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A Word From the Bureau of Performance Evaluation and Dispute Settlement: The EPA's Policy on Eco-labeling

In 1993, the EPA launched an eco-labeling program in Taiwan following an evaluation of related systems in other countries throughout the world. Taiwan's eco-labeling program was created to achieve the following results: 1) promote the concepts of recyclability, low pollution, and resource conservation in the development of products; 2) encourage industry to conserve resources or reduce pollution when acquiring raw materials, manufacturing, vending, and processing waste; and 3) encourage consumers to use products displaying an eco-label (called the "Green Mark" in Taiwan).

The design of the Green Mark label features a green planet wrapped in a green leaf. The leaf and its color symbolize green consumerism while the planet and its color symbolize a clean, unspoiled Earth. As a whole, the Green Mark symbolizes the global nature of green consumerism which, as it spreads throughout the globe, will naturally lead to the development of products that can be recycled, cause little pollution, and conserve resources.

To promote the use of products that display the Green Mark, the EPA established the Environmental Green Mark Review Committee to be responsible for evaluating and managing applications to use the Green Mark. The EPA will contract a non-governmental organization (currently the Environmental and Development Foundation) to act as an implementing agency and oversee the receipt and processing of applications and recommendations made to the Environmental Green Mark Evaluation Committee. Once an application has been approved, the EPA will notify the

implementing agency, sign a contract with the company, and issue a license authorizing use of the Green Mark for the given product.

Since Taiwan's eco-label system was launched, 42 product categories have been announced and 480 product types from 117 companies have already been authorized to use the Green Mark. A total of 930 companies have requested application materials reflecting considerable enthusiasm for the system.

Important future tasks include the following: 1) Select product categories that meet domestic environmental requirements. 2) Take into account life-cycle assessment technologies to establish appropriate category criteria. 3) Improve the process of product application and the performance evaluation process. 4) Strengthen the tracking and assessment of product applications and results. 5) Expand green consumerism promotional activities. 6) Strengthen and expand the mutual recognition of eco-labels between Taiwan and the rest of the world.

EPA Responds to Kyoto Climate Change Convention

In response to the problem of climate change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), passed by the UN in 1992, outlines targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. However, lack of binding agreements and a bleak report by experts on the prospect of reaching the targets has prompted calls for the establishment of a legally binding protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Against this backdrop, a third meeting of parties to the UNFCCC was held in Kyoto from December 1st to 11th with 160 signatory nations, 250 non-governmental organizations, and nearly 10,000 individuals in attendance.

As Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, the Taiwan delegation attended the conference in an observer status. The delegation was composed of 16 representatives from government organizations including the EPA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Economic Affairs Industrial Development Bureau, the Energy Commission, the National Science Council, and the Industrial Technology Research Institute. Hsiung-Wen Chen, Director General of the EPA's Bureau of Air Quality Protection and Noise Control, lead the delegation.

The primary objective of the meeting in Kyoto was to formulate a protocol that could effectively regulate greenhouse gas emissions. As greenhouse gasses are composed mainly of petrochemical fuel emissions, the strength of such a protocol would have a major impact on the economy and lifestyle of every nation as well as bring about a reallocation of global resources. For this reason, viewpoints among the participants were considerably varied.

In spite of the variety of viewpoints on how to control the discharge of greenhouse emissions, the parties managed to produce the following conclusions:

Industrialized nations are to reduce emissions on average by 5.2% with EU member nations, the United States and Japan reducing emissions by 8%, 7%, and 6% respectively. An average time frame of five years, from 2008~2012, was set for the reductions.

Six types of greenhouse gasses are set to come under regulation. Among them, CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O are to come under control at 1990 levels and HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆ at 1995 levels.

Regulations that developing countries automatically participate in the reductions were eliminated. Currently, there are no new obligations for developing countries to undertake.

The system of tradable emission rights will be kept, however an additional provision was added stipulating that related regulations are to be discussed at next year's UNFCCC meeting.

