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Feature Column

Taiwan's Environmental Legislative Process: Interview with EPA Legal Affairs Committee

Since the EPA's establishment, policy measures have been integrally linked to a comprehensive regulatory system. The elaborate process of building this system has unfolded over the past 20 years. Blueprints now exist to increase the openness and transparency of legal processes as well as enact innovative and barrier free-regulations concerning foreign affairs.

Successful implementation of environmental policy hinges upon a sound legal system. In the beginning stages of the EPA's

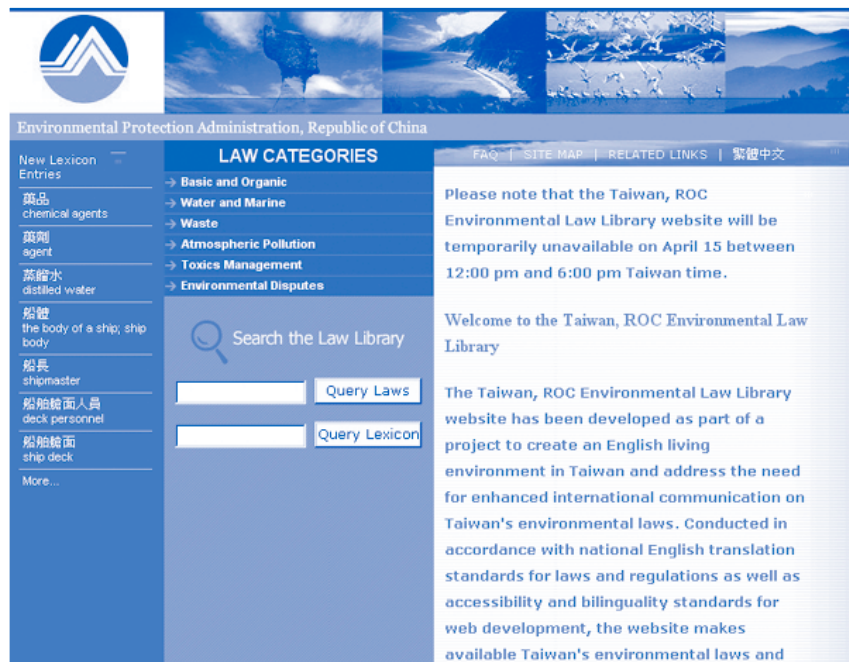
establishment, many regulations were incomplete due to a lack of manpower and environmental background data. This was further compounded by inadequate statutory power and unclear legal authorization.

Since its establishment, the EPA has actively promoted the enactment of environmental regulations. The EPA has worked to put important environmental law principles—such as the polluter

pays principle, permit and reporting systems, total quantity control systems, environmental impact assessment framework, negotiation standards, environmental public welfare principles and public participation principles—into legislation. After passing through consistent legislative procedures, these principles have been embedded into binding legal articles by which the EPA implements its regulatory affairs.

In This Issue

Feature Column: International Participation in Environmental Monitoring.....	1
Medical Waste Sorting to Be Reinforced.....	5
Toxics Control Act Revisions Pass Initial Review	5
Waste Management Firm Permit Review Fee Reduced.....	6
EPA Assesses Development and Promotion of Electric Motorbikes	7
Complaints of Odor Pollution Lead to Stricter Standards.....	8
Complaints of Odor Pollution Lead to Stricter Standards	8
EPA Urges Improvements of Public Construction Air Pollution Violations.....	10
Announcement on Technology Cooperation.....	11
News Briefs.....	6
Activity.....	8



Environmental regulations are presented in bilingual form making it easy for international friends to search online

Legal System Reform and Modernization

Environmental regulations over which the EPA has planning and legislative authority can be classified into five areas: fundamental, organizational, preventative, regulatory and emergency. Acts have been legislated to cover 16 areas, under which there are 204 regulations and ordinances. In addition to yearly routine review of environmental regulations and reporting legislative and regulatory plans to the Executive Yuan for ratification, the EPA also proactively drafts, revises and rescinds environmental regulations of its own accord. The EPA has conducted numerous comprehensive reviews of environmental regulations in response to the following events:

1. Promulgation of the "Government Reform Guidelines"

The "Government Reform Guidelines" (政府再造綱領) were promulgated by the Executive Yuan on 14 January 1998 to advance the reform of the regulatory system. Based on the principles of promoting existing beneficial aspects, streamlining government, and providing more convenience to the people, the guidelines pave the way for easing restrictions and establishing a modern and highly efficient legal system. The EPA complied by reviewing 10 regulations requiring revision.

