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## Feature Article

### Local Environmental Agency Performance Evaluation System

As part of the system to evaluate the annual performance of county and city environmental protection bureaus (EPBs), the EPA regularly records supervision and evaluation procedures, compiles statistics on current status and carries out on-site inspections. EPB performance evaluations are held each year in order to provide constructive feedback and effectively carry out supervisory work.

As the scope of environmental protection services becomes increasingly diverse, the EPA is working to ensure that these services are implemented and that local agencies are on the same page in carrying out the various duties. In order to ensure that local agencies are actively helping promote environmental protection services, the EPA conducts an annual performance audit of all local environmental protection bureaus (EPBs). At the end of the year, EPBs with outstanding performance are commended and given encouragement. EPBs that are lagging behind in performance can learn from the positive aspects of top performing ones and use the evaluation as a reference for making improvements..

According to the EPA's organizational regulations,

one of the main duties of the EPA Department of Supervision, Evaluation and Dispute Resolution is to evaluate the performance of city and county governments in carrying out environmental protection affairs. The EPB performance evaluation system is a way for the EPA to evaluate how local environmental agencies are carrying out focal tasks on an annual basis. The evaluation is based on a time period from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

#### Pollution Prevention and Control Account for 75% of Evaluation Score

Evaluations are based on three parts: pollution prevention and control, general affairs and other performance. Details and scoring weight are as

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follows:

Pollution prevention and control (75% of score): air pollution and noise control, water pollution prevention and control, soil and groundwater pollution remediation and waste resource cycling to attain zero waste, environmental analysis, environmental sanitation and toxic chemical substances management, handling of public nuisance reports and disputes, major pollution incident control and follow-up investigation performance and environmental monitoring.

General affairs (25% of score): information management, environmental education, environmental impact assessment review and monitoring, public affair statistics report audits, energy conservation and carbon reduction, promotion of green lifestyles, educational training, administering budgets of subsidy plans, providing a model of ethics for public servants, and handling of petitions and mandates.

Other performance (not part of score): response and constructive handling of major pollution incidents.

Performance is ranked based on final scores as follows: 90 and above is ranked outstanding, 80.00~89.99 is ranked first grade, 70.00~79.99 is ranked second grade, 60.00~69.99 is ranked third grade, and below 59.99 is ranked fourth grade.

EPBs can further adjust the scoring weight of certain items for which the EPA allows flexible scoring, according to local conditions and focus of services.

#### Several Counties and Cities Earn Outstanding Rank in Several Consecutive Years

Each year the EPA reviews and scores the annual performance of each county and city EPB. There is no limit to the number of EPBs ranked into each grade and all have the chance of earning an outstanding rank in consecutive years. For example, in 2011 the five EPBs of Taipei City, New Taipei City, Taoyuan County, Tainan City, and Yilan County earned the top ranking of outstanding performance, a ranking they had each held for several years. The following is a look at why each of these five EPBs earned high scores again last year:



▶ EPA Minister Steven Shu-hung Shen stands among representatives of EPBs awarded for outstanding performance in 2011.

#### Taipei City Department of Environmental Protection:

- Low-carbon city transportation was promoted with seamless route connection.
- A citizen hotline service was established for more effective use of human resources.
- Guandu Nature Park was promoted as the nation's first certified environmental education site.
- Active remediation of the Tamsui River led to satisfactory results including regular cleaning of drainage ditches and setting standard procedures for ditch cleaning within the jurisdiction. Neighboring village leaders were invited to confirm that work is being carried out correctly to maintain a high level of cleanliness.

#### New Taipei City EPB:

- An “environmental riders” Internet system was developed, including the establishment of a joint maintenance and testing system for motorbikes.
- The Tamsui River – Manhattan Plan was developed, integrating different agencies and fields of expertise to promote an international riverside city.
- A program was developed to integrate the recycling of furniture, appliances and bicycles to give to disadvantaged families.
- Twenty volunteer teams were established to promote dog excrement clean up model sites.