The absorption of greenhouse gasses by forests should be considered in the calculation of reduction volumes. The net value of CO₂ absorption or emissions due to reforestation or deforestation since 1990 can be incorporated into the reduction volumes.

In terms of technology transfer and financial support, the protocol will establish a Green Development Mechanism to help developing countries abide by the agreement and developed countries begin emissions volume reductions.

In order for the Kyoto protocol to take effect, it should be ratified by 55 signatory countries to the UNFCCC and the volume of greenhouse gas emissions of Appendix I members that are signatories should account for 55% of total greenhouse emissions from all Appendix I members.

In response to predictions that Taiwan may be adversely affected by the Kyoto protocol, EPA Administrator Hsung-hsiung Tsai made the following remarks in a report to the Executive Yuan:

The Kyoto protocol demonstrated how the resolve of the international community prevailed in the effort to adopt concrete and compulsory measures to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to the experience obtained from the Montreal Agreement, the control strategies of international protocols are becoming more stringent, so Taiwan must not relax its efforts.

Due to the strong opposition of the G77 and mainland China, the Kyoto Protocol has yet to expand any obligations of developing countries. As Taiwan is still considered a developing country, it has no obligation to abide by any of the reduction measures proscribed in the protocol.

Although Taiwan and South Korea have comparable levels of economic development, the latter is a members of the OECD, and the EU has made the case that South Korea should follow the example of developed countries and bear some of the responsibility to reduce emissions levels. However, with the recent economic crisis in South Korea, this case was not raised again for discussion. Although incomes are higher in Singapore than in Taiwan, Singapore's Finance Minister indicated in the Kyoto meeting that it is still a developing country and as such, still needs technical and financial assistance before it can proceed with the task of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

Informal communications between Taiwan's delegation and those of other countries revealed that developing countries may be classified into two categories in order to fulfill their responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Category one is defined as developing countries that have an industrial base while category two is defined as developing countries that have a low level of development. Countries that fall into the former category will have priority for inclusion in the next round of countries to come under control. As Taiwan's GDP is forecast to grow by 5~6% per year until 2010, and with its CO₂ emissions expected to grow by an average of 3.1% annually, passage of these classifications would deal a severe blow to future economic growth in Taiwan.

To plot greenhouse gas emission trends in Taiwan, documents such as The Council for Economic Planning and Development's *Turn of the Century National Development Plan* and the Energy Commission's *White Papers on Energy Policy* and other documents regarding energy source diversification and electrical energy generation have been analyzed. According to these plans, greenhouse gas emissions will reach 223 million metric tons (an increase of 98% on 1990 levels) by 2000, 261 million metric tons (a rise of 132% on 1990 levels) by 2005, and 294 metric tons (162% rise over 1990 levels) by 2010.

If the current policies remain in effect until 2010, then CO₂ emissions in Taiwan would have to be reduced by 162%, 81%, and 31% in order to maintain the same greenhouse gas levels as in 1990, 1995, and 2000 respectively. Based on the above analysis, the margin of reductions needed in Taiwan far exceeds industrialized nations by an average of 10% and constitutes a major threat to future economic growth in Taiwan.

In terms of developing a response plan, EPA Administrator Hsung-Hsiung Tsai made the following report:

The sharp rise in the world's atmospheric greenhouse gasses followed the industrial revolution. From a historical viewpoint, as these gasses mainly came from the emissions of modern industrialized nations, these nations should take precedent in bearing the responsibility for global warming.

Although Taiwan is still a developing country, it is viewed on the international stage as a newly industrialized nation and is therefore likely to be chosen by the protocol for inclusion in the next round of countries to be targeted for reductions. As a member of the global village, Taiwan is willing to bear a reasonable and proportionate share of responsibility. Taiwan should make its case for a fair reduction target that takes into consideration the various reduction scenarios, corresponding emissions volume reduction targets, and associated costs.