2. Streamlined Functions and Organization of the Taiwan Provincial Government

In response to the "Temporary Provisions on Streamlining the Functions and Organization of the Taiwan Provincial Government" (臺灣省政府功能業務與組織調整暫行條例) promulgated on 28 October 1998, the EPA reviewed nine related acts and 28 regulations requiring review.

3. Promulgation of the Action Plan for the *Administrative Procedure Act*

Promulgated on 10 February 2000, the "Action Plan for the *Administrative Procedure Act*" (行政程序法推動計畫) increased the openness, fairness and transparency of administrative affairs to protect civil rights and enhance administrative efficiency. The EPA adhered to the Executive Yuan's "Principles for Departmental Revisions to Regulations According to the *Administrative Procedure Act*" (各機關依行政程序法修訂主管法規之參考原則) by reviewing 10 acts requiring revision, and 54 regulations requiring drafting, revision or rescinding.

4. National Economic Development Conference

In response to conclusions made during the National Economic Development Conference on 6~7 January 2001, the EPA established a service window to handle permits, enforcement of industrial waste reduction, and resource recycling. In promoting resource recycling and reuse legislation, the EPA also revised the *Water Pollution Control Act* and the *Air Pollution Control Act*.

Open and Transparent Drafting Procedures

The current legislative procedure for environmental acts and regulations starts with a draft proposal, the content of which is first drafted by the related department and then deliberated by related EPA departments until a majority consensus is reached. If the item involves a major EPA policy, a brief report on the issue is given to the EPA minister. Afterwards, agencies, organizations, and personnel that may be affected by or interested in the regulation are convened for a public hearing. A discussion is held with related in-

dustry competent authorities and local environmental protection bureaus (EPBs) to ensure intergovernmental coordination. The EPA finally convenes a meeting with the EPA Legal Affairs Committee and competent authority. After passing through these various levels of reconfirmation and adjustment, the draft proposal is submitted to the Executive Yuan for review. A copy is also sent to each party within the Legislative Yuan for deliberation. The law-making procedure comes to an end with the final promulgation given by the President.

General procedures for ordinances that need not go through the Legislative Yuan can either be 1) directly promulgated by the EPA, 2) jointly deliberated and announced by the EPA and other involved government agencies, or 3) submitted to the Executive Yuan for review. Before a public hearing is held, a preliminary announcement is made according to the *Administrative Procedure Act* to allow time for related parties to submit their stance on the ordinance. The Executive Yuan requests each department to issue a preliminary announcement seven days in advance of the hearing. The EPA has even stricter requirements, however, requiring the preliminary announcement to be issued 14 days in advance to provide ample time for response.

To ensure openness and transparency throughout the drafting process, the EPA has made the following modifications regarding notification of public hearings and the draft proposal, as well as interpretation of statutes:

1. Public hearings:

To draw on collective wisdom and absorb all useful ideas, public hearings should not only be held before preliminary announcements, but also after when necessary. Depending on need and location of

involved industries, the number of hearings may be increased; or one central location will be chosen to convene all involved industries for one public hearing. As there has not been ample time for corporate entities to respond to public hearing notification in the past, future notifications shall be given seven days before the public hearing, and related organizations shall be allowed one week after the public hearing within which they may submit their views on the situation.

2. Communication regarding lack of consensus

Sometimes organizations protest regulations after they are promulgated, making implementation difficult for the EPA. To prevent this occurrence, when a public hearing fails to reach a consensus, the competent authority for that regulation shall attach to the proposed draft regulation a document explaining the differing views and reasons for not adopting these views. This shall serve as a reference for policy making.

3. Negotiation and coordination

During the drafting process, it is essential to have competent authorities from local environmental protection bureaus participate and assist by submitting the views of ground level personnel responsible

for implementation. Moreover, cross-departmental contact and coordination between the EPA and related administrative agencies should be negotiated until a consensus is reached, to ease implementation of environmental protection affairs.

4. Interpretation of statutes

To prevent dubious or inconsistent interpretation of statutes after shifts of personnel, the EPA shall hold an official written explanation as the standard explanation. The EPA Legal Affairs Committee shall assist related agencies in unifying interpretations of statutes.

Regulations Meet WTO Requirements

In general, environmental regulations should be professional, technical, frequently modified, detailed, and should allow a grace period. Regulations should be professional and technical in that they broadly integrate professional knowledge, and terminology is used with extreme precision. This calls for highly complex legislative procedures. Environmental regulations should be highly detailed and classified under complex frameworks rather than sim-

plified or generalized. Furthermore, environmental regulations require frequent modification as they develop in response to international trends. Finally, as regulations usually involve numerous industries, they must be implemented gradually with ample grace periods to preclude adverse impacts.

