

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

PWP Item 5167DR – Provision of Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility at a Refuse Transfer Station

Supplementary Information

INTRODUCTION

In considering PWP Item **5167DR** “Provision of Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility at a Refuse Transfer Station” on 23 January 2006, the Environmental Affairs Panel requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on –

- (a) possible revenue from the sale of the recovered oil and grease;
- (b) the need to charge for the use of the Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility (GTWTF);
- (c) the mandatory requirement for waste producers to deliver grease trap waste (GTW) to the GTWTF; and
- (d) the need for an additional GTWTF.

THE ADMINISTRATION’S RESPONSE

Review of possible revenue

2. The proposed GTWTF to be built at the West Kowloon Transfer Station will be based on similar facilities in operation in France. We understand that at the French facilities the recovered oil and grease is sold for use as an industrial fuel at a price of approximately €190 (HK\$1,800) per tonne. In Hong Kong, the market value of the recovered oil and grease has yet to be established.

3. It is anticipated that the price of the recovered oil and grease in Hong Kong will be subject to the characteristics of the Hong Kong product, the demands of the market and the price of equivalent fuel oil. However, given the experience in France, we expect that the recovered oil and grease in Hong Kong can be put to good use and should produce attractive revenue.

Need to charge for the use of the facility

4. At present no charge is levied on the users of the Interim Grease Trap Waste Facility (IGTWTF) at the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill at Nim Wan, Tuen Mun for the disposal of GTW.

5. In accordance with the polluter-pays principle, a charge for the disposal of GTW at Government waste treatment facility should normally be made. We intend to revisit the current charging policy for the treatment and disposal of GTW and consult this Panel in due course.

Mandatory requirement for producers to deliver GTW to the GTWTF

6. It is a standard requirement in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's restaurant licence that grease traps must be provided to prevent discharge of oil and grease into any sewer from clogging the sewer pipes and causing sewage overflows. For small box grease traps (which are usually installed under individual sinks), they are degreased manually and the waste is usually mixed with other kitchen waste for co-disposal at landfills. For large grease traps, they are difficult to clean well by hand so most of them are mechanically cleaned by collectors registered with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the waste is delivered to the IGTWTF at WENT Landfill.

7. Disposal of GTW at the IGTWTF is managed by EPD through an administrative registration system. Any person who wishes to deliver GTW to the IGTWTF for disposal should first register with EPD (Currently there are 71 registered collectors serving the trade). The Certificate of Registration imposes terms and conditions and it is a requirement for the registered collectors to discharge GTW only at the GTWTF. In addition there is legislative control under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) Cap. 358 which requires a discharger to obtain

a licence before commencing to discharge and imposes a heavy fine for any illegal discharge into drains, sewers or the waters of Hong Kong. All the WPCO licences for restaurants and food processing factories require, as a standard condition, the permit holders to maintain their grease traps and dispose of their GTW properly. Over the past few years there has been a drop in prosecution cases and the volume of GTW disposed of at the IGTWTF has remained fairly constant at around 400 tonnes per day since mid 2004 suggesting that the control arrangements are functioning efficiently.

Need for an additional GTWTF

8. Although the GTW arisings have remained fairly constant since mid 2004, we would continue to closely monitor the future GTW arisings as part of our planning for an additional facility. In addition the new facility at West Kowloon Transfer Station has scope for expansion to enable it to sustain an input of 500 tonnes per day. We therefore expect to be fully prepared to build a second plant when there is a need to do so.

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