

reo@epd.gov.hk sunnylam@epd.gov.hk eiaocomment@epd.gov.hk



公眾諮詢表格 (環境影響評估)

Public Comment Form for Application (Environmental Impact Assessment)

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance, Cap. 499
Application for Approval of EIA Report
Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System**

In our previous submission this week we pointed out the fact that at least 5 new incinerators will be operational in Shenzhen by 2015, burning an additional 11,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste per day and with a distinct lack of regulation. The new EIA from HKAA makes no reference to these incineration pollution sources just over the border whereas the EIA for the HZMB bridge included masses of PATH program transboundary pollution data. Macau and Saikung are equidistant from Chep Lap Kok whereas Bao'an is only 4/5 of that distance and so the EIA is defective in not considering or ignoring these pollution sources given the majority northerly winds (wind direction source Mr Elvis Au of EPD) from China will blow the pollutants into Hong Kong thus raising overall pollution levels.

James Middleton

Chairman

www.cleartheair.org.hk

<http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo/macau/36605-cuhk-to-start-10-year-plan-on-ka-ho-residents%E2%80%99-health.html>

Home | **Macau** | CUHK to start 10-year plan on Ka Ho residents' health

MACAU

CUHK to start 10-year plan on Ka Ho residents' health

18/06/2012 10:05:00

The government has commissioned the Chinese University of Hong Kong for a 10-year study of health conditions of the residents in Ka Ho, where local people complained of illness due to the air pollution from ashes from the nearby incinerator. The Health Bureau said they had agreed with the university on the detailed procedures of the study to monitor the health conditions of residents in the area near Hac Sa. The University was quoted as saying details of the monitoring mechanism and study methodologies would be disclosed to the public next month. Preliminary arrangements require an annual report to be

published, but the final conclusion will be ten years away. The Health Bureau said the study will be conducted scientifically, impartially and independently in a professional manner. The health issues were discovered early last year when hundreds of residents, many of them students and teachers in the schools there, complained of lung and respiratory problems after the contractor working the incinerator was found to have broken safety regulations by disposing of the ashes into open areas, and a large amount of them carried to residential districts by wind

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UK STUDY

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 19:05

To: 'dynamco@netvigator.com'; 'chair@cleartheair.org.hk'

Cc: Andrew Tristem; 'Frances Pollitt'; 'Kelly, Frank'; Elliott, Paul

Subject: FW: Incinerator study

Dear Mr Middleton

Thank you for your enquiry on behalf of 'Clear The Air' in Hong Kong.

The English Health Protection Agency announced last week that they have approved funding for a Small Area Health Statistics Unit study to investigate whether there is any potential link between municipal waste incinerators and reproductive health - see

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/NewsCentre/NationalPressReleases/2012PressReleases/120124Incineratorstudystatement/>

This is for a two year study starting in April 2012. Results will be made publicly available once accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Best wishes

Anna Hansell

(Dr) Anna Hansell MB BChir MA MRCP MSc PhD FFPH

Clinical Senior Lecturer

Assistant Director, Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU)

MRC-HPA Centre for Environment and Health

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

School of Public Health Faculty of Medicine

Imperial College London St Mary's Campus, Norfolk Place LONDON W2 1PG

Phone: [+44 \(0\)20 7594 3344](tel:+442075943344)

Fax: [+44 \(0\)20 7594 0768](tel:+442075940768)

Email: a.hansell@imperial.ac.uk

Small Area Health Statistics Unit, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London, UK

From: James Middleton [<mailto:dynamco@netvigator.com>]

Sent: 30 January 2012 09:43

To: Kelly, Frank; p.elliott@imperial.ac.uk

Subject: Incinerator study

Dear Prof Elliott,

We are an NGO Charity based in Hong Kong. Our website is www.cleartheair.org.hk Could you please tell us what is the status of your Unit's investigation regarding possible incinerator

proximity dangers and when the study would likely be complete ?

Kind regards James Middleton Chairman chair@cleartheair.org.hk

Patrons: Professor Judith Mackay Professor Anthony Hedley



Inquiry is ordered into incinerators and health hazards they may pose

An investigation is to be launched – the first of its kind in this country – into whether incinerators present a risk to public health.

by Mark Metcalf

Wednesday, June 8th, 2011

A team from Imperial College, London, has been commissioned to carry out the inquiry by the Health Protection Agency after fears were raised about the health risks of incinerators, particularly for young children.