Taiwan should adopt measures that save energy, improve energy efficiency, discuss energy framework suitability, adjust industry structure, and review and evaluate (such as the *Turn of the Century National Development Plan*) in preparation for future greenhouse gas controls.

After listening to Administrator Tsai's report, Executive Yuan Premier Vincent Siew made the following comments:

As a member of the world community, Taiwan should take decisive actions in cooperation with other nations to respond to global warming issues.

Greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere today represent the cumulative emissions of industrialized nations since the arrival of the industrial revolution over 200 years ago. As Taiwan has been industrialized for only some 50 years, industrialized nations should bear the majority of the responsibility. Taiwan is willing to bear some responsibility, but the degree of responsibility should not be the same as that of industrialized nations.

It is predicted that emissions from developing countries will eventually surpass emissions from industrialized nations, making it inevitable that Taiwan assume responsibility for reducing emissions. In response, Taiwan's National Council for Sustainable Development has been charged with the task of actively formulating measures to meet such an eventuality.

In the meantime, Taiwan should do its utmost to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Council for Economic Planning and Development and the MOEA should hold new discussions on the *Turn of the Century National Development Plan* and on energy and industry policies respectively. The Executive Yuan's Council of Agriculture should strengthen forestation and forest management efforts. The EPA should closely watch international developments associated with the Kyoto protocol and become familiar with strategic measures adopted by other nations. The National Council for Sustainable Development should coordinate all government institutions in an effort to formulate, launch, and enforce a clear and concrete response strategy. A progress report should then be made to the Premier on a periodic basis.

Amendment to Air Pollution Control Act Includes Addition of Civil Suit Clause

On December 17, a draft amendment to the *Air Pollution Control Act* that includes the addition of a civil suite clause passed the first reading in the Joint Interior and Judicial Committee of the Legislative Yuan. Passage of the clause into law would fundamentally change the way air pollution regulations are enforced. Whereas only environmental institutions can enforce air pollution laws at present, the draft opens up a new channel of enforcement by providing individuals with a mechanism to file civil suits that can require compulsory compliance depending on court findings.

The clause was drafted by the Environmental Quality Protection Foundation and raised by legislators Yung-Ching Chao and Kuo-Chung Huang and was supported by 12 other committee members. When the draft was presented, it was pointed out that current environmental regulations and enforcement sometimes target minor pollution sources and overlook primary sources owned by big business. The arbitrary nature of this enforcement coupled with the lack of a smooth channel for litigation has left people with no alternative but to engage in public demonstration further raising the costs to society. In response to this form of environmental injustice, Taiwan is adopting the civil suit processes used in the US and France in an effort to press businesses and administrative institutions into implementing the standards in the *Air Pollution Control Act*.

According to the civil suit clause, any individual or group can bring a civil suit against "parties" suspected of being "negligent" in terms of the obligations, orders, and emission standards stipulated in the *Air Pollution Control Act*. "Parties" are defined as public and private establishments or the competent authorities. "Negligence" is defined as the failure to abide by or enforce the law respectively. "Parties" that are found guilty can be compelled by the courts to adhere to or enforce the law respectively. The plaintiff should provide the party with a written statement detailing the alleged negligence 90 days prior to filing a suit. The EPA will set other regulations related to the draft amendment within six months of its ratification and implementation.

As the cost of litigation might discourage the use of legal channels to resolve environmental pollution issues, the draft amendment empowers the courts with the discretion to compensate the plaintiff for expenses commensurate with attorney fees, investigation costs, or other necessary expenses incurred.

EPA Administrator Hsung-Hsiung Tsai expressed his support for the civil suit clause. He remarked, however, that this sort of regulatory structure has a great deal of

interrelationships and additional measures must be formulated. The office of Yung-Ching Chao also indicated that further negotiations with all political parties would be needed.

