

Subcommittee on Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 and Waste Disposal (Refuse Transfer Station) (Amendment) Regulation 2013

List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 13 December 2013

To facilitate members' consideration of the measures relating to the "Waste Diversion Plan" for the South East New Territories ("SENT") Landfill and the effectiveness of the proposed fee reduction for some Refuse Transfer Stations ("RTSs") to maximize utilization of RTSs to cope with the municipal solid waste ("MSW") diverted from the SENT Landfill, the Administration is requested to provide the following information –

Refuse Transfer Stations

- (a) the current proportion of MSW received by each of the seven RTSs with breakdown by the mode of transportation (i.e. by land or sea) and waste collectors (i.e. the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") or private waste collectors), vis-a-vis the existing utilization level and design capacity of the respective RTS;
- (b) the estimated freed-up or unused capacity of individual RTSs and their utilization by FEHD/private waste collectors to cope with MSW diverted from the SENT Landfill as a result of the implementation of the "Waste Diversion Plan" and other complementary measures;
- (c) the existing routes of waste collection and delivery by refuse collection vehicles ("RCVs") of FEHD (or its contractors) and private waste collectors to the RTSs and landfills, and the planned/estimated changes in these routes arising from implementation of the "Waste Diversion Plan" and other complementary measures, including the estimated number/percentage of RCVs and trips involved; and
- (d) the plan and timeframe, if any, for building new RTSs, with a view to ultimately enabling more or all landfilled MSW to go through an RTS for waste compaction before disposal at landfills.

Equipment standards for RCVs

2. To address members' concern that while the proposed amendment to the Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) Regulation (Cap. 354 sub. leg. L) ("DWDF Regulation") will specify the equipment standards for RCVs to enhance their environmental performance, the detailed technical specifications of the specified devices will only be set out in administrative guidelines to be issued by the Director of Environmental Protection, the Administration is requested to –

- (a) provide the administrative guidelines on the detailed technical specifications of the specified devices, including whether certification by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department ("EMSD") would be required under these guidelines outside the one-off subsidy scheme for retrofitting RCVs to meet the relevant standards; and the measures to ensure compliance with the administrative guidelines if they are not stipulated in the legislation;
- (b) how enforcement could be taken under the following situations:
 - (i) an RCV can meet the proposed equipment standards specified in the DWDF Regulation but not the detailed technical specifications in the administrative guidelines;
 - (ii) the RCV equipment is suitable for the purposes specified in the DWDF Regulation but cannot achieve the desired outcome in minimizing environmental nuisance; and
 - (iii) the RCV meets the proposed equipment standards but the RCV driver/user does not use the equipment properly (e.g. failing to close the metal tailgate cover or cover the waste water sump tank);
- (c) consider setting out in the DWDF Regulation the basic technical/functional requirements of the specified equipment standards of RCVs to facilitate compliance and enforcement, and/or incorporating in the Regulation references to the administrative guidelines so as to enhance the enforceability of the guidelines;

- (d) provide information on the improvement measures and enforcement actions to address the environmental concerns arising from waste collection trucks of a non-compaction or non-fully-enclosed type of design which would not be subject to the proposed equipment standards to be specified in the DWDF Regulation, in particular waste collection trucks carrying construction waste; and whether consideration would be given to requiring the waste collectors concerned to adopt a fully-enclosed type of design for their waste collection trucks, or to cover/enclose the waste properly during delivery to prevent waste/refuse from falling onto the road, and if not, the reasons; and
- (e) consider raising the level of penalty on illegal dumping from RCVs by private waste collectors.

Assessment of odour reduction

3. The Administration is requested to provide information and relevant data on its assessment that the odour nuisance caused by the operation of the SENT Landfill has been reduced with the odour management measures implemented by the Environmental Protection Department, as stated in paragraph 6 of the Legislative Council Brief (File Ref.: (7) in EP CR 9/150/38).

Council Business Division 1
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