For foreign businesses less familiar with domestic environmental policy, the EPA has developed barrier-free plans to ensure clear communication of legal information. For example, the EPA has established an English website and has translated important regulations concerning foreign affairs into English. Foreign firms can easily perform English-Chinese language cross-checks regarding terms used in regulations. Frequently used terms have been compiled into an environmental regulation lexicon to provide uniform terminology and avoid misunderstanding by the international community. The EPA has also established a regulation announcement mailing list including all relevant industries so that they can stay informed of developments in environmental regulations.

In response to Taiwan's accession to the WTO, for legal system affairs involving service and product providers, the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Bureau of Standards and Testing reports affairs to the WTO secretary office before public hearing procedures. A period of 60 days shall be given to allow ample time for all parties to express their views; an additional 10 days shall be reserved for compilation of a report on the issue at hand. An English translation of the regulation shall be completed within six months after the promulgation of related regulations to facilitate compliance by foreign firms.

Developing Four Key Environmental Acts

The EPA affirms that environmen-

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Environmental Policy Monthly. The main content area displays a search result for the term '不得為開發行為之許可' (May not grant permission for a development activity). The page includes a search bar, a navigation menu on the left, and a list of related regulations. The search result shows the term in Chinese, Pinyin, and English, along with a reference to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act.

中華民國環保法規資料中心

法規搜尋 辭庫搜尋

首頁 / 辭庫 / 不得為開發行為之許可

English

相關分類：一般, 環境影響評估

不得為開發行為之許可

拼音：bu4 de2 wei2 kai1 fa1 xing2 wei2 zhi1 xu3 ke3

英文：may not grant permission for a development activity

參考法規：

1. 環境影響評估法

法律
分類：環境影響評估
參考法條：第十四條

首頁
常見問題
網站地圖
環保署中文法規站
法規
辭庫
相關連結

辭庫

一般
基本法及組織法
水及海洋污染防治
廢棄物
廢棄物清理
資源回收
土壤及地下水污染防治
大氣及噪音污染防治
噪音污染防治
環境影響評估
毒性物質管理

Terminology used in environmental regulations is unified and compiled in a searchable online database

tal protection work must not only tend to local needs, but must also have international perspective and long-range macroscopic vision. Accordingly, the EPA is now in the process of drafting of the following four Acts

1. *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act* (溫室氣體減量法)

With the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* and the *Kyoto Protocol* now in effect, Taiwan hopes to fulfill its role as a member of the global village by adhering to the spirit of these international conventions. Taiwan vows to shoulder its shared but unique responsibility to control climate change and pursue sustainable development via cost-effective and minimal-cost methods. Taking a proactive stance on global issues, the EPA is actively planning greenhouse gas reduction plans, convening various response meetings, and drafting the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act* to serve as legal backing for implementing greenhouse gas reductions.

2. *Waste Resource Management Act* (廢棄資源管理法)

After promulgation of the *Resource Recycling and Reuse Act* (資源回收再利用法) on 3 July 2002, there was still an unclear distinction between the definitions of "waste" and "renewable" resources. Moreover, as prevention, reduction, recycling, reuse and final disposal are all parts of one comprehensive effort to reduce waste, to avoid overlapping or contradictory legislation, the EPA has begun planning a merge of the *Resource Recycling and Reuse Act* and the *Waste Disposal Act*. The union of these two Acts will become the *Waste Resources Management Act*.

3. *Environmental Education Act* (環境教育法)

Overdevelopment of Taiwan's environment has resulted in increas-

ingly frequent environmental disasters and ecological damage. Getting at the root of the problem relies on long-range and intensive promotion of environmental education and cultivation of environmental ethics based on mature concepts. The EPA is therefore drafting the *Environmental Education Act* to clearly stipulate required organizations, personnel and promotion efforts for environmental education. This will also integrate funds and resources for environmental education, and make use of environmental education facilities and premises to speed up the dissemination of environmental communication. The goal is to facilitate sustainable development of the environment by establishing correct environmental concepts among the populace.

4. *Environmental Liability Reparation and Compensation Act* (環境損害賠償與補償法)

Article 33~2 of the *Basic Environmental Act* (環境基本法) requires the central government to establish a liability compensation, reparation and relief system for environmental legal affairs. The EPA plans to adopt special legislative methods to draft liability without fault (risk liability) similar to the system used in Germany to stipulate environmental liability and compensation. This specifies that when the environmental impact of certain facilities causes death, injury or health problems, the operator of that facility is liable to pay damage compensation, and must provide damage prevention

guarantee money or liability insurance.

Prospects for a Progressive Legal System

In the Executive Yuan's work performance evaluation of each level of government's legal systems, the EPA is classified as a Class I agency in terms of administrative complexity due to the multifaceted and unique nature of environmental regulations. In the interest of serving the public, the EPA requires all regulations to be posted online within three days of promulgation. The Executive Yuan affirmed the accuracy and speed of the EPA's announcement of regulations. For two consecutive years, the EPA has received the highest award, attesting to a high degree of professionalism and diligence.

Implementation of environmental regulations is undoubtedly a concrete objective for the EPA; it is also the key for Taiwan's vision to become an environmentally progressive country.

The EPA states that the purpose of environmental law is to protect the citizens, and all regulations are closely linked to people's everyday lives. Each control measure and enforcement of penalties directly affects people's rights. At the same time, environmental law symbolizes the EPA's past years of administrative achievements as well as the future direction of development. At a time when people are showing widespread concern about environmental policy and pollution control, it is the EPA's mission to promote a deeper awareness of the environment and a correct understanding of environmental protection. Implementation of environmental regulations is undoubtedly a concrete objective for the EPA; it is also the key for Taiwan's vision to become an environmentally progressive country.

Waste Management

Medical Waste Sorting to Be Reinforced

The EPA began revising medical waste management regulations in April 2006 to strengthen management of the medical waste flow. Revisions emphasize waste sorting and provide flexible regulations on the storage of waste.

EPA statistics show that already over 94% of Taiwan's medical waste is properly treated and reported, attesting to near perfect management of the medical waste flow. To further enhance management quality, the EPA held two public hearings on 10 and 17 April 2006 regarding proposed revisions to medical waste management regulations. Related government organizations have also been engaged in discussion. The final draft revision is expected to come out sometime this summer.

Revisions highlight the concept of sorting medical waste for treatment. Based on the type of hazard posed, medical waste would first be separated into the three main categories of genetically toxic material, sharps, and infectious waste. This method helps preclude potential hazards that could occur with consolidated clearance and treatment of different materials. To complement the new sorting methods, the EPA has adjusted regulations on package labeling of medical waste. Formerly, infectious medical waste was to be packaged in red or yellow containers depending on whether it was combustible or non-combustible. However, in the end most waste underwent the same treatment, making sorting controls irrelevant. The new regulations on sorting and packaging of waste are based on treatment methods. Waste requiring only thermal disinfection shall be packaged in yellow, while other

types of waste requiring high temperature incineration or melting shall be packaged in red. Sorting of medical waste based on treatment method is expected to facilitate waste flow management.

The EPA has also responded to feedback from hospitals that the current restriction banning storage of medical waste over seven days is excessively stringent. Referring to methods used in the EU and US, it has been added in the revi-

Toxic Substance Management

Toxics Control Act Revisions Pass Initial Review

A draft revision of the *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* has passed an initial review at the Legislative Yuan. The new Act emphasizes source controls and enforces related stipulations and obligations for toxic chemical substance handlers.

At the 21st meeting of the Legislative Yuan's Health, Environment and Social Welfare Committee on 18 May 2006, a draft revision of the *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* (毒性化學物質管理法) passed the initial review. The Legislative Yuan modified the definition of toxic chemical substances to include chemical substances either specifically or inadvertently created during production processes. Based on this definition, dioxin will be subject to regulation in the future. The EPA indicates that in addition to several existing controls over dioxin emissions in the *Air Pollution Control Act* (空氣污染防制法), there are also controls over minute amounts of dioxin in raw materials,

such as chlorophenols, 2,4,5-trichlorophenol, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* enforces direct control over the source of these substances by banning them from production, import, sale and use in Taiwan. The newly revised stipulations allow the EPA to carefully evaluate the hazards of dioxin and implement a comprehensive control strategy.

According to the EPA, another focus of the Legislative Yuan's draft revision is to strengthen regulations concerning the transport of toxic chemical substances. This includes stipulations on installation of professional technicians and maintenance of instant tracking systems installed on designated vehicles. In the in-

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stance of a sudden accident, professional response personnel should be dispatched to the scene within two hours to handle response and follow-up measures. A national joint command organization should be established to assist with protection, response and cleanup measures during an accident involving toxic chemical substances. Violations of related regulations could result in fines ranging from NT\$60,000 to NT\$5,000,000.

To protect citizens' right to know, in the future hazard prevention and

response plans submitted by enterprises shall be posted online for the public to see. Encouraging businesses to make the best effort to improve toxic chemical substance pollution and reduce the risk of operations, the EPA has expanded the list of those eligible for incentives based on good performance in operations involving toxic chemical substances. Incentives have also been made available to local competent authorities.

and new fee standards are slated for promulgation in mid-June 2006.

