

Newsletter from China (03/29/2004)

1. Industrially dangerous waste to be all wrapped up and put away

In the wake of rapid industrialization of China, the solid waste increasing levels are on the rise since the proportion of resource utilization remains low in China. The waste disposal manner and related infrastructure constructing have fallen behind the industrial development. So the dangerous wastes have brought increasingly serious damage to the environment. Now, how to safely and properly deal with dangerous wastes has become a crucial task in environmental protection.

A regulation to standardize disposal of dangerous wastes was issued by the State Council in February 2004. The Chinese Government is planning to pool more investment, 14.92 billion RMB (over \$1.8 billion), within three years, to control pollution caused by industrial dangerous wastes. Efforts will focus on safe storage and disposal of industrial wastes to minimize their contamination in the environment.

According to the regulation, China plans to build 31 dangerous wastes disposal centers with a combined annual capacity of 2.82 million tons. Chinese enterprises are required to build or rebuild facilities to re-use or dispose dangerous byproducts with a total annual capacity of 3.5 million tons. Moreover, the government will strengthen supervision, technical development, collection, transportation and disposal of dangerous wastes. Efforts will be pooled to establish a system to deal with emergencies and a contingent of specialized personnel, and to promote a standard waste management system. Related preferential policies and penalties will be worked out to secure effectiveness of these systems. The regulation also specifies transportation vehicles, incinerators, gas disposal and safe waste bury, as well as necessary equipment and techniques involved.

The issue and implementation of these policies and standards are geared toward the construction and operation of standard waste disposal facilities, and have provided reliable guarantees for both environmental security and ecological development in the future.

2. A serious business — Medical waste disposal

In June 2003, the Regulations of Disposing of Medical Wastes in China became effective, which clearly stipulate the supervision and management of medical waste collection, transportation, storing and disposal and the corresponding legal liability. According to the regulations, all units and individuals have the right to complain and accuse any transgression by waste disposal units, medical institutions and related supervision departments as well as their staff, putting medical waste disposal under public supervision and standard management.

3. Industrial Wastes Recycling Law

The Second Session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC) was held in Beijing on March 5, 2004. The Industrial wastes recycling law advanced by NPC deputies was submitted to the NPC Standing Committee for deliberation in due time.

4. “Circular Economy” appears in China

Circular economy has been a new economy pattern according to the environmental sustainable development in China. “Cleaner Production” and “Eco-agriculture” are popular in industrial and agricultural domains, respectively. These two measures are all inevitable options and the best ways for wastes pollution control. Cleaner production, especially, with great vitality and buoyancy, starts a new era of “Pollution Prevention” in the history of environmental protection and will become the best approach for pollution control in this new century.

5. A new project on development and application of eco-habitation optimization technology in Zhejiang Province

Recently, a new project on development and application of eco-habitation optimization technology has been issued in Zhejiang Province. Zhejiang University was approved to carry out this project. One part of this project was about the disposal and utilization of wasted water and optimal human rubbish disposal.

6. The International Conference on Organics Recycling

The International Conference on Organics Recycling: Innovative Technologies and Management Options, organized by Zhejiang University, will be held on October 9-11, 2004 in Hangzhou, China. This international conference is expected to highlight the problems we are facing and provide some information as to what needs to be done to bring the problem under control. Moreover the conference is aiming at establishing partnerships between scientists, organizations, and governments. The Conference seeks to provide an international forum for information exchange and update, and for discussing and reviewing issues related to the theory and application of technology of organics waste recycling.

The conference will provide an opportunity to bring together representatives in the field of wastes management and decision making, science and engineering, inclusive of professionals from government agencies, private institutions, consultants, and representatives of research-, education- and training institutes.