#### Taoyuan County EPB:

- The bureau inspected companies with falsified air pollution monitoring data, and collected a large amount of air pollution fees and penalty fees.
- The efficiency of active carbon was verified and inspections were conducted on temporary waste storage sites, after which immediate improvements were demanded.
- The Laojie River pollution remediation integrated the plans of the Water Resources Department and the Urban and Rural Development Bureau,

addressing both river pollution remediation as well as environmental beautification.

- The bureau drew on the *Act for Promotion of Private Participation in Infrastructure Projects* by introducing private sector operation of large-scale waste shredding factories to increase treatment volume.
- Electric three-wheeled motorbikes were assigned to sweep the streets, making for a mobile display that works to promote energy conservation and carbon reduction.
- The bureau came up with a creative way of preventing people from posting advertisements by promoting the painting of street lampposts and fences.

#### Tainan City EPB:

- Active improvements were made to the Erren River by upgrading local awareness and developing local recreation activities.
- A local environmental crime fighting alliance was successful in holding ocean oil spill response drills and setting up a sound chain-of-command reporting system.
- Central government policy was complemented by transforming food waste recycling operations into a reused biomass energy scheme.
- A “12-hour bulk waste pick up” system was organized to guarantee pickup of bulk waste items within 12 hours of receiving a call.
- A creative way was developed to set aside a city park for pet owners.
- The bureau worked toward making information open to the public by establishing a real time broadcasting scheme that enables members of the public to listen in on environmental impact assessment review meetings.

#### Yilan County EPB:

- Low-carbon city transportation initiatives developed seamless connection between different transport routes.

- The bureau resolutely dealt with the problems of environmental pollution and drinking water quality safety caused by fertilizer applications in high altitude farms, showing administrative firmness and determination to protect water quality.
- Efforts to educate foreign workers in the fishing industry, as well as measures to encourage waste recycling on fishing boats, produced good results.
- The Yilan EPB was the first to launch investigations and indict real estate intermediaries for illegal posting of ads in public areas in accordance with the *Real Estate Broker Management Act*.

- Excellent results were attained in holding an inspection, evaluation and commendation initiative for public washrooms.

The EPA points out that each year's evaluation is based on regularly recorded monitoring and evaluation data, administrative statistics and on-site verifications. Each county and city EPB is free to adjust the scoring weight of stipulated evaluation items according to its environmental loading and special local conditions. This helps to close the gap between varying conditions of different counties and cities, and makes the evaluation system fair and competitive. It is hoped that this strategy will give citizens of each jurisdiction a positive outlook on their EPB's implementation of environmental protection services.

## International Cooperation

### APEC Roundtable on Marine Resource Conservation Held in Taipei

The 13th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment was held in Taipei from 17-18 September 2012. The conference was attended by around 85 experts from government, industry, and academia from APEC members such as China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the USA, Vietnam, and Taiwan. Topics on the agenda included integrated coastal management, wetlands conservation, marine conservation, and marine ecological services.

EPA Minister Stephen Shu-hung Shen gave the opening speech, in which he pointed out 2008 UN statistics indicating that 15% of the food protein necessary for 3 billion people around the world comes from fish products. The fishing industry also provides a livelihood for approximately 540 million people (around 8% of the world's population). Marine ecosystems not only provide food and livelihoods, but also produce oxygen and absorb about 30% of man-made CO<sub>2</sub>. The seas and oceans are thus of considerable importance to humanity, and it is the duty of environmental protection agencies to protect the health of marine ecosystems by reducing the discharge of pollutants into the ocean.

APEC is composed of 21 member economies, which globally account for 75% of the total volumes of fish caught, 90% of fish grown in fish farms, and 70%

of fish products consumed. Marine environmental protection and conservation of marine resources is thus of paramount importance to APEC members. In 2011, APEC combined its Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) and Fisheries Working Group (FWG) into a single unit: the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG). The main purpose of integrating marine conservation and fishing teams is to promote a higher level of sustainability in the fishing industry.

