal, organizational and economic measures for the introduction of digital technologies into the system of ensuring environmental safety.


1 INTRODUCTION


Despite the fact that the present time is characterized by turbulence, transformations of public relations at the national and supranational levels of states, the Russian Federation has taken a confident course to achieve the goals of sustainable development. At the international level, we are talking about establishing norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior of States, especially with regard to the environmental agenda.


On May 12, 2021, during the annual report of the Russian Government to the State Duma, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said that «the Cabinet of Ministers is actively working on the «general


cleaning of the country»». It is obvious that the socio-economic development of Russia is currently impossible without achieving the strategic goals of environmental safety and rational use of natural resources. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, there are about 29 thousand objects in Russia that cause environmental damage, including unauthorized landfills, sunken ships, and abandoned wells. The priority task, according to the Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology Alexander Kozlov – is to conduct an audit of these objects, determine the order of accumulated damage and identify the degree of threats that they pose to the population. «And as a result of this work, it is easy to remove them, including with the involvement of the owners,» the

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minister said. The set goals and objectives are reflected in the Russian Constitution and strategic planning documents. The adoption in the Constitution of the Russian Federation of new provisions on the role of the Russian Government in regulating the environmental agenda, on environmental education and upbringing, and on the environmental culture of citizens (item «e» 6, Part 1, Article 114 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation) clearly demonstrates the direction of the state environmental policy that echoes the goals of sustainable development.

According to a number of authors, at the legislative level, the issues of ensuring the environmental safety of Russia in the framework of the ongoing socio-economic policy with the introduction of new digital technologies are generally paid attention in our country, but the analysis of factors determines the need for digital transformation of environmental management industries (Sukhova, Abanina. 2020).

Issues of environmental safety and environmental protection are regulated by the Federal Law» On Environmental Protection «of 2002, the Environmental Doctrine of the Russian Federation and other regulatory legal acts, and only in the» Forecast of Scientific and Technological Development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030 « (approved by the Federal Law of the Russian Federation). The Government of the Russian Federation) in the section «Rational use of natural resources» specifically states that the environment in the era of globalization and rapid scientific and technological development is becoming increasingly vulnerable, and therefore further following the established inertia scenario in this area threatens with significant risks: climate change, soil degradation, depletion of natural resources, animal extinction, increased man-made load and pollution of natural environments, shortage of quality water resources, loss of biodiversity, etc. As a result, it becomes clear that individual economic policy instruments should be integrated into environmental policy.

The low level of environmental education and awareness, the underdeveloped system of training in the field of ecology of managers in various fields of production, economy and management, as well as advanced training of specialists in environmental services, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, is, in addition to purely technical problems, an obstacle to the development of the implementation of new digital technologies in environmental protection within the framework of the current socio-economic policy. Mukhlynina M. and Vedysheva N. In his

writings address issues of changes in the field of environmental policy, both at the level of legal and regulatory framework, and on organizational-managerial level (Mukhlynina, Vedysheva. 2020).

Topical issues of legal regulation of digitalization of the environmental security as one of the areas of socio-economic policy in the Russian Federation are reflected in the works of Sukhova E.A., Abanina E.N. (Sukhova, 2020), Mukhlynina M., Vedysheva N. (Mukhlynina, 2020), Lunevoy E.V. (Luneva, 2018), Krasnova I.O.(Krasnova, 2021), MacLean D., Andjelkovic M. & Vetter T. (MacLean, 2007), M. T. Riaz, J. Gutierrez & J. Pedersen (Riaz, 2009), Perelet R.A. (Flight, 2018), Kozyreva, A.A. (Vedysheva, 2020), Misnik G.A. (Kozyreva, 2020), Fomenko V.L., Fitsay D.A., etc. However, a number of issues related to the directions of modernization of legal and other means in this area remain insufficiently developed.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodological basis of this research has traditionally been general scientific methods: synthesis, analysis, induction and deduction. The method of factor analysis was used to determine the impact of various factors on the implementation of digitalization of environmental safety in the Russian Federation.

The information base of the research was made up of normative legal acts, documents of state authorities and their officials, scientific works of Russian scientists on the problems of digitalization of environmental safety and the development of socio-economic policy of the Russian Federation.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The largest accident at the CHPP in Norilsk in recent years has revealed all the existing environmental problems in the country as a litmus test, but it also prompted the authorities to draw serious conclusions and take the necessary organizational and legal decisions. On behalf of the President of Russia, a draft law has been prepared and will soon be sent to the State Duma for consideration, which will oblige owners to be responsible for the elimination of the damage caused, including financially. The main idea of the legislative novels is the need to change the attitude of entrepreneurs to nature. The damage at the Norilsk thermal power plant will be eliminated at the

expense of the perpetrators, but experts are confident that such costs should not be financed by companies as current expenses. This reduces profits, and therefore taxes to regional budgets. That is, it turns out that the elimination of damage is essentially at the expense of ordinary citizens, which is not acceptable. It is necessary to develop such an economic and legal mechanism that will provide for the payment of environmental damage from the company's net profit, only then will the legal and financial responsibility be borne by the owners and top officials of the organizations.

Close attention, as E.V. Luneva notes, in the context of the deterioration of the environmental situation, the problems of modernization of legislation on rational use of natural resources deserve close attention, which should be associated with the development and implementation of progressive means and methods to ensure the effective use of natural resources and be one of the priority areas (Luneva, 2018). We are convinced that we cannot do without a legal framework that allows us to introduce the tools of the digital economy into the management of environmental protection and nature management. Thus, according to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of May 9, 2017 No. 203 «On the Strategy for the development of the Information Society in the Russian Federation for 2017-2030», it is determined that the most important factor of production is data in digital form, processing large volumes and using the results of analysis in comparison with traditional forms of management will significantly increase the efficiency of various types of production, technologies, equipment, storage, sale, delivery of goods and services. Therefore, only such a mechanism will be able to ensure a combination of environmental, economic and social interests of society and the state.

Experts in environmental science generally hold two positions regarding the objectives of environmental protection: the anthropocentric position is that nature protection should be carried out to maintain or create favorable environmental conditions for human life. The supporters of the egocentric position proceed from the need to preserve nature as a whole, as it has its own value (Krasnova, 2021). Despite the difference in scientific views, no one denies that only decisive practical steps will be able to ensure the implementation of theoretical provisions. According to experts of the International Institute for Sustainable Development it is technology that is currently playing a leading role in achieving the long-term balance between human activities and the natural environment necessary for the

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (MacLean, 2007). The global community faces serious challenges in improving environmental performance, especially in the context of global warming, and resource management. When the information and communication technology (ICT) industry contributes to the global economy by linking innovation and development to almost every aspect of human life, but it is also responsible for global emissions CO₂ (Riaz, 2009). The latest developments in the field of digital technologies (CT) and information and communication technologies (ICT) are designed to improve the efficiency of specialists whose activities are related to environmental protection and environmental safety. First of all, the technologies used can significantly facilitate the process of processing a large amount of information, carry out its deep and comprehensive analysis, and qualitatively change management activities in the field of environmental management, but, of course, they are not yet able to offer ready-made solutions to environmental problems.

Russia also does not stand still, the environmental agenda sounds very loud. So, at the beginning of May 2021, there was a discussion of a draft law concerning particularly dangerous enterprises whose work has negative consequences for the environment (objects of hazard class I and II, waste disposal facilities of hazard class I and II, industrial sites and workshops of chemical and oil refineries, etc.). The discussion was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Victoria Abramchenko together with industry ministries. It is significant that the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP) took part in the development of the draft law. According to the draft document, five years before the final cycle of the hazardous facility, the company's owners must provide for a liquidation plan, which includes an environmental audit, and ensure its financing. If this work is not completed, then Rosprirodnadzor will be able to go to court and collect a compensation payment in the amount of the amount of liquidation measures for non-performance of obligations. If this does not happen, the payment of dividends will be suspended by a court decision until the payment of the compensation payment or the provision of a plan of measures to eliminate the damage caused.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, Alexander Kozlov, said that as part of the implementation of the instructions of the President of Russia, which the head of state mentioned in his Address to the Federal Assembly, amendments to the federal law «On Environmental Protection» have already been prepared and sent to

the Government, fixing the «coloring» of environmental payments. «We conducted a small analysis, about 23 billion rubles of compensated damage for damage to nature last year. The money went to different levels of budgets: federal, regional, and municipal. And only about 2% went to direct needs, just to compensate for environmental damage. Yes, this money is used to build schools, hospitals, and many other things that people need. But most importantly, they do not go to the needs of the environment. We have made amendments to the Government, they are now under consideration. Now the money from the environmental fines and the eco-collection will go for its intended purpose: for the environment», the minister said.

