

Tel: 2136 3351

Fax: 2136 3304

27 May 2003

Ms Becky Yu
Clerk to LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
Hong Kong

Panel on Environmental Affairs
Progress Report on outstanding items for discussion

I would like to report progress on several issues which are of interest to the Panel.

Installation of a waste co-combustion power generation facility by the Green Island Cement Co. (Item 2 of the outstanding items list)

The captioned research project is carried out jointly by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Green Island Cement. It is not a Government proposal. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has received Green Island Cement's application for a Specified Process Licence for the project and is processing the application in the same manner as for any other similar applications. EPD will follow the criteria stipulated in the relevant legislation, and its

guidelines on the design, operation and emission standards etc, which are formulated in accordance with the highest international environmental standards. No exemption or special treatment will be given to the project.

In addition, I would like to reiterate that Government's focus in tackling the waste problem has often been waste prevention and recovery. We have put in place a whole range of programmes to promote waste prevention and recovery. The details of the programmes have been set out in our Paper "Measures to Promote the Prevention and Recovery of Municipal Solid Waste in Hong Kong" (Paper CB(1) 958/02-03(03)), which was discussed at the Panel on 24 February 2003.

Setting up of free collection points for oil refuse from vessels (Item 8 of the outstanding items list)

As is the case for all other waste producers, vessel operators are responsible for the proper management of their waste oil. They should not dump waste oil into the sea, which is prohibited by the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance. We understand that many vehicle repair garages and shipyards provide waste disposal services. Vessel operators may take their waste oil to the shipyards regularly or during vessel maintenance. They may also take their waste oil to the waste oil drop-off points at three petrol filling stations in North Point, Kowloon Bay and Tuen Mun. Such collection service is free of charge. In fact, most vessel operators are currently making use of one or more of the aforesaid disposal services. Moreover, private collectors licensed by EPD may also provide waste oil collection services for local vessels.

Nonetheless, to further assist vessel operators, EPD has secured the support of a private company and a green group in providing a pilot free collection service to vessels at the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter. The waste oil collected will be recycled. The pilot scheme will commence in June this year and will last 7 months. The Southern District Council has been consulted and is supportive of the scheme.

Should there be any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Annie Choi)
for Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works