This year the EPA won the right to hold the 13th Roundtable Meeting in Taiwan, after years of endeavoring for this honor since the inception of the conference in 1998. The conference is an international forum for experts from government, industry, and academia — as well as representatives from citizen groups — from around Asia to exchange information

and experiences. The delegates agreed that a deeper understanding is needed of the ways in which marine ecosystems (including deep-sea ecosystems) impact humanity, and that every effort – including research, eco-tourism, museums of oceanography, or events and activities – should be made to give citizens and policy-makers a better understanding of the contribution of marine ecosystems to our lives.

It was also agreed that effective integrated coastal management and wetlands conservation need the full participation of the populace. This can only be achieved if the relevant administrative units engage fully with the public and win their cooperation in delineating conservation areas and deciding how they can be used, and how marine resources should be protected.

## GHG Reduction

# EPA Leads Greater Cooperation on Pacific Greenhouse Gas Monitoring

On 24 September 2012, the EPA held the Fifth International Workshop on Pacific Greenhouse Gases Measurement. At the workshop the EPA presented phased results of monitoring Pacific region greenhouse gas concentrations using a commercial container ship and monitoring high-altitude greenhouse gases and atmospheric pollutants using a commercial airliner, the first time that an airliner has been employed in such a way.

Experts from the national science academies, laboratories, and energy resource research centers of a number of nations including Germany, France, Cyprus, the USA, and the UK were invited to the workshop to review the progress that Taiwan's government, industry, and academia has made in jointly conducting the Pacific Greenhouse Gases Measurement (PGGM) Project with the EU. Besides the results of the ship-based PGGM Project, the results from using Airbus passenger jets to monitor atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gases were also reviewed. The delegates also took the opportunity to exchange experiences and hold wide-ranging discussions on how global greenhouse gas monitoring can be advanced and how monitoring technologies should be applied.

The airliner monitoring project is known as the In-service Aircraft for a Global Observing System (IAGOS) and is being financially supported by the EU. In July 2011, the German airline Lufthansa achieved the first ever flight validation for on-board monitoring equipment and began atmospheric greenhouse gas monitoring over the Atlantic Ocean. Similar monitoring over the Pacific Ocean began in June 2012 using an Airbus A340 - B18806 in the service of China Airlines. The container ship-based PGGM

Project – started in June 2009 – is now in its fourth year of successful greenhouse gas monitoring thanks to the cooperation of Taiwan's Evergreen Marine Corporation. The PGGM Project is truly global in its scope, encompassing the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea.

Intensive cooperation between government, industry, and academia in Taiwan, along with technological support from an internationally well-known climate monitoring agency, were necessary to fit out the China Airlines A340. It is now the second commercial airliner in the world capable of conducting monitoring for greenhouse gases and atmospheric pollutants, and the only one doing so over the Pacific Ocean. Taiwan's positive contribution not only demonstrates its scientific prowess in the field of global climate change research, but also demonstrates a strong desire to participate fully in international climate change response projects. Taiwan also plans to offer data collected by its Formosa 3 satellite to assist in data cross-verification and the formation of a set of 3-D greenhouse gas atmospheric distribution patterns for the Pacific region that will give the international community a greater understanding of the problem of global warming.



▶ EPA Deputy Minister Hsin-Cheng Yeh (third from left) with some of the greenhouse gas monitoring experts

## Waste Management

### Revisions to Management Regulations for the Import, Export, Transit and Transshipment of Waste Preannounced

In order to facilitate the proper management of the import and export of waste and improve the relevant reporting and evaluation procedures, the EPA recently preannounced revisions to a number of articles in the *Management Regulations for the Import, Export, Transit and Transshipment of Waste*.

With the aim of improving the management of the export and import of waste, the EPA intends to conduct a full review of some of the articles of the *Management Regulations for the Import, Export, Transit and Transshipment of Waste* (廢棄物輸入輸出過境轉口管理辦法) and make revisions where

necessary. Updating the management regulations will also help to harmonize them with industry operating requirements.