The following are other key points in the draft amendment:

Mobil source air pollution fees are to be collected from car dealers or owners based on the type or volume of emissions, or from fuel distributors or importers based on the type, content, or volume of emissions.

The EPA is to delineate total volume control areas based on the geographical characteristics and weather patterns of the area and whether or not air quality standards were reached, and to establish a control plan.

Local competent authorities are to designate and announce the total reduction volumes for pollution sources and a time limit for improvement based on the *Air Quality Protection and Improvement Plan* and the most feasible control technology. Pollution reductions that exceed required levels can be applied toward tradable emission rights.

Local environmental agencies can adjust air pollution rates within a margin of 30% pursuant to EPA approval.

Regulations Concerning Public Nuisance Prevention Agreements to be Amended

On November 5, amendments to the *Public Dispute Settlement Act* passed the first of three readings in the Legislative Yuan. The EPA indicated that since the act was promulgated and implemented in February 1992, insufficient experience during its formulation prevented it from being complete despite the fact that institutions at various levels for the handling of public disputes had already been set up. Furthermore, societal changes in recent years and the diversity of public disputes have already rendered the law inadequate. The EPA thus drafted an amendment to the *Public Dispute Settlement Act* that took into consideration the law, public sentiment, and the legal precedents of more advanced nations and, via the Executive Yuan, submitted it to the Legislative Yuan.

In terms of the composition of the public dispute settlement committee, legislators observed that government officials comprised the majority of positions. In order to raise the committee's image as being fairer and more professional, legislators recommended that academics and other impartial individuals be more strongly represented. Therefore, the relevant article in the act will be amended to stipulate that no less than two thirds of all committee members are comprised of academics and other impartial individuals.

Amendments to the Act also address the concept of public nuisance prevention agreements. These agreements typically take the form of contracts between a potential source of public injury, such as a manufacturing site, and either a representative of the residents of a given area or, as under Taiwan's *Public Dispute Settlement Act*, the residents themselves.

In Taiwan, most businesses are unwilling to sign such contracts. According to the EPA, this is due to the difficulty of clearly defining who "residents" are. Therefore, after observing related systems in Japan, the EPA proposed that public nuisance prevention agreements be signed between industry and local government. If an agreement is not

complied with after being notarized by the courts, the claimant can bypass the settlement process to obtain compulsory compliance.

Legislators, however, feel that only residents are the injured parties of public injury disputes and, as such, should remain as a party to public injury prevention agreements. Therefore, the relevant article will be amended to stipulate that public injury prevention agreements can be signed between industry and the residents of a given area and, if necessary, can be signed between industry and local governments.

The remaining articles in the EPA's version of the amendment were approved by the Domestic Affairs Committee of the Legislative Yuan and include: 1) the simplification of regulations related to agreements made during the decision process; 2) the addition of regulations related to financial sequestration requirements; 3) extending from 14 to 20 the number of days a plaintiff has, in the case of early settlement, to withdraw a suit from the courts; 4) the addition of regulations related to automatic withdrawal of a case from the courts should an early settlement be reached; 5) the establishment of regulations requiring the provincial and county governments to set up emergency public dispute management teams.

The EPA indicated that regulations regarding the signing of public injury agreements between industry and local government were included in the articles which recently passed the first reading in the Legislative Yuan. The EPA is already well prepared with a model public injury prevention agreement and, following the passage of the amendment to the *Public Dispute Management Act*, it is hoped that the signing of agreements between industry and the general public or local governments will work to prevent public injury disputes from occurring.

1998 Recycling Rate Targets Set

As compulsory payment of waste disposal fees will be used in place of recycling rates to regulate recycling according to Article 10-1 of the *Waste Disposal Act*, the Recycling Fund Management Committee for General Waste and Waste Containers (Fund Management Committee) will be responsible for how recycling is conducted. However, according to the *Regulations Governing the Recycling, Collection, and Processing of General Waste and Waste Containers*, the Fee Review Committee should consider EPA recycling targets when deciding the recycling fee rates. These targeted recycling rates are used to determine recycling volume and total cost, which in turn yield the total recycling cost from which the recycling rates are calculated. Thus the upper and lower targeted recycling rates directly influence recycling fee rates.

