

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/BC/13/04

LC Paper No. CB(2)2386/04-05
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2005

**Minutes of the first meeting
held on Friday, 8 July 2005 at 8:30 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Public Officers attending : Mr FAN Wai-ming, Raymond
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)

Mrs Teresa WONG
Assistant Director (Waste Management Policy)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr LEI Chee-kwong, Patrick
Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Policy)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr NG Yau-wing, Alex
Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Special Waste &
Landfill Restoration)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr CHAN Shu-to, Kenneth
Officer-in-charge (Territorial Control)
Environmental Protection Department

Dr HA Kwok-kuen, David
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Policy) 2
Environmental Protection Department

Ms IP Fung-king, Fanny
Senior Assistant Law Draftsman
Department of Justice

Dr HO Mang-yee, Mandy
Principal Medical & Health Officer (5)
Department of Health

Clerk in attendance : Mrs Percy MA
Chief Council Secretary (2)3

Staff in attendance : Miss Monna LAI
Assistant Legal Adviser 7

Mrs Eleanor CHOW
Senior Council Secretary (2)4

Action

I. Election of Chairman

Ms Audrey EU was elected Chairman of the Bills Committee.

2. Members noted that Mr WONG Yung-kan had withdrawn membership from the Bills Committee. The withdrawal took effect on 6 July 2005 as indicated in Mr WONG's letter to the Clerk which was tabled at the meeting.

II. Meeting with the Administration

(EP55 /03/144 – Legislative Council Brief on the Bill

LC Paper No. LS66/04-05 – Legal Service Division Report

LC Paper No. CB(2)2171/04-05(01) – Marked-up copy of the Bill

LC Paper No. CB(2)2183/04-05(01) – Background Brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(2)2182/04-05(02) – Letter dated 6 February 2004 from Assistant Legal Adviser to the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(2)2182/04-05(03) – Letter dated 24 June 2005 from the Administration to Assistant Legal Adviser

LC Paper No. CB(2)2182/04-05(04) – Paper provided by the Administration)

3. The Bills Committee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

Issues raised by members

Management of clinical waste

4. To facilitate members' understanding of the various aspects of Clinical Waste Control Scheme, the Administration was requested to provide –

- (a) the Report on “Review on Alternative Technologies for the Treatment of Clinical Waste” prepared by the Environmental Protection Department in December 2000;
- (b) a paper on the clinical waste management, including the following information –
 - (i) a flow chart showing the duties and work processes of the various parties in the clinical waste management chain in the storage, collection, transportation and disposal of clinical waste;
 - (ii) the sanctions to be imposed on clinical waste producers and clinical waste collectors for non-compliance with the statutory requirements;
 - (iii) the timetable for recovering in full the operation cost for treating clinical waste at the Tsing Yi Clinical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC); and
 - (iv) the reasons for excluding dead animals or animal tissues, organs and body parts arising from veterinary sources or Chinese medicine practices from the definition of “clinical waste”.

Dioxin emissions

5. To address members' concern about the health impact of dioxin emissions from co-incineration of chemical and clinical wastes in CWTC, the Administration was requested to provide a paper on the subject, including the following information –

- (a) the dioxin emission control and monitoring mechanism of CWTC;
- (b) the latest data on dioxin emissions at CWTC, including the findings of the study on dioxin emissions conducted independently by a professor of the Baptist University;
- (c) the tolerable daily intake (TDI) of dioxin recommended by the World Health Organization for humans, and the formula for calculating the TDI;
- (d) the cumulative impact of dioxin emissions on human health, in particular pregnant women and children, and the findings of a relevant study undertaken by The University of Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2003;
- (e) the percentage of people who had developed cancer in Kwai Tsing District vis-à-vis those in other districts in Hong Kong in the past 10 years; and
- (f) the outcome of the discussion with the Kwai Tsing District Council at the meeting to be held in mid July.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's responses were issued vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2346/04-05(01) and (02) on 20 July 2005.)

Research study

6. The Bills Committee requested the Research and Library Services Division of the Secretariat to provide information on the latest technologies for treatment of clinical waste in overseas countries.

(Post-meeting note: The Fact Sheet prepared by the Research and Library Services Division on "Recent Developments in Clinical Waste Treatment Technologies" (FS20/04-05) was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2367/04-05 on 25 July 2005.)

Consultation on the Bill

7. As the Bill sought to extend the application of the Waste Disposal Ordinance to clinical waste, strengthen the control of the disposal of imported waste, and give effect to the international ban on the export of hazardous waste from some developed countries, the Bills Committee agreed that relevant trades should be invited to give views on the different aspects of the Bill.

8. Members agreed that the Secretariat would post an invitation for submissions on the LegCo website and issue invitation letters to –

- (a) the 19 organisations invited to give views on the proposed Waste Disposal Control Scheme by the Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Panel on Health in 2002 (the list was tabled at the meeting and issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2260/04-05(01) on 13 July 2005);
- (b) the 10 major stakeholders consulted by the Administration on the Bill (the list was tabled at the meeting and issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2260/04-05(02) on 13 July 2005); and
- (c) healthcare professional bodies, medical laboratory associations, dental school, Chinese medicine and medical practitioners associations, waste management associations and other relevant organisations as suggested by members.

