

For discussion on  
22 June 2015

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility)  
(Amendment) Regulation 2013 (Commencement) Notice 2015**

**Waste Diversion Plan for the South East New Territories Landfill**

**PURPOSE**

This paper updates Members on the progress of implementation of the Waste Diversion Plan (“WDP”) for the South East New Territories Landfill (“SENT Landfill”) and seeks Members’ views on the proposal to bring into effect the relevant provisions of the Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 (“DWDF Amendment Regulation”) so that the SENT Landfill will receive only construction waste with effect from 6 January 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

2. In view of the growing residential developments in Tseung Kwan O and the local residents’ concern over the odour arising from the SENT Landfill, we intend to change the use of the SENT Landfill (and its extension) to receive only construction waste. As a result, other types of waste including municipal solid waste (“MSW”) will have to be diverted to other waste management facilities.

3. On 28 October 2013, we briefed the Panel on a package of measures under the WDP to ensure that the MSW to be diverted from the SENT Landfill could be properly handled by the network of refuse transfer stations (“RTSs”) and any potential traffic and environmental impact could be minimized (ref: LC Paper CB(1)107/13-14(03)). Some of the measures were administrative, while others required legislative amendments, namely:

- (a) opening up the Shatin Transfer Station (“STTS”) for use by private waste collectors;

- (b) reducing the fee for use of the two RTSs on Hong Kong Island;
- (c) imposing new equipment standards on refuse collection vehicles (“RCVs”); and
- (d) designating the SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste.

4. A set of legislative amendments covering the measures mentioned in paragraphs 3(a) to 3(d) were subsequently proposed by the Administration and passed by the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) after vetting by a subcommittee under the House Committee, with some agreed amendments passed by a Resolution on 22 January 2014. The commencement dates of individual components of the legislative amendments were to be appointed by the Secretary for the Environment by notice in the Gazette.

5. On 27 October 2014, we consulted the Panel and gained its support on the proposed commencement date of the legislative amendments for the measures mentioned in paragraph 3(a) and 3(b) as 1 March 2015; and that for the measure mentioned in paragraph 3(c) as 1 April 2015 (ref: LC Paper CB(1)87/14-15(03)). Two commencement notices were subsequently passed by LegCo after vetting by a subcommittee under the House Committee.

6. As regards the legislative amendments for the measure mentioned in paragraph 3(d), we undertook during the subcommittee’s deliberation of the commencement notices mentioned at paragraph 5 above to report to the Panel on the progress of various measures under the WDP before gazetting the commencement notice and tabling it at LegCo.

7. Since then, we have made further progress in implementing the WDP and have been liaising closely with various stakeholders. The progress of the different measures is summarized in the following paragraphs.

## **PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WDP**

### Extension of Refuse Transfer Service at the STTS to Private Waste Collectors

8. The STTS has been operating smoothly since its opening up to private waste collectors on 1 March 2015. Thus far STTS has not experienced any queuing of RCVs outside the station or received any environmental complaint arising from the diversion exercise. The waste collection trade welcome the use of the STTS which is at a convenient location for their operation. From March to May 2015, the STTS received an average of 120 tonnes per day of privately collected waste, mainly arising from Sha Tin and Tai Po.

## Reduction of Fee for Use of Refuse Transfer Service on Hong Kong Island

9. Upon the reduction of fee for use of the Island East Transfer Station (“IETS”) and Island West Transfer Station (“IWTS”) as from 1 March 2015, the same level of fee of \$30 per tonne of waste is now applicable to the four urban RTSs which serve the areas that will be most affected when the SENT Landfill stops receiving MSW. This measure encourages private waste collectors to deliver waste to the RTSs near to the waste sources and with unused capacity. Since the fee reduction, private waste intake at the IETS and IWTS has increased by 8% and 24% respectively.

## Promotion of Refuse Transfer Service to Private Waste Collectors

10. To encourage those private waste collectors now using the SENT Landfill as disposal site to shift to the RTS network, an extensive promotion programme has been launched. Apart from display of publicity banners and posters and distribution of leaflets, we have embarked on more active engagement exercises, including a two-week on-site survey with individual RCV drivers at the SENT Landfill, outreach contacts made to over 200 private waste collectors and a three-month trial scheme for free use of the STTS by some 120 waste collectors to get familiarized with the station operation.