The main points of the revisions are as follows:

· In order to bring the regulations into line with the *Act for the Establishment and Management of Free Trade Zones*, import and storage of waste will be governed by the same permit application regulations.

· Waste import and export permit applications have included an affidavit mechanism.

· Importers and exporters will also be allowed to file applications, and regulations have been added to govern the management of such applications.

· Applications for the import or export of hazardous waste that is the by-product of academic research or technological research in industry must be approved by the central competent authority.

· The method for calculating occurrences and time periods for violations of the regulations prohibiting certain items from being exported or imported has

been clarified.

· Shipments of waste to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations, or other nations that have signed relevant reciprocal agreements with Taiwan, will not be limited to 300 tonnes for the initial shipment.

· Should customs authorities report that they are unable to fully verify the nature of the waste, the importer or exporter will be able to state that the waste will be verified by the local competent authority at its final destination.

The EPA is working to complete the revisions to the management regulations by 31 December 2012. Strengthening the management of the export/import of waste is fully in keeping with the EPA's obligation to protect the environment and safeguard public health.

## Air Quality

### Illicit Gain Penalty Calculations to Be Added to Air Pollution Control Act

The current regime of fixed fines for public and private premises that violate the *Air Pollution Control Act* (空氣污染防制法) is letting some violators off too lightly. The EPA has thus decided to add to the relevant regulations a method of levying unlimited fines based upon calculations of illicit gains, in order to more strongly deter potential violators from breaking the law.

The *Fine Determination Criteria and Fine Rates for Public and Private Premises that Violate the Air Pollution Control Act* (公私場所違反空氣污染防制法應處罰鍰額度裁罰準則) were first promulgated on 17 December 2000. The criteria stipulate the methods that competent authorities must follow for calculating fines for each type of violation outlined in the Act. Unforeseen at the time was the situation in which some operators can violate the law and still make illegal profits surpassing the fines being levied. The original penalty regime was thus not a sufficient deterrent.

At present, violators who do not make the necessary improvements within the stated time period and continue to break the law are assessed solely on the degree to which their emission concentrations exceed

stated maximums, which is clearly unfair. In order to monitor and encourage enterprises to work harder to maintain air quality, the EPA drew upon the precedent of Article 18 of the *Administrative Penalty Act* to formulate the draft revisions and added criteria for the calculation of fines. As always, the EPA is keen to ensure that the law is implemented in a fair and proper way.

The main point of the revision is to ensure that fines will be calculated with consideration to the following parameters, as set out in administrative law: "degree of responsibility," "degree of environmental impact," and "profits obtained from violating administrative law." The amount of illicit gains will be taken into account when calculating fines, which will have no upper limit. Another revision stipulates that public and

private premises that impact the environment due to failure to improve pollution controls, according to approved plans and within the stated time limit, will have their period to make improvements shortened.

The competent authority will also monitor violators to ensure that the necessary improvements are made quickly, so that surrounding air quality is not affected.

## Air Quality

### Air Pollution Control Fee Rates for Construction Projects under Revision

To address the problem of air pollution caused by fugitive particulate matter from construction sites, the EPA has begun revising the *Air Pollution Control Fee Rates for Construction Projects*. The EPA aims for a more reasonable, transparent and fair fee regime that will have construction firms include pollution costs in their initial cost projections, and that will serve as an economic incentive for these enterprises to improve their pollution control measures, while improving air quality for all.

The main points of the draft of the revisions are as follows:

- The air pollution control fee calculation for dredging engineering projects, which was originally based upon the cost of the project as stated in the contract, will now be based upon the volume of loose soil removed from the construction site. The new method better reflects the external costs of air pollution.
- The recognized land area threshold for regional developmental engineering projects will be lowered from five hectares to one hectare, to better reflect actual practice.

