

Abstract: The institute of environmental harm and its contribution to environmental protection in the Czech Republic

The goal of this thesis is to analyse the institute of environmental harm in the Czech legal system and its application in practice. The institute of environmental harm and liability for it falls within the area of liability in environmental law and its purpose is to protect and compensate for environmental losses.

In view of the fact that there are two separate institutes of environmental harm in the Czech legal system with a different basis, the author deals with both of them, including their projection into the component acts, for the sake of completeness of interpretation. This leads to the fact that this thesis works not only with national, but also with European legislation.

In the first chapter, the author analyses the meaning and purpose of the institute of environmental harm and compares it with civil damages. The institute in question is further embedded in the liability system in environmental law. Attention is also paid to the sources of environmental harm. In the remaining part of the first chapter, the author deals with the sources of legal regulation of liability for environmental harm and the legal principles underlying the institute.

The second chapter is dedicated to the legal definition of environmental harm and the basic characteristics of liability for environmental harm. After this interpretation, attention is focused on the forms of remedy for environmental harm and the coincidence of environmental harm and private law damage.

The third chapter analyses the projection of environmental harm in the component acts in the area of environmental protection. The author describes the various commonly used institutes that have their basis in environmental harm, as well as the interconnection of the component laws with the laws regulating environmental harm primarily.

In the fourth chapter, the author focuses on the liability for environmental harm in practice for the last 32 years, i.e. for the time when the Czech legal system has known about environmental harm. The author draws here, among other things, on the responses of nature protection authorities to the author's questions on this topic, paying particular attention to the case of the poisoning (contamination) of the Bečva river, which occurred in 2020. The fourth chapter also addresses the only currently used methodology for valuing a part of the environment for the purpose of determining environmental harm.

In the final fifth chapter of this thesis, the author makes specific proposals for the Czech legal system based on the previous observations. These proposals aim to improve the unsatisfactory situation concerning environmental harm discussed in the thesis, so that this institution can fulfil its potential in protecting the environment.

Key words: environmental harm, environmental liability, environment