



CIWEM HK

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香港水務及環境
管理學會

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTION OF
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
HONG KONG

CB(1) 1220/08-09(02)

Date: 27 March 2009

by email

Attn: The Honourable Audrey EU
Chairperson of the Environmental Affairs Panel

Subject: Sludge Treatment Facilities

Background

Dewatered sewage sludge generated from Sewage Treatment Works (STW) in HK are being disposed of in the three different landfills. It is the intention of the government to construct a sewage sludge incineration facility in order to provide a more sustainable sludge treatment method and alleviate the burden on the landfills. The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong (CIWEM HK) supports this initiative by the government, and would like to express our views on the proposed construction of a sewage incineration facility.

CIWEM HK's View

CIWEM would express our views on the sludge incineration facility as follows:

1. Quantity of sewage sludge will increase significantly when HK continues to improve its water quality through expanding and upgrading its sewage system. With a projected increase from the current 800 tonnes per day to 2,000 tonnes per day around 2020, landfilling of sewage sludge is not a sustainable solution. Sludge incineration, which is adopted by many developed countries, is the appropriate technology for HK.
2. HATS Stage 2A, which is a vital project to improve the water quality of Victoria Harbour, is due for commissioning in 2014. HK needs the sludge incineration facility urgently to handle the increased quantity of sewage sludge.

3. Landfilling of excessive quantity of sewage sludge will cause landfill stability problem. The landfills in HK are already handling sewage sludge close to its limit. It is our grave concern that increasing the quantity of sewage sludge to be landfilled will further compromise public safety. The recent failure at the Shenzhen Xia Ping Landfill (下坪垃圾堆填場), which is caused by landfilling of excessive quantity of sludge, is a valuable example of safety concerns of disposing an excessive amount of sludge at a landfill.
4. We understand the proposed sludge incinerator will incorporate state-of-the-art technology which is well proven. The emission standards will be compatible with those in EU, being the most stringent in the world. The EIA report of the proposed sludge incineration facility has been endorsed by the ACE and approved under the EIAO. We believe that the emissions from the sludge incineration facility will not pose threat to the general public health nor the environment provided that all the recommended mitigating measures are timely and appropriately implemented.
5. We hope the government will appreciate the urgent need of solving the sludge disposal problem and implement the project as soon as possible.

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Yours faithfully,



Norman Cheng
Chairman

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong