

Pollution source along the Yangtze River
Investigative Report on Jiangsu Shagang Group
Summary

Jiangsu Shagang Group Co., Ltd. is located in Zhangjiagang City, Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province and on the bank of the Yangtze River. It is a major member of the Shagang Group.

At the beginning of this year, the *Announcement of Consultation on Compensation for Ecological and Environmental Damage Cases of Jiangsu Shagang Group Co., Ltd* published on the website of Zhangjiagang Municipal People's Government attracted the attention of SIP Lvse Jiangnan Public Environment Concerned Centre (hereinafter referred to as "Lvse Jiangnan"). The announcement mainly indicates that the problems of smoke and dust pollution and outdoor stack of steel slag found by the Central Inspections of Environmental Protection in the "reexamination" in 2018 have been rectified.

In 2018, the Central Inspections of Environmental Protection pointed out in its briefing that *As a listed company with steel production of more than 30 million tons in 2017 and annual sales of more than 200 billion yuan, Shagang Group has failed to better assume its ecological and environmental responsibilities. Suzhou City and Zhangjiagang City have mainly undertaken an approach of "penalty in lieu of management". By the end of the first round of Central Inspections of Environmental Protection, the company has not been urged to proceed complete rectification, and its problem of smoke and dust emission remained unresolved for a long time A large amount of steel slag from Shagang Group is stored close to the Yangtze River for a long time without necessary pollution prevention and control facilities, which not only exposes the salient issue in environmental management of Shagang Group, but also reflects the weakness of ecological and environmental supervision by the local party committee and government. With discipline form of punishment instead of management and no further action taken after the penalty, the problem was left unresolved for a long time. With regards to the environmental pollution problem of Shagang Group and the local party and government's inaction and slow action on ecological and environmental protection, the Central Inspections of Environmental Protection will conduct further investigation and process according to laws and regulations.*

According to the official website of Shagang Group, since 2018, the group has fully implemented the Ultra-low Emission project, implemented measures in line with "Yangtze River Protection" effectively, and executed the "Purification, Afforestation and Beautification" project for the pier along the river.

In order to promote the "Yangtze River Protection", from May to June 2021, Lvse Jiangnan, together with the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (hereinafter referred to as IPE), conducted both desk research and field study on Jiangsu Shagang Group's plant, pier

and surrounding areas along the Yangtze River in Zhangjiagang. The main problems found on site include: 1) suspected fugitive emission of dust and resulted dust accumulation on the building surface; 2) large amounts of industrial solid waste such as scrap iron piled up in the open air; coal and other production materials are stacked in the open in large scale, part of the ground has not been hardened in accordance with the requirements, no strict enclosure is set, and the dust suppression and dispersion prevention measures are imperfect; 3) On the pier along the Yangtze River, materials are stacked in large areas in the open air, and no complete closed storage measures or dust control measures such as felt tarpaulin have been taken. The surface of the pier is dusted in large areas, and the Yangtze River along the pier is suspected to be polluted. The above problems pose threats to the ecological environment of the Yangtze River.

The Yangtze River is the mother river on which countless people depend for their survival. Shagang Group, which is built close to the Yangtze River, should have taken extra care of the ecological environment of Yangtze River. However, after five years since the salient issue of smoke and dust pollution and outdoor stack of steel slag were discovered in central environmental inspection in 2016, we regret to see that Shagang Group has still not learned the lessons, and the threat to the ecological environment of the Yangtze River has yet to be completely eliminated.

At present, China continues to promote air pollution control and has formulated its 30/60 targets for carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, for which special emphasis is placed on high energy-consuming and high-emission industries such as iron and steel. These industries must vigorously conserve energy and reduce emissions, and implement collaborative governance of pollution and carbon reduction. We call on the ecological environment bureau where Shagang Group is located to pressingly urge the company to rectify the problem thoroughly. We equally call on Shagang Group to effectively assume the primary responsibility for pollution control, remediate the environmental management loopholes, prevent and control the pollution of smoke and dust, and remove the pollution generated from the laying of materials and solid wastes in the open air. We also hope that all sectors of society pay attention to this key emission source along the Yangtze River to jointly promote the control of pollution and effectively protect the ecological environment of the River.

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