

本署檔案
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7 March 2006

The Hon Audrey Eu Yuet-mee, SC, JP
The Chairman,
Bills Committee on the Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2005,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(By Fax 2509-9055)

Dear Chairman,

Bills Committee on the Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2005

**Proposed Treatment of Clinical Waste
at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre**

In response to Members' request at the 13th Meeting of the Bills Committee, I would like to advise you on the practicable measures we plan to take in order to gain acceptance of the Kwai Tsing District Council (DC) to the proposed treatment of clinical waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC).

Before responding to Members' request, I would like to reassure Members that the CWTC is fully equipped to treat clinical waste by high temperature incineration, which is recognized as an environmentally sound and safe method in many developed countries. We carried out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in 1998/99, and engaged an international expert on clinical waste management to review the various treatment options in 2000. Both the EIA and the expert review findings have concluded that the CWTC provided a total solution to treat the small quantity of clinical waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner.

However, despite our relentless efforts in consulting the DC since 1997, as reported at the 13th meeting of the Bills Committee, the DC remains opposed to the proposed treatment of clinical waste at the CWTC. In order to allay the concerns of the DC and the local residents, we have proposed to enhance the environmental monitoring arrangement and to employ an independent assessor to provide expert advice to the DC on the monitoring results.

Since a new Planning and Environmental Hygiene Committee (PEHC) of the DC will be formed in April to specifically address environmental and planning issues, we will continue to discuss the monitoring proposal with the DC members at the forthcoming meeting of the PEHC scheduled to be held around mid April 2006. We will also step up public engagement efforts through community activities, and visits would be arranged for local residents to show them the environmental features of the CWTC.

We have been working with individual Members on various environment-related issues in Kwai Tsing district and will continue to follow up the cases. Regarding Members' request for providing facilities for the betterment of the district, we are liaising with the District Office and relevant bureaux/departments and shall contribute to the on-going discussions through the DC and its committees in considering projects which help to improve the local environment.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and Members for their guidance and support during the past several months in working with us to examine the Bill. We look forward to the passage of the Bill and the early implementation of the new legislative provisions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Raymond Fan', written over a faint, circular official stamp or watermark.

(Raymond Fan)
for Director of Environmental Protection