

8 April 2002

Ir Lau Ching-kwong  
Director of Civil Engineering  
By Fax: 22468708

Dear Mr Lau

We understand that your department is working to tackle the contamination problem encountered in Penny's Bay. From the Environmental Impact Assessment report commissioned by your department, off-site treatment, i.e. transporting the contaminated mud to To Kau Wan and for Indirect Thermal Desorption and then Tsing Yi Chemical Waste Treatment Centre for further treatment, is suggested.

As stated in our submission to Legco Panel on Environmental Affairs, which is enclosed for your reference, we are concerned that the suggestion of off-site treatment seems to be contrary to general understanding that on-site treatment involves less risks. We suggest that the government should justify its choice by comparing different options. Certainly close monitoring is much crucial to the success of any scheme.

We look forward to your reply soon.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Ng  
Chief Executive

Encl.

16 April 2002

Mrs Lily Yam  
Secretary for Environment and Food

By Post & Fax: 2537 0856

Dear Mrs Yam

Policy on De-contamination and Control in Land Contamination

The recent plan on decommissioning of Cheoy Lee Shipyard at Penny's Bay has brought the society's attention to land de-contamination and the need for a policy to control land contamination in Hong Kong. It is said that before the investigation carried out by Civil Engineering Department, Environmental Protection Department was unaware of dioxin contamination. As you are aware, open burning and illegal dumping do happen in certain areas in Hong Kong in particular the New Territories. Such activities may give rise to land contamination. The worst case would involve dioxin contamination which would be quite dangerous to tackle.

Therefore we wish to raise our concern and suggest that the government should have a policy to control land contamination to tackle the potential contamination problem. Also, due to potential hazards, the government should also develop a de-contamination policy and guidelines on the clearance of contamination. Should the government have already had these policies, we would be pleased to be informed. We would also be happy to contribute our comments to facilitate a better policy for Hong Kong.

We look forward to your response and my contact number is 22720322.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Ng  
Chief Executive

c.c. DEP (Fax: 28912512)