- For Construction Engineering Air Pollution Control Facilities Management Regulations (營建工程空氣污染防制設施管理辦法) Category 2 construction projects, if the operator adopts Category 1 construction project air pollution control facilities, then, with the approval of the local competent authority, their air pollution control fees will be calculated according to the lower Category 1 rate. This revision is intended to encourage construction operators to use more effective pollution control facilities and thus reduce emissions of particulate matter.

## Air Quality

### Steel Industry Electric Arc Furnace Particulate Pollution Emission Standards to be Tightened

There has been a clear international trend in recent years toward tightening emission standards. In Taiwan, the *Steel Smelting Industry Electric Arc Furnace Particulate Pollution Emission Standards* have been in effect for a number of years and are now being tightened following an EPA review of overseas regulations and assessments of the actual emissions situation in Taiwan.

The *Steel Smelting Industry Electric Arc Furnace Particulate Pollution Emission Standards* (煉鋼業電爐粒狀污染物排放標準) were first promulgated by the EPA in 1993 and have thus already been in effect for 18 years. There have been no revisions to

these standards apart from one in 1999 to bring the standards into line with the requirements of the *Air Pollution Control Act* (空氣污染防制法). However, the particulate pollution emitted by steel industry electric furnaces contains traces of heavy metals and dioxins,

which is one reason why many nations have tightened electric furnace emission standards. After reviewing the relevant regulations in the US and the EU, conducting surveys and research into the feasibility of applying these emission control technologies and standards in Taiwan, and assessing actual on-site emission levels at domestic smelting operations, the EPA decided that it is possible to tighten emission standards and bring further improvements to air quality. The main points of the preannounced revisions are as follows:

(1) The legal basis of the standards, and the basis of the EPA's authority to formulate them, comprises the newly added Article 23 Paragraph 2 of the *Air Pollution Control Act*. The draft stipulates that the lids of steel smelters cannot be removed during the smelting process except to add materials or remove steel (neither of which should take longer than six minutes). The standards will also be renamed

the *Steel Smelting Industry Electric Arc Furnace Particulate Pollution Control and Emission Standards* (煉鋼業電爐粒狀物管制及排放標準).

(2) Sampling methods for non-emission channels at the outlets of dust collectors must accord with the US EPA's Method 5D until a further announcement is made by the central competent authority.

(3) The emission standard values that have been tightened are: Opacity of particulate pollutants arising when adding materials to the furnace (currently 20%), and when removing steel from it (currently 40%), has been set at 6% for both. The standard for opacity of particulate pollutants in dust collecting equipment has been adjusted from 10% to 6%. The concentration value for particulate pollutants in the emission outlets of dust collectors has been adjusted from 50 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> to 15 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>.

## Environmental Information

### Information Query System for Regulated Pollution Sources Now Online

The EPA recently completed its Regulated Pollution Source Information Query System. The system is now accessible online (<http://prtr.epa.gov.tw>) and allows members of the public to check the basic information and emissions reports of pollution sources listed by the government. The measure is a part of the government's drive toward greater transparency of information and enhancement of the public's right to know about environmental issues.

In the past the government departments that dealt with matters concerning air, water, waste, and toxic substances all set up their own information systems as required by government regulations. In order to make information retrieval easier for the public, the EPA decided to compile the permit application and emissions reporting data for pollution sources from each of the individual systems and integrate them into a single portal: The Regulated Pollution Source Information Query System. The portal allows the public to quickly and easily check information on listed pollution sources relating to air pollution, water pollution, volumes of discharged waste, types of toxic substances created and volumes discharged.

Due to the multiple formats of the original information systems resulting from the need to abide by regulatory requirements, the EPA had to expend a considerable

amount of person-hours to check the quality of the data in the preliminary stage of compiling the information. However, the huge amount of data involved means that the EPA cannot totally guarantee the veracity of all of the data, and it has therefore added a "suggestion box" mechanism to the Web site so that if any members of the public think they have discovered an error in the information they can use the mechanism to contact the EPA for verification.