According to the *Regulations Governing the Recycling, Collection, and Processing of General Waste and Waste Containers*, the upper and lower targeted recycling rates must be set by the EPA in consultation with the central competent authority of targeted businesses. On December 2, 1997, the EPA held a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, Council of Agriculture, and Industrial Development Bureau (IDB) to discuss the 1998 recycling rate targets.

The EPA indicated that the goal of the Fund Management Committee is to reach upper recycling rate targets which will serve as a reference for the Fee Review Committee when deciding recycling fee rates. In order to ensure that recycling fee rates are not continually raised when recycling targets are not met, the Fund Management Committee will evaluate any performance that falls below recycling rate targets during

the early stages of the system. If the Fund Management Committee's actual recycling rates are less than 40%, the Fee Review Committee will raise the next year's recycling fee rates. Conversely, if the actual recycling rates for a given item exceed an upper limit, the Fee Review Committee may lower the respective recycling fee rate in the following year.

As the sales volumes of motor vehicles, information products, TVs, and some tires and lubricants with a product life cycle longer than one year do not equal actual discarded volumes, an official of the EPA's Bureau of Solid Waste Control said it would further research the method used to calculate recycling rates for these items.

NO_x Emission Fees to Undergo Further Reductions

In July of this year, the EPA decided to collect air pollution fees for nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions drawing concerns that industry competitiveness would be weakened. Following numerous communications with industry, however, the EPA maintained its position but tentatively conceded to reduce the rates.

According to the EPA, the calculation of NO_x emissions volumes was originally based on 100% of the tested nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) value but was later found to be inconsistent with actual emissions characteristics. For this reason, the basis for calculation was adjusted to 90% of nitrogen monoxide (NO) and 10% of NO₂ emissions. As the molecular weight of NO is relatively low, the new calculation method will result in a 31% reduction of fees for NO_x emissions.

In a related note, to encourage companies to install pollution prevention equipment, the EPA will further reduce the fees collected from businesses that are able to cut their emissions concentrations by a certain proportion (see table).

According to an official of the EPA's Bureau of Air Quality Protection and Noise Control, the graded air pollution fee schedule was proposed in order to encourage the reduction of emissions at large pollution emissions sources. Additionally, the EPA is currently working on other incentive schemes. For example, pollution sources that follow the requirements of the competent authority by making annual improvements or reducing the volume of fuels used, can apply emission reductions toward future emissions quotas. Similarly, emissions volume reductions made by factories that temporarily suspend operations for the purpose of making process improvements or install pollution prevention equipment can be applied toward future emissions quotas.

Implementation Plan for Drinking Water Source Water Quality Protection Zones Readied

To protect the quality of drinking water sources, the *Drinking Water Management Statute* was amended in May of 1997 charging environmental protection agencies with new duties and obligations including the delineation of drinking water source water quality protection zones (hereafter referred to as "protection zones"). As part of this effort, the EPA drafted the *Drinking Water Source Water Quality Protection Implementation Plan* on December 9, 1997 and called together related government agencies to discuss the plan.

The EPA indicated that according to data collected from rivers monitored for water quality, seven river basins and eight water source areas including the Tamshui and

Keelung Rivers respectively do not meet drinking water source water quality standards. In addition, 12 reservoirs that serve as drinking water sources are eutrophied. These drinking water sources are in urgent need of a pollution cleanup plan in order to safeguard their water quality. However, the excessive scope of the *Water Source Protection Zones* set according to the *Drinking Water Act* and a plethora of agencies and laws associated with them, have so far prevented the integration of the tasks associated with bringing the zones under control.