The focus of revisions includes reductions to several types of permit review fees. For example, the review fee for extensions and modifications of Class I clearance permits (excluding companies with storage facilities or transfer hubs) has dropped 80% from NT\$25,000 to NT\$5,000. The review fee for Class II clearance permits has dropped 66% from NT\$15,000 to NT\$5,000. The review fee for extensions and modifications of Class I disposal permits (excluding companies with storage facilities or transfer hubs) has dropped 41.8% from NT\$55,000 to NT\$32,000. The review fee for Class II disposal permits has dropped 62.5% from NT\$40,000 to NT\$15,000. Moreover, for modifications to clearance and disposal organization permits that only involve clearance services and exclude disposal services, review fees will be the same as those for clearance organizations. No application review fees will be charged for downsizing of vehicle fleets, replacement of old vehicles, and renewal of license plates.

The EPA has posted a draft of revised fee standards on the EPA's public hearing website at <http://atftp.epa.gov.tw/pub/index.htm>. All are welcome to provide opinions or suggestions.

Waste Management

Waste Management Firm Permit Review Fee Reduced

With consideration to actual circumstances encountered by waste clearance and disposal organizations applying for permits, the EPA recently convened a public hearing to allow others voice their opinions. A preliminary consensus has been reached with related unions and new fee standards are slated for promulgation in mid-June, featuring greatly reduced application review fees.

It has been over four years since the initial promulgation of permit application fee standards for public and private waste clearance and disposal organizations. Since then industry and industry unions have expressed differing opinions about the rationality of application review fee collection methods, times and amounts. The EPA has thus deliberated the fee regulations promul-

gated by the Ministry of Finance, holding two public hearings in October 2005 and April 2006. The EPA has set different fee standards based on a review of different categories of clearance and disposal organizations, and cost analysis data for administrative work. A preliminary consensus has been reached with industry unions

News Briefs

ESTPs Enlist Eleven More Firms

The EPA recently approved 11 more firms' applications to set up operations in Taiwan's four Environmental Science and Technology Parks (ESTP), putting the total at 31 firms so far. Several more companies have entered the application process, attesting to successful promotion efforts and the trend to link production with ecological concepts.

Among the 11 new firms, three have applied to enter ESTP laboratory facilities and eight have applied to enter mass production areas. Of the nation's four ESTPs, the Kaohsiung ESTP has progressed the fastest with already 19 firms in operation. The Tainan ESTP has already permitted nine firms to set up operations. The Taoyuan ESTP has begun auditing industries by

category, and has allowed two firms to enter the park. The Hualien ESTP has shown exceptional performance in attracting firms despite its later start in issuing the land lease and sale manual. Already one firm has set up operations and two firms have submitted applications. Interested parties are invited to call the ESTP hotline at 886-2-2381-5784.

Air Quality

EPA Assesses Development and Promotion of Electric Motorbikes

Due to rapid advances in low-polluting motorbike technology, the EPA has begun evaluating the development and promotion of electric motorbikes in Taiwan. This will help understand the feasibility of promoting electric motorbikes in Taiwan.

To better understand electric motorbike technology development and promotion methods here and abroad, the EPA has launched the "Assessment of Electric Motorbike Technology Development and Promotion Methods" plan. As a foundation for promoting electric motorbikes, this project will:

- 1) collect data in Taiwan and abroad regarding the development of electric motorbikes;
- 2) test and compare various functions of domestic electric motorbikes;
- 3) assess the current status and future outlook of electric motorbike technology development;
- 4) draw up optimal promotion strategies and a detailed plan of implementation.

With over 13 million registered

motorbikes in Taiwan by the end of 2005, scooters and motorcycles are the main vehicles of choice for short distances. They are also one of the leading sources of air and noise pollution in urban areas. It has thus become important to promote the idea of substituting traditional gasoline engine vehicles with electric motorbikes. Electric motorbikes run on battery-powered motors that are more efficient than gasoline-powered engines and have no pollution emissions. A calculation of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions generated by power plants to recharge electric motorbike batteries shows primary energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions at 40% and 52.5%, respectively, compared to gasoline engine motorbikes. Moreover, acceleration noise of electric motorbikes

is about 60 decibels, far below the third stage motorbike noise standard of 72 decibels.

In light of these advantages, the Executive Yuan passed the

"Action Plan to Develop Electric Motorbikes" proposed by the EPA in 1998. This plan jumpstarted research and development of electric motorbikes in Taiwan and provided subsidies to people willing to purchase electric motorbikes. Shortcomings in battery technology at the time hindered electric motorbikes from gaining widespread public acceptance. In recent years, domestic companies have been actively researching and developing hybrid electric motorbikes, fuel cell electric motorbikes, and even lithium-ion batteries coupled with lead-acid batteries. This wave of research and development has effectively solved the weight, lifespan, and recharge problems associated with batteries in the past, giving a head start to domestic low-polluting electric motorbike technology. This is the impetus behind the EPA's new plans to reassess domestic development and promotion of electric motorbike, and research the feasibility of expanding promotion efforts.

462 More Waste Clearance Vehicles to Install GPS

On 11 May 2006, the EPA announced the fourth group of industrial waste clearance vehicles required to install GPS tracking systems. This will add another 462 clearance vehicles to the growing list of vehicles under the satellite monitoring system. The new regulation will be effective for clearance vehicles transporting livestock carcasses or slaughterhouse leftovers from 1 June 2006. The regulation will later include vehicles of Class I public and privately operated clearance or disposal organizations from 1 August 2006. Enterprises planning to transport hazardous industrial waste, and incinerator fly ash and

bottom ash must have vehicles inspected and certified before they can begin to carry such waste.

Repeat Offender Clause Deleted in Two Environmental Acts

Revisions to the Criminal Code of the Republic of China were promulgated on 2 February 2005. Original regulations pertaining to consecutive violations and repeat offender enterprises have been deleted and will take effect on 1 July 2006. Article 46 of the *Waste Disposal Act* (廢棄物清理法) and Article 59 of the *Air Pollution Control Act* (空氣污染防治法) have thus been accordingly revised and promulgated on 30 May 2006. Revisions include the deletion of clauses regarding repeat offender enterprises. These deletions will

also take effect on 1 July 2006. As for how these changes will affect businesses in the future, if an enterprise engages in waste clearance or disposal operations without obtaining the required permits, it will be penalized as a repeat offender enterprise (violation of Article 41~1 of the *Waste Disposal Act*). Enterprises violating Article 30~2 of the *Air Pollution Control Act* regarding regulations governing manufacture, import, and export of substances likely to generate air pollution will be penalized as a repeat offender enterprise. All violations of Article 46 of the *Waste Disposal Act* and Article 59~2 of the *Air Pollution Control Act* will be treated as individual cases and the court will determine penalization as either a one-time offense or repeat offense.

Air Quality

Complaints of Odor Pollution Lead to Stricter Standards

Odor pollution has become the third most frequent topic of public nuisance complaints, accounting for over 70% of all air pollution complaints and suggesting that malodors may be viewed as one of the leading disruptions to quality of life. While urging environmental agencies to reinforce inspection mechanisms for odor pollution, the EPA is tightening regulations on odor pollution through revisions to the *Stationary Source Air Pollution Emission Standards*.

Public nuisance complaints of malodors are on the rise. According to EPA records, the number of air pollution complaints rose from 33,000 in 2002 to 38,000 in 2005. Of these, cases that involved odor pollution numbered 23,999 in 2002, and 27,903 in 2005. Upon further analysis of pollution sources, the majority involved factories (9,711 cases; 34.8%), followed by commercial operations (5,413 cases; 19.4%), residential activities (5,246 cases; 18.8%) and construction activities (2,372 cases; 8.5%).

A closer look at different types of industries reveals that most complaints involved metal factories and plastic product manufacturers. As for commercial operations, the food and beverage industry accounted for most complaints. Most complaints of malodors occurred in resi-

dential/commercial mixed areas and near industrial or agricultural activities. Possibly due to land consolidation or changes to regional plans or land categories, residential areas are increasingly proximate to pollution sources, therefore explaining the increase in number of odor complaints. According to county and municipality data in 2005 regarding odor complaints, Taipei County had the most at 5,584 (20% of nation's odor pollution complaints), followed by Taoyuan County at 3,380 complaints (12.1%), and Taipei City with 2,664 complaints (9.5%). Looking at local data on penalties following public nuisance complaints of odors from 2003 to 2005, Taipei City gave penalties in 115 cases, Yunlin County

penalized 67 cases, and Yilan penalized 36 cases. In terms of penalties given to industries, the food and beverage industry was penalized in 89 cases, factories were penalized in 80 cases and livestock operations were penalized in 75 cases. These numbers are following a rising trend.

To reduce the occurrence of odor pollution, the EPA has requested all environmental agencies to reinforce inspection and control of targets receiving frequent complaints. Industries are asked to rigorously control the emission of odors, and those businesses likely to generate odors will undergo inspections to ensure command over the treatment of odors. Businesses will also be requested to reinforce odor pollution source controls. The EPA will draft stricter controls in related regulations and is planning to draw up tighter restrictions on odor pollution in the *Stationary Source Air Pollutant Emission Standards* (固定污染源空氣污染物排放標準) in the near future. It is hoped that these measures will thoroughly solve the problem of malodors and effectively improve the quality of life for people in Taiwan.