The EPA is also working on integrating the Regulated Pollution Source Information Query System with a geographic information system (GIS) and other environmental databases – including air quality monitoring and water quality monitoring – so that the citizens of Taiwan will be able to go online and access comprehensive data on the quality of the environment surrounding their homes.

## Environmental Monitoring

## International Symposium on Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring and Environmental Information Held

From 10-12 September 2012, the EPA hosted the International Symposium on Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring and Environmental Information in order to strengthen international cooperation on atmospheric mercury monitoring and exchanges of environmental data. Experts from government, industry, and academia from the USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and a number of Southeast Asian nations were invited to share knowledge and discuss ways to improve regional cooperation on environmental monitoring.

Each delegate to the symposium was assigned to one of two discussion groups: the monitoring of atmospheric mercury group or the environmental information group. The atmospheric mercury monitoring group learned about the results of Taiwan's atmospheric mercury monitoring program and how the pollutant impacts upon Taiwan's environment and other Pacific region nations through long-range transmission. The presentation gave the delegates a greater understanding of the current state of air pollution in the region and also how overseas monitoring technology is being applied in Taiwan. Meanwhile, to find ways of improving data quality and better ways of sharing it, the environmental information group used water quality monitoring as a case in point to explore how environmental data is collected, managed, and applied throughout its life-cycle.

The EPA has put no small amount of effort into promoting international monitoring cooperation in

recent years. It has already signed a cooperative agreement with the US EPA, joined the global atmospheric mercury monitoring network, AMNet, and upgraded its monitoring technology to stay in step with developed nations. The EPA will also continue to promote data exchanges and joint monitoring programs with neighboring nations in the Southeast Asian region. The EPA hopes that deeper cooperation with these countries will allow the environmental data that Taiwan has collected and published over many years – and the experience gained from applying the data – to be shared freely so that lasting environmental partnerships can be formed. The EPA also hopes to see environmental data contribute more to the formulation and implementation of environmental protection policies in Taiwan and beyond.

## Toxic Substance Management

## EPA and Army Jointly Pioneer Human Decontamination Vehicle

On discovering the shortcomings of European and North American nations' decontamination facilities that are constructible on-site, the EPA decided to take the lead internationally and pioneered a human decontamination vehicle in conjunction with the Army Chemicals School. A number of the updated vehicle's features have attracted international attention, including its motorized mobility, use of positive pressure protection, pollution prevention, wastewater recycling, speed and ease-of-use, and injured person decontamination functions.

The EPA is the designated toxic chemicals hazard prevention central competent authority. In 2009, in conjunction with the Army Chemicals School, the EPA began developing a pioneer human decontamination

vehicle. The vehicle aims to improve upon failings of the decontamination facilities of the type that are constructed on-site, presently used by European and North American nations. Shortcomings include being time-consuming, awkward to use and lacking in capacity and mobility. The EPA's pioneering design addresses these weaknesses by incorporating such features as motorized mobility, use of positive pressure protection, pollution prevention, wastewater recycling, speed and ease-of-use, and injured person decontamination functions, which have drawn the wide attention of media and professional journals. To date, over NT\$55.5 million has been spent on manufacturing seven of the vehicles, which will be a valuable addition to Taiwan's toxic spills and environmental hazards response capabilities.

Toxic chemical substances are highly hazardous and typically bio-accumulative, and the careless handling of which can seriously impact human health and the environment. Since 1997, the EPA has been inviting the Army's chemical unit to take part in the central government's Toxic Chemicals Hazard Response Drill, and as a result the EPA and the Army have developed excellent joint hazard response models. Another consequence of the continued cooperation is that national toxic chemical emergency response capability has gradually been accumulating with the Army, which now possesses considerable disaster response capability.

