



Shek Ku Chau Incinerator : Research claims link between cancer and incinerator emissions

info, klclegco, yanlee, jkstolegco, vfang,
Tania Willis to: tkwong, kp, albert.wychan, contact,
 honstevengo, frankieyick, chiwaioffice,
 Cc: panel_ea, info

28/02/2014 15:05

Dear Panel Member

In regard to the the EPD's Shek Ku Chau Incinerator proposal, may I draw your attention to this research on the links between cancer & incinerator emissions? Published in the SCMP yesterday

"While it is good that Elvis W. K. Au, assistant director of environmental protection, took the time to answer my letter ("Au must come clean on new incinerator", January 30), his response ("Incinerator would meet EU standards", February 21) was more political than environmentally sound. Notably, he avoided answering my allegation that his claims incinerator technology would "completely destroy organic pollutants" are untrue.

He again cites European Union standards, as if these ensure emissions will be clean. Yet when I previously asked him why the incinerator could not be sited by the government offices in Central, he said this would lead to pollution over the harbour exceeding air quality objectives. If the emissions will be so pure, why will there be a 150-metre-high chimney?

As Mr Au suggested, I tried looking online to find real-time information on incinerator emissions. I could not find it, but stumbled across research published last year, linking proximity to Taiwan's incinerators to increased risk of children showing delayed development in the gross motor domain. This adds to recent research suggesting incinerator emissions cause health problems including cancer and premature births.

While Mr Au latches on to any problems with potential alternatives to incineration, he blithely ignores this research, which should be cause for concern in a department overseeing

environmental protection.

I also checked the Guidebook for the Application of Waste to Energy Technologies cited by Mr Au, and found it is authored by engineers, and funded by a development bank aiming to support incineration, including a project in Haiti that's controversial partly as, like in Hong Kong, it will treat waste so moist that it cannot be burnt unassisted.

But how about the views of medical experts? The British Society of Ecological Medicine assessed risks, and concluded, "a policy of building more incinerators and cement kilns will mean that many more lives will be lost unnecessarily from cancer, including those of children, more people will die prematurely from heart disease, there will be an increase in birth defects and health costs will increase".

Given such concerns, we should consider far cleaner plasma arc technology today, not some time in the future. Indeed, Zhuhai plans to build a substantial plasma arc waste treatment facility.

The Environmental Protection Department is organising a trip to study waste treatment in Europe next month; it would be negligent not to visit the new plasma facility in Teesside, England"

Dr Martin Williams, Cheung Chau

Many thanks for your time

Regards

Tania Willis



Environmental Protection Department Proposal is flawed .

Craig and Elisa Colbran to: info, kiclegco, yanlee, jkstolegco,
vfang, tkwong, kp,
albert.wychan, contact,

28/02/2014 18:16

Cc: panel_ea, info

1 attachment



2014 article incinerator.pdf

Dear Panel Member

I am concerned with the proposed Integrated Waste Management Facilities proposed by the EPD with respect to the incinerator choice and location. Please see the attached article from a concerned resident trying to seek answers from Elvis W K Au Assistant Director of the EPD.

Kindest regards

Caroline Matic

Research claims link between cancer and incinerator emissions

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Dr Martin Williams, Cheung Chau



Re: Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs: Special meeting on 22 March 2014
Martin Williams
to:
YS PANG
03/03/2014 08:26
Cc:
"&LGA[1]1"
Hide Details
From: Martin Williams

History: This message has been forwarded.

1 Attachment



image001.jpg

Dear Ms Mok:

I would be grateful if you could circulate the following to members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs.

- as it's a letter by me to S China Morning Post, and this is the published version, of course happy for this to be made public.

Best regards,
Dr Martin Williams

South China Morning Post 南華早報

Published on *South China Morning Post* (<http://www.scmp.com>)

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Thursday, 27 February, 2014, 4:06am

Comment: Letters

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Dr Martin Williams, Cheung Chau

More on this:

[Incinerator would meet EU standards](#) [1]

[Letters to the Editor, January 30, 2014](#) [2]

Source URL (retrieved on Feb 27th 2014, 6:10am): <http://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/1435916/research-claims-link-between-cancer-and-incinerator-emissions>

Links:

[1] <http://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/1431974/incinerator-would-meet-eu-standards>

[2] <http://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/1417018/letters-editor-january-30-2014>