9. The Secretariat would circulate for members' information a list of organisations invited by the Bill Committee to give views on the Bill. Members who wished to suggest any organisations to be invited would be requested to provide the relevant details to the Clerk.

(Post-meeting note : On paragraph 8(c), the Administration provided a list of the relevant organisations to the Secretariat for reference after the meeting. The circular referred to in paragraph 9 above was issued to members vide LC Paper No CB(2)2261/04-05 on 13 July 2005.)

III. Date of next meeting

10. The Bills Committee agreed that –

- (a) the second meeting would be held on 26 July 2005 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm to receive public views on the Bill; and
- (b) the third meeting would be held at the end of September 2005, the date of which would be decided at the next meeting.

11. The meeting ended at 10:42 am.

**Proceedings of the first meeting of the Bills Committee on
Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2005
on Friday, 8 July 2005 at 8:30 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Time Marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
000000 – 000309	Ir Dr Raymond HO Mr Jeffrey LAM Ms Audrey EU Mr LEE Wing-tat	Election of Chairman	
000310 – 001657	Chairman Admin	Timeframe to enact the Bill and to implement the Clinical Waste Control Scheme	
001658 – 003908	Chairman Ms CHOY So-yuk Dr KWOK Ka-ki Admin Ms Emily LAU Clerk Ms LI Fung-ying Mr Jeffrey LAM Dr LUI Ming-wah Mr LEE Wing-tat Mr Andrew LEUNG	Invitation of submissions and deputations to give oral representation at the meeting on 26 July 2005 Research on the latest technologies for treatment of clinical waste in overseas countries Report on “Review on Alternative Technologies for the Treatment of Clinical Waste” by Mr William K TOWNEND	Secretariat to issue invitation letters and post invitation on website Research and Library Services Division to follow up Admin to provide a copy of the Report (paragraph 4(a) of the minutes refers)
003909 – 004554	Chairman Mr WONG Kwok-hing Admin	Actions taken by the Administration since June 2003, when the Bill was last introduced, including exploration on new technologies for waste treatment, monitoring of dioxin emissions at the Tsing Yi Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC), etc.	Admin to provide information on latest dioxin emissions control and monitoring mechanism of CWTC (paragraph 5(a) of the minutes refers)
004555 – 005545	Chairman Dr KWOK Ka-ki Admin	Licensing of waste collectors Sanctions to be imposed on waste producers and collectors for non-compliance with statutory requirements Charges on treatment of clinical waste	
005546 – 005835	Ms CHOY So-yuk Admin	Capacity and utilisation of CWTC in handling waste	

Time Marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
005836 – 010305	Dr KWOK-Ka-ki Admin Chairman	Sanctions to be imposed on waste producers and collectors for non-compliance with statutory requirements Monitoring mechanism for waste collectors Timetable for recovering in full the operation cost for treating clinical waste at CWTC	Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 4(b)(ii) of the minutes refers) Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 4(b)(iii) of the minutes refers)
010306 – 011651	Ms Emily LAU Admin Chairman	Volume of clinical waste generated each day Costs to be incurred for the modification of CWTC to treat clinical waste Response of the residents in Tsing Yi and the Kwai Tsing District Council on the Clinical Waste Control Scheme	
011652 – 014513	Mr LEE Wing-tat Chairman Admin	Impact of dioxin emissions on human health and dioxin emission at CWTC Daily intake of dioxin recommended by the World Health Organisation and the formula for calculating the daily intake of dioxin of a person Study conducted by The University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2003 on the dioxin level of pregnant women and children in Hong Kong Definition of “clinical waste” Reasons for excluding dead animals and animal tissues, organs and body parts arising from veterinary sources or Chinese medicine practices from the definition of “clinical waste”	Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 5(b) and (d) of the minutes refers) Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 5(c) of the minutes refers) Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 5(d) of the minutes refers) Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 4(b)(iv) of the minutes refers)

Time Marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
014514 – 015933	Ms LI Fung-ying Admin Chairman	Licensing and monitoring of waste collectors Handling of clinical waste by small and remote clinics Flowchart showing the duties and work processes of the various parties in the clinical waste management chain in the storage, collection, transportation and disposal of clinical waste	Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 4(b)(i) of the minutes refers)
015934 – 020819	Ms Emily LAU Admin	Reasons for not conducting a comparative study on the health condition of the residents in Kwai Tsing and other districts Upcoming meeting between the Administration and the Kwai Tsing District Council	Admin to report on the outcome of the discussion (paragraph 5(f) of the minutes refers)
020820 – 021304	Mr LEE Wing-tat Admin	Baseline monitoring of dioxin intake by different age groups Independent study conducted by a professor of the Baptist University on the emission level of dioxin at CWTC	Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 5(b) of the minutes refers)
021305 - 021325	Chairman	Percentage of people who had developed cancer in Kwai Tsing Districts vis-à-vis those in other districts in Hong Kong in the past 10 years	Admin to provide the requested information (paragraph 5(e) of the minutes refers)