

MEASURES ENSURING AND IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN THE THAYA RIVER BASIN

(Maßnahmen zur Erhaltung und Verbesserung der Wasserqualität im Einzugsbereich der Thaya)

Name of Supreme Audit Institution

Österreichischer Rechnungshof (Austrian Court of Audit)

Title of summary report on audit findings

Report; Wahrnehmungsbericht des Rechnungshofes Reihe Niederösterreich 2005/6; published in August 2005

Audit issues

Water quality

Audit type

Combined audit

Description of the Audit

The aim of the audit was to investigate measures concerning the water quality of river Thaya including ground water bodies. Further topics were the implementation of EU-water directives in connection with water quality and waste water management of the region.

The audit was conducted by the Austrian Court of Audit on its own initiative. It was conducted in April and May 2004.

Scope of audit

Implementation of the EU-directives into the national legal framework

Objectives and their achievement, especially concerning water quality of river Thaya, its tributaries and the ground water body

Audited units

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, State (Land) of Lower Austria

Summary of the audit findings and evaluation of the audited activities

There was delay in implementing EU-directives.

The ecologic situation of the surface waters partly showed potential for improvements.

In spite of the stressed water quality of the ground water body, the supply with drinking water was guaranteed.

River Pulkau was not suitable as on-site preflooder for a citric acid producing facility.

Addressees of the summary report on audit findings

The report was forwarded to the Landtag (legislative body of the State) of Lower Austria

Results of the audit

A technical monitoring system of the ground water body will be implemented.

Waste water treatment plants will be built to match the guidelines of the EU-Water directive.

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