Activity

Workshop Held to Strengthen Landfill Operations

To increase public general waste landfill engineering quality and strengthen management of landfill operations, the EPA held the "Environmental Facility Sanitary Landfill Construction Inspection and Operation Management Task Coordination Workshop" on 22~23 May 2006 in Jhushan Township, Nantou County in central Taiwan. A total of 100 people participated, including representatives of each county and municipal environmental protection bureau (EPB) as well as

authorities from central Taiwan's landfills. The director of the EPA Bureau of Environmental Inspection presided over the meeting and spoke on the construction inspection system for environmental facilities. It is hoped that this forum and onsite operations can strengthen landfill construction quality as well as facility personnel's management control concepts in order to raise the quality of landfill operations and enhance the efficiency of waste treatment.

Participants of the forum made an

onsite visit to Nantou City's garbage leachate treatment plant and the Jhushan Landfill to better understand the inspection of landfill construction and the state of operations management. As future landfill operations will be designed as regional environmental facilities in a way that will overcome their typical image as NIMBY facilities, during the forum arrangements were made to visit renowned school buildings designed with green building concepts after the 911 Earthquake in Nantou County and learn from their experience.

News Briefs

Chiayi County Pilots Recycling of Cooking Oil into Biodiesel

The EPA and the Chiayi County Environmental Protection Bureau have teamed up to implement a "Cooking Oil Recycling Plan." Eighteen of the county's townships and cities are at the forefront of the nation's efforts to recycle cooking oil. From 1 May 2006, residents have been asked to collect waste cooking oil, which is now picked up by sanitation crews. The oil is then sent to Taiwan NJC Corporation for processing into biodiesel fuel. This initiative not only provides appropriate treatment of cooking oil and reduces environmental pollution, but also provides new alternative energy to solve immediate fuel supply shortages.



Taiwan NJC Corporation owns the nation's first biodiesel plant

Premier Calls for Action on Sustainable Development Conference Conclusions

A National Sustainable Development Conference was held on 21~22 April

2006. The event was a success, with enthusiastic participation from all circles. Consensus was reached on 248 items; consensus was not reached on 72 items. After the EPA con-

vened a discussion with related ministries, consensus was reached on another 19 items. In all, consensus has been reached on 267 items, and consensus has not been reached on 53 items.



The outcomes of the National Sustainable Development Conference were reported to the National Council for Sustainable Development on 26 May 2006. Premier and NCSD Chairman Su Tseng-chang instructed all ministries to seek consensus on all remaining items, and implement all items upon which consensus has been reached. As for implementing items that have already reached consensus, unless such implementation involves drafting or revising regulations, they should be immediately implemented. The ministries are currently drawing up concrete and feasible implementation measures according to the Premier's request to serve as a reference for Taiwan's sustainable development.

Premier Su presides over sustainable development conference, coming to a conclusion together with NCSD members

Air Quality

EPA Urges Improvements of Public Construction Air Pollution Violations

Out of 14,000 inspections of pollution from construction works conducted over the past two years by environmental agencies, 295 (2.1%) violations were issued. Three out of four violators were contractors of public construction projects. In addition to urging these enterprises to ensure adequate pollution prevention measures, the EPA has asked local governments to continue carrying out inspections.

While particulate matter (PM) from construction sites is not the main factor contributing to poor air quality in Taiwan, it is closely related to the public living environment. Environmental agencies therefore place much importance on this issue. The EPA has recently compiled relevant statistics to better understand the status of pollution from construction sites. Statistics show that since the promulgation of the *Regulations Governing Air Pollution Prevention Equipment at Construction Sites* (營建工程空氣污染防制設施管理辦法) on 1 July 2004, environmental agencies have conducted nearly 14,000 inspections. Of these, 295 violations were issued for a violation rate of 2.1%. A total of NT\$13 million in fines was issued to construction works for violations of air pollution regulations.

Worthy of mention is that three out of four violators were contractors of public construction projects commissioned by government agencies. The most violations (39) went to projects commissioned by the Taiwan Area National Freeway Bureau, MOTC, followed by the Directorate General of Highways, MOTC with 33 violations, and the Construction and Planning Agency, Ministry of the Interior with 28 violations. The main types of construction activities issued penalties were buildings and roads.