Dozens of incinerators have been built around the country as Britain struggles to cope with its mounting refuse problems. But campaigners have become concerned that the price is being paid with poor health among babies and infants in the localities where such amenities are sited. One such activist is Michael Ryan, who lives in Shrewsbury, and who lost his only daughter at 14 weeks – and then suffered further personal tragedies when his teenage son and his mother both died, too. All lived downwind of an incinerator.

Mr Ryan began a painstaking piece of research into the subject of health – and deaths – of people living in close proximity to incinerators. The results from London are startling. In 12 of the capital's 625 wards, there were no infant deaths between 2002 and 2008. But Southwark, which has two incinerators close by, had the highest rate with 7.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in that period.

Critics say it's not microscopic particles from incinerators that kill babies and young children, but poverty. And while it is true that some people living close to incinerators are at the lower end of the social scale, Mr Ryan's research reveals that death rates in more affluent middle class areas are higher if there is an incinerator nearby. **Affluent Chingford Green ward in Waltham Forest has the second highest average number of child deaths in London. It happens to be close to Britain's largest incinerator.** "If it's all about poverty, then how come the levels of infant mortality in countryside areas, where wages have always been below average, aren't high?" asks Mr Ryan.

Now, to cries of "at last" from Mr Ryan, HPA head Justin McCracken has said that following discussions with Professor Paul Elliott, head of the Small Area Health Statistics Unit at Imperial College, it has been "concluded that an epidemiological study of birth outcomes around municipal waste incinerators would produce reliable results. Work is now progressing in developing a detailed proposal for what will be a complex study." In 2004, a study in Japan found a "peak decline in risk with distance from the municipal solid waste incinerators for infant deaths and infant deaths with all congenital malformations combined".

<http://www.tribunemagazine.co.uk/2011/06/inquiry-is-ordered-into-incinerators-and-health-hazards-they-may-pose/>

<http://www.greatmichigan.org/additional-priorities/air/detroit-incinerator>

Detroit Incinerator



While other cities and counties struggle to reduce landfill waste through recycling programs, Detroit still burns its garbage — and the garbage of its neighbors — within

blocks of residential neighborhoods. For the last 20 years, the Detroit Incinerator, also known as the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Facility, has cost the city an estimated 1.2 billion dollars, and continues to increase air pollution levels throughout the city. These pollution levels persistently exceed National Ambient Air Quality standards, and consequently contribute to the rising rates of asthma. Detroiters are three times as likely to be hospitalized for asthma compared to Michigan as a whole, and asthma death rates in Detroit are two times that for the state.

As the largest incinerator in the world, it is grossly oversized and imports garbage from nearby towns just so it can operate at design capacity. During the past several years of the City's bond obligation for the incinerator, private haulers were charged as little as \$13 per ton, while Detroit residents effectively paid \$150 per ton or more.

Since the Facility needed the trash to keep it burning, it served as a disincentive to recycling.

While the financial costs and health burdens remain high, Detroit continues to operate the incinerator and ignore the savings that recycling and recovery programs throughout the city would create.

Some claim the incinerator is an important feature to providing renewable energy to Detroit buildings because the burned municipal waste is converted to steam and sold to the steam loop owned by Detroit Renewable Energy. However, Detroit Thermal can, and has met all the current demands of their customers without the input from the incinerator.

Within the last five years the prospect of closing the incinerator has come close. In 2008 the City Council stated visions to adapt a new business model for Detroit solid waste and provided budget money to begin a curbside recycling program. The City's financial obligation to the Facility ended in July 2009. In late 2010 new owners, Atlas Holdings/Detroit Renewable Energy, received a contract for burning the City's municipal trash until 2011, but without any tonnage obligation.

Currently, organizations across Southeast Michigan are asking state legislators to create good policy to protect Detroiters. These policies include incentivizing recycling programs throughout the city and discontinuing defining trash burning as a source of renewable energy. The benefits of recycling far outweigh the costs of incineration. Recycling saves natural resources, energy, landfill space and money, creates less air and water pollution, and decreases the risk of asthma-related illnesses. Transitioning Detroit toward an intensive recycling program will not only save the city money, but improve the health of Detroiters as well.