On a separate note, apart from the Tamshui River and **Te-Ji** Reservoir, Taiwan lacks an overall plan to administer its rivers and reservoirs as well as a fair system of compensation. The establishment of these mechanisms has been anxiously awaited since water source protection efforts were initiated. To this end, the EPA hopes that the *Drinking Water Source Water Quality Protection Implementation Plan*, to be administered by the competent authority, can integrate and mobilize government agency resources at all levels to protect the quality of drinking water sources.

The underlying principle of the *Drinking Water Source Water Quality Protection Implementation Plan* is to integrate related regulations and projects spread among central agencies, to establish a regulatory system for each based on a functional division of work, and to apply these resources toward reservoirs that supply 70% of Taiwan's water supply. All pig farming activities in the protection zones must cease and be duly compensated. In areas that have implemented total volume controls, the wastewater pollution of stock raising operations will be regulated according to the specific carrying capacity of each body of water. The installation of sewer systems in eight areas, including the Kaoping River, will be hastened to reduce domestic wastewater volumes.

The following are other implementation plans and control measures:

Delineate Drinking Water Source Water Quality Protection Zones; construct a database for the protection zones and formulate *Guidelines for Reviewing Development Activities Within Drinking Water Resource Water Quality Protection Zones* in order to prohibit the establishment of polluting factories within the protection zones; establish a unified system among agencies and organizations that can control polluting activities through inspection, injunctions, and disciplinary action; fairly deal with and compensate existing polluting enterprises (including commercial livestock farming and approved mining activities) within the protection zones.

Improve the water quality at 12 drinking water treatment plants by supplying them with better water or by raising their water treatment capability.

Twenty-two garbage dump sites in river drainage areas have priority for relocation.

Ministry of the Interior (MOI) and Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) to study and draft compensation mechanisms for activities and affected by the establishment of the water source areas.

Establish a bureau to administer the three river basins comprised by the Tamshui River, Ta-Chia River, and Kaoping River.

Launch a pollution cleanup plan for the four river basins comprised by the Tou-Chien, Tseng-Wen, Kaoping and Keelung Rivers.

Launch total pollution quantity controls in the Kaoping River basin.

Other plans include the MOEA's overall plan for the protection of small and medium scale reservoirs and an improvement plan to address illegal and excessive gravel extraction activities. There is also the Council of Agriculture's Mountain Management and Protection Plan and Betel Nut Problem Management projects, a plan for the administration of six reservoirs including the Fei-Tsui Reservoir, and a management plan to improve the protection and utilization of mountain slopes in Taiwan Province.

According to the *Drinking Water Source Water Quality Protection Implementation Plan*, source drinking water will reach its water quality standard by 2003 and Type 1 bodies of water will reach 60% and 70% of its standard (based on its classification) by 2006 and 2011 respectively. This will ensure the safety of drinking water for 14 million people.

As the plan is linked to numerous government agencies and organizations, their ability to coordinate and integrate will determine its success or failure. For this reason, the EPA said it will organize a *Drinking Water Source Water Quality Protection Task Force* composed of the heads of these agencies and organizations to review the plan, and will make amendments to it based on their findings. The EPA indicated that after the Executive Yuan approves the plan, competent central authorities must research and submit their own implementation plans within half a year. These will be compiled by the EPA and reported to the Executive Yuan for evaluation. The examination results of each pollution activity and the way it was handled by relevant local government agencies and organizations should be compiled by local environmental protection bureaus and reported to the EPA for evaluation.

Industries Eligible for Transitional Effluent Standards Required to Submit Improvement Plans

The *1998 Effluent Standards* took effect on January 1, 1998. Because many industries voiced concerns about the severity of the standards, the EPA offered a two-year transition period to the petrochemical industry and six other key industries. Furthermore, the EPA's Bureau of Water Quality Protection indicated that the following points should be noted.

