

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)046

Question Serial No.

0466

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Subhead (No. & title):

Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please inform this Council the quantity of various types of chemical wastes treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) in Tsing Yi for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. How much do they account for the annual total handling capacity of the whole treatment centre? What is the amount of subsidies provided by the Government for each type of waste (please give a breakdown)? Does the Government have any plan to raise the handling charge for chemical wastes?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The breakdown of waste intake by category at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in the past two years and the projection for the coming year is as follows:

Waste Type	2002 (tonnes)	2003 (tonnes)	2004 (estimate) (tonnes)
Spent etchants (Ammoniacal)	1650	2110	2280
Spent etchants (Non-Ammoniacal)	7700	1790	2020
Acids	2650	2640	2970
Toxic metal solutions	1250	1570	1770
Alkalis	1500	1280	1440
Solvents	2700	2770	3120
Land based waste oil	7150	6280	7050
MARPOL waste	27500	24070	27010
Others	350	290	340
Total	52450	42800	48000

As the design capacity of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre is 100,000 tonnes per year, the chemical waste intake for the past 2 years accounted for 52.5% and 43% of the design capacity respectively, the intake for 2004 is expected to be about 48%.

It is not possible to give a breakdown of the subsidies for the different types of chemical waste because the costs and subsidies vary depending on the chemical composition and treatment system used and these variables can change with each consignment of waste. In 2003-04, the overall subsidy to chemical waste producers for treating chemical waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre was about \$107 million. In line with the polluter pays principle, the Government is planning to gradually increase the charge of treating chemical waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre so as to recover the full variable operation cost in the coming years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **ROBERT J. S. LAW**

Post Title **Director of Environmental Protection**

Date **25 March 2004**