

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Review of Y2K Compliance Programme for Environmental Protection Department's Waste Transfer and Disposal Facilities

Purpose

During the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs held on 28th October 1999, it was mentioned that an independent Y2K review would be carried out on the three contractors responsible for the operation of waste transfer and disposal facilities under Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The review would serve to identify any deficiencies in the Y2K compliance programmes for these installations and to propose improvement measures if required.

2. Members requested that the findings of the review be passed to the panel for reference upon completion of the review. This paper outlines the key findings of the review.

Scope

3. A consultant was employed in mid-October 99 by Works Bureau to undertake the review covering the three EPD contractors responsible for the transfer, treatment and final disposal of waste in Hong Kong.

4. The review started in early November 1999 and took about 3 weeks to complete. The samples, as listed below, were so selected that they would cover all the three types of waste disposal facility, namely, the Refuse Transfer Stations, Chemical Waste Treatment Centre, and Landfills and also all of the three contractors:-

<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Contractor</i>
Island West Refuse Transfer Station	Swire Sita Waste Services Limited
Tsing Yi Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	Enviropace Limited
North East New Territories Landfill	Far East Landfill Technologies Limited

5. The sample sites were considered representative in giving a realistic indication how the contractors would deal with the Y2K rollover.

6. The review covered key areas of the Y2K compliance programme undertaken by the Contractors. These include overall programme management, inventory accuracy, vendor response, rectification, testing, overall audit trail, change control and contingency planning.

Results

7. All three contractors were able to illustrate that they had taken suitable steps to evaluate the Y2K impact on their operations and to resolve the associated problems. All systems have been confirmed or rectified as Y2K compliant and all critical systems have been tested where possible.

8. The consultant is satisfied with the documentation held by the contractors although the level of auditability for Far East Landfill Technologies may have some room for improvement. However, the consultant is of the opinion that the deficiencies should not affect the overall operation of the Landfill facilities.

9. The consultant concludes that adequately robust preparations have been undertaken to ensure critical waste management operations, under the purview of EPD, will not be disrupted by the Y2K induced problems.

10. In addition, the consultant is confident that the contingency plans drawn up by EPD and its contractors should be adequate to ensure minimal disruption to end users, should unforeseen Y2K problems be encountered.

**Planning, Environment & Lands Bureau
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