Now our country has taken a confident course for a continuous and purposeful process related to the digitalization of all spheres of society's life, gaining knowledge, self-education, and gaining experience in the development of its digital and information and communication technologies, aimed at forming value orientations, norms of behavior in the process of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources in order to meet the needs of present and future generations, strengthening the rule of law and ensuring environmental safety. The digital economy makes it possible to ensure the sustainability of the Earth's ecosystem, the transition to a green economy, as well as to restore destroyed areas in this area, for example, by monitoring green big data, including online screening of a whole range of specialized indicators (Flight, 2018).

The issue of using digital and information and communication technologies to improve environmental education and environmental culture of citizens is also very relevant today. It should be noted that existing technologies and ready-made digital solutions allow creating high-quality educational content that can be used to form continuous environmental education and education in the Russian Federation both within the framework of state and non-state programs. At the same time, the created educational content should be human-oriented and aimed at creating new educational material in accordance with the needs of the economy and society, as well as meeting the interests of the harmonious development of the individual, the disclosure of his creative potential. In this regard, when forming educational programs in the field of environmental education, it is necessary to recommend teachers to transform the lecture material into a video stream, create digital texts and interactive modules. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the education system faced serious challenges related

to the need to ensure the legitimate rights of citizens, but was able to fulfill the tasks assigned to it (Kozyreva, 2020).

Ensuring an ecosystem approach one of the goals formulated in the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of July 21, 2020 No. 474 «On the National Development Goals of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030» sounds like a digital transformation, for the implementation of which it is necessary to achieve «digital maturity», including in the field of environmental safety. Digitalization of the system of nature management and environmental protection should contribute to the implementation of one of the directions of the state environmental policy at the present stage in the Russian Federation and its subjects. Ensuring environmental safety in the Russian Federation contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 and calculated until 2030, aimed at ensuring the protection of our planet, improving the quality of life and improving the prospects for all people around the world (Vedysheva, 2020).

4 CONCLUSIONS

Summing up, we note that the country's transition to a modern level of development is impossible without new IT technologies, the introduction of the Internet and other ICTs, which create a platform and effective tools for performing certain tasks in the field of environmental management and environmental protection. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the activation of digital technologies that make it possible to obtain the necessary information in the field of environmental protection, ensuring environmental safety, and implementing the UN SDGs. However, according to experts, the current system of information support for modern environmental management in Russia only partially meets the requirements for reliability, completeness and efficiency of providing information. For example, the main shortcomings of the information support of land management are recognized: «the implementation of weak interdepartmental interaction through the information and electronic exchange of information on agricultural land; the lack of targeted, well-thought-out, well-organized work with information. In the implementation of land use management, the disadvantage is also expressed in the fact that if obtaining reliable information about land plots as real estate objects is provided by the

formed Unified State Register of Real Estate (EGRN), then there is no information about the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of land plots, depending on the category of land, types of permitted use, and soil condition in a systematic form. The latter entails poor information support for state supervision and control over the state of land, programs for the protection and rational use of land, which does not contribute to the implementation of the tasks set for their effective use and reduction of degradation. (Sukhova, 2020).

As for the legislative solution to the existing environmental problems, a draft law has been developed concerning particularly dangerous enterprises whose work has negative consequences for the environment (objects of hazard class I and II, waste disposal facilities of hazard class I and II). However, there are other enterprises in Russia that are not regulated by this legislation. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation plans to amend a number of laws that, among other things, cover the life of these enterprises, they will regulate the creation of liquidation funds for metallurgical enterprises, subsurface use facilities, animal husbandry, poultry farming and sewage treatment plants.

We suggest that state subsidies should be directed to a greater extent to the creation of modern, environmentally friendly fuels that are alternative to fossil fuels.

The use of digital technologies has shown great effectiveness in the practice of detecting and preventing violations of environmental regulations. For example, in some regions of the Russian Federation, the Geoscan project «Digital Model of a typical region» is being implemented, which allows you to create a geodesically accurate 3D model of the territory based on data from unmanned aerial photography and GLONASS technology. The result of the use of ICT was the identification of cadastral violations and cadastral errors, unused or misused land plots. However, according to experts, none of the implemented projects solves the problem of creating a single automated information system that allows you to collect, receive, store, process and use information about the state of land resources, their qualitative and quantitative characteristics, their use and protection, or solves it partially.

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