The pioneer human decontamination vehicle measures 11.5 m in length, 2.5 m in width, 4 m in height, and weighs 17 tonnes. It carries a generator on board and employs a human decontamination procedure based on three tunnels: one for removing clothing and kit; one for decontamination; and one for dressing. The vehicle can be operated by just two people and can also carry 1,000 L of water in tanks that can be refilled within a minute. The vehicle is capable of carrying out decontaminations of 90-120 people per hour, and is also capable of collecting polluted material, recycling the water it uses, and monitoring the immediate environment. In the event of toxic chemical spills, nuclear disasters, biological disasters/epidemics, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks, the vehicles could be quickly mobilized in affected areas to decontaminate people leaving the area, offer showers to local residents, and assist in military operations.

To demonstrate the government's commitment to protecting the lives and property of Taiwan's citizens, the seven vehicles will soon be handed over to the armed forces for deployment with Army chemical units in the northern, central, and southern regions of Taiwan. The vehicles will then become an important addition to national and local disaster relief resources, and will be immediately available to support decontamination operations.



▶ *The pioneer human decontamination vehicle*

## News Briefs

### Recycling Fee for Green Appliances to Be Reduced by 30% in January 2013

To maintain the balance between income and expenditure and ensure the financial stability of the Recycling Fund, the EPA has preannounced a 3% lowering of the recycling and disposal fee rate for refrigerators, washing machines and air conditioners. As for domestic appliances with green labels, the discount in recycling and disposal fees can be as high as 30%. The adjustments were made in response to fluctuations in international commodity prices in recent years, and are intended to encourage more eco-friendly designs for appliances. The new fee rates will take effect on 1 January 2013.

The draft of the revisions to the fee rates for the recycling and disposal of refrigerators, air conditioners, washing machines, and electric fans was drawn up following a thorough review of the recycling and disposal costs, fee levying costs, reuse value of recycled materials, environmental impact, and the financial status of the Recycling Fund. The EPA is also encouraging appliance manufacturers to develop more eco-friendly products by allowing for a 30% recycling fee discount for products that are accredited with any of Taiwan's environmental labels, including the Green Mark, Energy Label, Water Conservation Label, or the Ministry of Economic Affairs' energy efficiency labels for Grade 1 and Grade 2 products. The EPA believes that economic incentives have their part to play in supporting environmental protection measures.

Information on the draft of the revisions can be found on the Web page for preannounced drafts of laws and regulations, URL: <http://ivy5.epa.gov.tw/epalaw/index.aspx>.

### Preannouncement: Chlorine Dioxide to Be Listed as an Environmental Agent Requiring a Permit

The EPA is continuing to reinforce its management of the testing and registration of environmental agents by preannouncing revisions to the regulations on application for and authorization of environmental agent permits, that will bring them more into line with actual management requirements. From now on, applications for environmental agent permits for pesticides purporting to consist of natural ingredients must be accompanied by documentary proof of their composition. Chlorine dioxide for use as an environmental disinfectant or germicide will also be required to be tested and the manufacturer will be registered. The toxicity category of environmental agents in general has also been adjusted to reflect World Health Organization (WHO) adjustments to the toxicity category of pesticides. The word "signature" in the regulations has also been amended to "certification," to match revisions to related regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The main points of the revisions are as follows:

- (1) The toxicity category of environmental agents has been adjusted to reflect WHO adjustments in 2009 to the toxicity category of pesticides.
- (2) Chlorine dioxide for use as an environmental disinfectant or germicide has been listed as an environmental agent. Starting from 1 July 2014, it will also be required to be tested, and manufacturer and importer details will be registered.
- (3) In order to maintain the stability and quality of environmental agents, starting from 1 January 2014, their manufacturers will be required to submit documentary proof of chemical composition when applying for permits.

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printed version, please contact:  
Environmental Policy Monthly  
Environmental Protection Administration  
Office of Sustainable Development

83, Sec. 1, Jhonghua Rd.,  
Taipei 100, R.O.C. (Taiwan)  
tel: 886-2-2311-7722, ext. 2211  
fax: 886-2-2311-5486  
e-mail: [umail@epa.gov.tw](mailto:umail@epa.gov.tw)

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