EPA Department of Air Quality Protection and Noise Control officials indicate that pollution prevention on road construction projects is difficult as workers must keep to tight schedules and

ensure unobstructed traffic. Nonetheless, in most cases attentiveness is all that is required to achieve effective pollution prevention. Air pollution prevention work does not require a great deal of expense—as long as the company has established sound supervision and management mechanisms, they can effectively prevent air pollution.

As for performance of local governments responsible for inspections, the three top performers in terms of pollution reduction were Taipei City, Tainan City and Tainan County. Areas with the greatest number of violations were Kaohsiung County, Changhua County, Hualien County and Pingtung County. A look at each local government's inspection data shows that counties and municipalities with increased inspection rates are achieving better rates of control. Therefore the EPA has reaffirmed the need to continue promotion of local inspection work.

The EPA calls on residents to report air pollution from construction projects through the toll-free public nuisance complaint hotline at 0800-066666. A direct report can also be made to the EPA at 0800-231885. An environmental agency will follow up with inspection and penalization if necessary.



Buildings are main types of construction activities issued penalties

Announcement on Technology Cooperation

To strengthen the cooperation and communication with other countries in the area of environmental protection, the Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration (TEPA) can provide an opportunity for employees of foreign enterprises (located outside of Taiwan) to discuss environmental concerns with local agencies and experts. Therefore, during their employees' stay in Taiwan, the Taiwan EPA can arrange a meeting for them upon request. For details, please contact Dr. James Meng-Shiun Wei, Office of Science and Technology Advisors, Taiwan EPA (tel: 886-2-23117722 ext 2204, fax: 886-2-23115486, mail: mswei@sun.epa.gov.tw) or just fill out the Meeting Request Form (available at http://ivy2.epa.gov.tw/out_web/English/Meeting%20Request%20Form.doc)

Activities

Deputy Minister Visits Hualien County's Leading Recyclers

EPA Deputy Minister Chang Tzi-chin (張子敬) joined Recycling Fund Management Board members on a special visit to Hualien on 20 May 2006 to show their support of outstanding resource recycling organizations. The EPA officials accompanied the director of the Hualien County Environmental Protection Bureau Director and the mayor of Hualien City to visit the environmental volunteer team of Minsheng Borough, known for their exceptional achievements in recycling.

30,000 Join Nationwide Spring Beach Cleanup

Annual spring beach cleanup events took place nationwide this year, kicking off with an opening ceremony on 29 April 2006. An estimated 30,000 environmental volunteers, enthusiastic citizens, environmentalists, students, soldiers, coast guard patrolmen in the nation's 21 coastal counties and municipalities teamed up for this major beach cleanup event. To set the tone for this volunteer cleanup event as well as set a motivational example, EPA Deputy Minister Lin Ta-hsiung led a group of EPA colleagues on 21 May 2006 to participate in the Taoyuan County beach cleanup.

Participation Welcomed in World Water Monitoring Day Events

World Water Monitoring Day 2006 is



EPA Deputy Minister Chang visits recycling center operated by environmental volunteers of Minsheng Borough, Hualien

just around the corner. Now in its fourth year, World Water Monitoring Day occurs on October 18 every year, jointly promoted by the International Water Association, America's Clean Water Foundation and the US EPA since 2003. The event synchronizes global water quality monitoring actions and attracts grassroots participation in monitoring and protecting the world's water resources. This year's events will unfold in three stages, including a period of leader training from 7~18 August, followed by local events where leaders facilitate water quality monitoring of water bodies near residential areas from 18 September to 18 October. The

final stage entails transmission of data and photos to a designated website by 25 October. The EPA will provide 400 free water quality monitoring kits to participants. Participants must register by 31 July 2006. Registration lasts until the targeted number of participants is reached, so people are encouraged to act soon and take advantage of this opportunity. Apart from water quality monitoring activities, this year the EPA has added five contests for the creation of water quality monitoring lesson plans, water quality monitoring poster designs, creative slogans, short essays on the event, and water quality monitoring website

Activities

designs. More information about this event can be found on Taiwan's World Water Monitoring Day website: <http://www.epa.gov.tw/wmwd>

Incinerator Management Forum Kicks Off

To ensure efficient management of municipal waste incinerators already in operation, the EPA held five forums in northern, central and southern Taiwan from 15-19 May 2006. Invited to the forum included representatives from county and municipality environmental protection bureaus (EPBs), incinerator management organizations and their supervisory and consultant organizations, waste clearance and disposal enterprise unions, scholars and experts from related fields, and environmental NGOs. The forum provided an opportunity for all present to exchange views on the operation and management of Taiwan's municipal waste incinerators.



River Ecology Expo sparks enthusiasm in Hsinchu



Municipal waste incinerator management forum in northern Taiwan

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