11. Since the launch of promotion in October 2014, there has been a notable increase in the number of registered accounts under the refuse transfer service from 418 to 469, and the total number of registered vehicles also increased from 1 064 to 1 161. In the coming months, we shall enhance the promotion effort and assist the SENT Landfill users to get prepared for shifting to the RTS network.

## Publicity to Inform the General Public

12. To alert the general public that the SENT Landfill will soon cease to receive non-construction waste and remind those involved in property management to make timely alternative arrangement with their cleansing contractors, a radio Announcement of Public Interest (“API”) was produced and broadcast as from May 2015. We plan to launch a second stage of API in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2015 to further enhance publicity on the WDP and mobilize the community to get prepared.

## Enforcement of New Equipment Standards on RCVs

13. To help the waste collection trade meet the new equipment standards on RCVs, we launched a one-off subsidy scheme in January 2014 for private RCV owners to install a metal tailgate cover and a waste water sump tank on

their vehicles. The trade's response to the scheme was very positive. Subsidies were granted to a total of 330 eligible RCVs and the associated retrofitting works were completed in March 2015.

14. The new equipment requirements came into effect on 1 April 2015. Starting from that date, all RCVs entering landfills or RTSs must be equipped with a metal tailgate cover and waste water sump tank of suitable construction and in good working condition. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$100,000. We carry out regular check and inspections on RCVs arriving at landfills and RTSs on their compliance with the new equipment requirements. Within the months of April and May 2015, we had carried out a total of 3 141 checks on RCVs and intercepted 28 RCVs for detailed inspection. They were all found to be complying with the requirements and no prosecution was initiated.

#### Re-routing of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's Collection Service

15. To make available sufficient RTS capacity at the West Kowloon Transfer Station and STTS to cope with the MSW diverted from the SENT Landfill, some collection services of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") in some districts in Kowloon and the New Territories need to be re-routed to deliver waste to those RTSs with more unused capacity or directly to landfills.

16. As at 1 June 2015, FEHD has completed the re-routing of collection service in three districts, and that another five districts are scheduled for re-routing in the period from July to September 2015. We assess that the re-routing of collection service in these districts would make available sufficient RTS capacity to cope with the MSW being diverted from the SENT Landfill. We would however keep the situation under review and stand ready to put into effect additional re-routing as and when necessary.

#### Liaison with Stakeholders

17. A working group was set up with representatives from the waste collection trade, property management and government departments in March 2014, and five meetings have been held so far. Members of the working group have provided full support to the WDP, assisted to disseminate the latest information through their trade communication channels, reflected the trades' concerns for discussion and provided constructive comments in refining the WDP. We shall continue with this communication platform until the WDP is fully accomplished.

18. To provide a channel for direct communication with individual waste

collectors, property management companies and other stakeholders, two briefing/discussion sessions were arranged in May 2015, with about 100 participants taking part. First-hand information was disseminated on the different measures of the WDP associated with the SENT Landfill stopping reception of MSW, how it will affect their business and service and advice on timely preparation to cope with the change in waste disposal outlets. The participants were active in sharing their views and reflecting the problems they encountered. The discussions were fruitful and the ideas exchanged were useful for refining the WDP.

## **WAY FORWARD AND ADVICE SOUGHT**

19. Good progress has been achieved on the various measures under the WDP in preparation for the SENT Landfill to be designated to receive only construction waste. All the stakeholders are well informed of the anticipated changes. From our liaison and engagement work, the trade expects an early formal announcement of the official end date for delivery of MSW to the SENT Landfill, so that there will be sufficient lead time for them to plan their new collection routes and a firm basis to work out new service arrangements with their clients. We therefore propose to set the effective date for the SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste on 6 January 2016.

20. Subject to Members' views, we intend to publish a commencement notice to effect the relevant provisions of the DWDF Amendment Regulation as mentioned in paragraph 1 above in the Gazette on 3 July 2015 and table it at the LegCo on 8 July 2015 for negative vetting.

**Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department  
June 2015**