

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Information Note on Decommissioning of the Former Cheoy Lee Shipyard

Purpose

The Administration provided a brief update to Members in May 2004 on progress of the decommissioning of the former Cheoy Lee Shipyard at Penny's Bay. This information note sets out the present position.

Present Position

2. In accordance with conditions imposed by the Environmental Permit (EP) issued under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, we have completed off-site thermal desorption treatment of the dioxin-contaminated soil at To Kau Wan (TKW) in North Lantau and will proceed with transportation of the dioxin-containing residues from TKW to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) in Tsing Yi for incineration starting from end-November 2004. This is the safest and most reliable method of disposal utilizing the latest technologies.

Schedule of Incineration

3. A total of about 90 tonnes of residues will need to be incinerated. The EP requires a trial exercise to ascertain effectiveness of the relevant control measures at CWTC. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) will grant approval for the entire incineration process only if all parameters derived from this exercise are in compliance with the stipulated requirements. In order to meet with this requirement, we will transport 10 tonnes of residues to CWTC from around 1 am to 2 am on 25 November 2004 for incineration the following day on 26 November 2004.

4. Upon approval by DEP after assessing the outcome of this trial exercise, the remaining residues will be incinerated in four consignments at roughly seven-week intervals according to the following tentative schedule:

<u>Date of Transportation</u>	<u>Amount of Residues</u>
4 January 2005 at around 1-2 am	20 tonnes
22 February 2005 at around 1-2 am	20 tonnes
12 April 2005 at around 1-2 am	20 tonnes
31 May 2005 at around 1-2 am	20 tonnes

5. The above tentative schedule may have to be adjusted later on taking into account prevailing weather and traffic conditions as well as other relevant circumstances.

Monitoring Mechanism

6. We have set up an inter-departmental task group to oversee the entire operation. The Environmental Protection Department will closely monitor each stage of the incineration process at CWTC to ensure strict compliance with the licence and contract requirements. In accordance with statutory provisions set out in the Waste Disposal Ordinance, the allowable limit of dioxin emission at CWTC cannot exceed 0.1 ng/m^3 , comparable with standards adopted in the European Union, Japan and the United States.

7. Furthermore, we will adopt all proper precautionary measures, using specially-equipped vehicles to carry out the transportation after midnight in safe speed through carefully mapped out routes with due contingency. The convoy will be escorted by police and project vehicles along its journey, and an Emergency Response Centre will be activated to coordinate any necessary remedial actions.

8. To allay public concern, we will provide the Kwai Tsing District Council with progress at regular intervals on outcome of the incineration process, including air monitoring results. Such information may also be accessed on-line by other interested parties at the website of the Civil Engineering and Development Department.

9. An independent expert assessor, Dr Jonathan Wong of the Hong Kong Baptist University, will participate in monitoring effectiveness of the incineration process by collecting air samples for analysis against a set of stringent alert indicators.

**Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
November 2004**