Companies that belong to one of the following industry groups are eligible: petrochemicals, paper, pulp, specified livestock, leather, dyeing and finishing, pigment manufacturing, titanium dioxide manufacturing, and man-made fiber. Companies must submit an improvement plan and a commitment to reach 1998 standards by the end of 1999. Failure to submit a plan or abide by it is cause for disqualification.

To ensure that companies actually install the pollution control equipment and operate it properly, the EPA selected 1,550 companies for on-site inspection by academics and experts. All functional aspects of the wastewater treatment apparatus as well as sludge output will be closely examined. Since inspections began, starting with wastewater treatment plants that process over 5,000m³ daily, many companies have been found with abnormal sludge output. This indicates a problem in the wastewater treatment process that requires immediate improvement to avoid penalty.

In response to the water pollution control fee to be levied on July 1, 1998, businesses should install effluent volume gauges, make inspections, and issue reports to the relevant authorities.

News Briefs

Compulsory Recycling of Discarded Electronic Products and Computers to Commence in March '98

Despite the efforts of consumer electronics industry to seek a delay, the EPA announced on December 5, 1997 that discarded electronic products and computers must be recycled beginning on March 1, 1998. The announcement also listed the items that are to be recycled. The EPA said that it would commission academic experts to develop a recycling system and assist businesses to establish a recycling fund management committee in the near future.

Small-scale Stationary Pollution Sources Made Exempt from Air Pollution Fee

In an amendment to the *Regulations Governing the Collection of Air Pollution Control Fees*, air pollution fees of stationary pollution sources that total less than NT\$200 will be exempt from payment. Additionally, methods for calculating air pollution fees will be altered. Fees calculations will be based on the area of built land, rather than on total land area of a given site.

Certain Users of Waste Lubricants and Tires to be Recognized as Resource Recycling Factories

Factories that use waste lubricants to manufacture refined oil products or as fuel to manufacture steel or cement will be recognized as "resource recycling factories." Moreover, factories that use discarded tires as a raw material, for fuel in cement making, power generation, electricity and steam co-generation, or turn them into bricks for use either as a raw material or for fuel will also be recognized as "resource recycling factories." However, "resource recycling factories" that use these materials for fuel must possess automated equipment that continuously monitors the air pollution of stationary pollution sources.

Reusable Industrial Waste Category to be Expanded

According to the laws and regulations governing reuse, "resource recycling factories" that use non-hazardous industrial waste as a raw material must apply for a "reuse permit" before they can process waste. To simplify the process, EPA Bureau of Solid Waste Control Director Yeong-Ren Chen recently announced a fast-track process for "reuse permit" application. The first items considered for inclusion in the fast-track "reuse permit" permitting process are general waste (e.g. aluminum cans) and related industrial waste (e.g. scrap aluminum) as well as all waste items listed on the "Table of Factory Major Products That May Use Waste Materials," announced by the Industrial Development Bureau.

Regulations Regarding Drinking Water Treatment Additives Announced

On November 24, 1997, the EPA announced that tap water companies, small-scale tap water providers, communities with self-installed water supply systems, and drinking water dispenser manufacturers, importers and vendors can treat drinking water only with nineteen officially approved additives. Apart from obtaining such information as a list of main ingredients, a report of impurities, and proof of origin, users should also make a record of the expiration date and recommended maximum useable amount of the additives. High molecular coagulants can only be used when source water turbidity

exceeds 250 NTU and should be reported to the EPA for record keeping purposes within seven days.

EPA Broadens Scope of Battery Recycling

On November 27, 1997, the EPA announced that the scope of spent battery recycling would be broadened and that "spent dry cell batteries" would be defined as general waste articles that are difficult to dispose of, process, or contain harmful substances. Whereas the recycling of spent batteries has been limited to mercury batteries, the EPA's Bureau of Solid Waste Control indicated that Ni-Cd (nickel-cadmium) batteries are next on the list to be targeted for recycling. Ni-Cd batteries are used primarily in notebook PCs, cellular phones, and camcorders.