

**Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee
Meeting on 16 June 2015**

**Ground decontamination works at the site of
ex-Kennedy Town Incineration Plant/Abattoir and adjoining area**

Follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration

At its meeting of 16 June 2015, the Public Works Subcommittee discussed the item “PWP item no. 570CL – Ground Decontamination Works at the Site of Ex-Kennedy Town Incineration Plant/Abattoir and Adjoining Area”. Hon Cyd HO requested the Government to provide information after the meeting about the means and results of identifying contaminants (including dioxins) in the soil at the site; the measures to be adopted by the Government in monitoring air quality in the process of carrying out the ground decontamination works; and how the Government would enhance communication with the local communities in respect of keeping them informed of the progress of the decontamination works and addressing their concerns, if any, about the works.

2. The requested information is set out below -

- (a) A total of about 900 soil samples were taken across the entire site and tested to identify the types of contaminants at the stage of environmental impact assessment (EIA) (EIA Reports of Register Nos. AEIAR-058/2002 and AEIAR-188/2015) and the design stage. Based on the results of laboratory tests, the soil was found to be contaminated by heavy metals (including Lead, Mercury, Copper, Arsenic, Zinc, etc.) and hydrocarbons (including semi-volatile organic chemicals such as Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(a)anthracene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene, Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, Petroleum Carbon Ranges, etc.) that require treatment. It is estimated that the total volume of contaminated soil that requires treatment within the site is about 110,000 cubic metres, of which about 51 per cent (%) is contaminated by heavy metals, about 15% by hydrocarbons and about 34% by both.

Regarding dioxins, about 44 soil samples were taken and tested during the EIA stage. Dioxins were not found in any of the soil samples that require treatment.

The above-mentioned approved EIA Reports contain the results of the findings of the laboratory tests of the soil samples. They are available on Environmental Protection Department (EPD)'s website:

Register No. AEIAR-058/2002

http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/report/eiareport/eia_0642001/index.htm

Register No. AEIAR-188/2015

http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/report/eiareport/eia_2262014/HTML/index.htm

Dioxin-contaminated materials (DCM) found during the demolition of the chimneys of the ex-Kennedy Town Incineration Plant/Abattoir had all been treated and disposed of off-site in 2009. A Remediation Report was submitted to EPD, which recorded that all of the DCM identified inside the site were completely removed and disposed of at landfill.

- (b) The air quality monitoring process includes the monitoring of total suspended particulates and that of the ambient hydrocarbon concentration.

The monitoring of total suspended particulates will be carried out throughout the contract period in three specifically selected locations once every six days based on the environmental monitoring and audit (EM&A) guidelines published by EPD. These locations are The Merton, Centenary Mansion and St Luke's Settlement Neighbourhood Elderly Centre.

The monitoring of the ambient hydrocarbon concentration will be carried out at the site boundary during the excavation works. The monitoring will be carried out at least once every six days based on the EM&A guidelines published by EPD.

If the monitoring results show that the concentration of the total suspended particulates or ambient hydrocarbon exceeds the relevant criteria as stipulated in the EM&A Manual approved by the Director of Environmental Protection under the EIA Ordinance, the relevant part of the works will be suspended until appropriate remedial and mitigation measures are taken.

- (c) We will carry out the EM&A works to monitor the impact arising from the works on the environment and the nearby community and to ensure that any impact is mitigated to within the required limits of the EIA Ordinance and the Technical Memorandum on the EIA Process. The results of the EM&A will be uploaded to EPD's website for public inspection.

We have advised the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) that upon commencement of the works, a Works Liaison Group would be set up to strengthen communication with C&WDC and the local residents. Regular meetings with C&WDC members and local residents will be held to keep them informed of the progress on the works and address the concerns they may have so that any environmental impact could be mitigated effectively and expeditiously.

A 24-hour hotline will also be set up throughout the decontamination contract period for the public to express their views. The resident site staff and the contractor will follow up on such views promptly.