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for information

Toxic Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory for Hong Kong

Introduction

This paper presents the Executive Summary of the "Toxic Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory for Hong Kong" study.

2. Toxic air pollutants are those substances that may cause or have the potential to cause adverse health effects at anticipated concentrations in the atmosphere. To find out the position of toxic air pollution in Hong Kong, the Environmental Protection Department commissioned in 1994 a study to develop an inventory of toxic air pollutants. The study has recently been concluded. A copy of the Executive Summary of the study is attached.

The Objectives of Study

3. The overall objective of the study is to provide information to help prioritise action to reduce public exposure to toxic air pollutants. The main focus of work has been put on identifying the types of sources emitting toxic air pollutants and compiling an inventory of the emissions of toxic air pollutants. The work was done mainly through using questionnaires, surveys and available statistical data. The findings of the study can provide an overview of toxic air pollution in Hong Kong, point out the priority areas for action and form the basis for developing a toxic air pollution management programme which has been promised in the Second Review of the White Paper to be completed by 1997.

The Way Forward

5. The study has identified 11 chemicals and 9 sources for which control action is warranted. Most of these chemicals and sources identified for control action have already been covered by the "specified process" control programme provided under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance. The current schedule is to put all the sources under control of licences before 2000. For dry cleaners and petrol filling stations which are not controlled under the specified process programme, the plan is to introduce legislative control by end 1997.

6. A number of other chemicals and sources have been recommended to be monitored and reviewed. The EPD is planning to establish 2 stations to monitor these chemicals. The schedule is to complete these stations within 1997. The EPD will also consider to update the inventory of toxic air pollutants regularly and to assess the risks associated with these toxic air pollutants. If any need is identified, further controls will be proposed. All the above, and other recommendations of the study, will be considered with a view to finalising a toxic air pollution management programme by 1997. The programme will be presented to this Committee for endorsement before finalisation.