

The Waste Information Today

Quarterly newsletter is aimed at communicating the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Chief Directorate: **Pollution and Waste Management projects.**



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MINISTER LAUNCHED THE 1ST WASTE KHORO, 15-16 SEPTEMBER 2010

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica launched the 1st Waste Khoro which was held on 15-16 September 2010 in Boksburg, Gauteng. Khoro is a Venda name which bears the same meaning as Lekgotla, Imbizo and conference. The Khoro was attended by over 400 delegates from the national and provincial government departments as well as local government personnel responsible for environment and waste management in their respective jurisdictions. The conference came about, one year after the promulgation of the Waste Act with the theme "Shifting the emphasis higher up the waste management hierarchy", which emphasize the objective of the Waste Act of reduction, reuse, recycling and waste disposal as a last resort.

The main aim of the Waste Khoro was to share experiences, lessons learnt, achievements, and challenges and discuss opportunities which exist in the waste sector, in order to improve governments' role in waste management and its regulation.

In her address, the Minister announced Ms Nolwazi Cobbinah; the Chief Director responsible for the Pollution and Waste Management within the Department of Environmental Affairs as the designated national Waste Management Officer (WMO) and chairperson of the Waste Khoro. The Minister also urged all the Provinces and municipalities to designate their WMO's, in accordance with section 10 of the waste Act. It was however noted that the Eastern Cape and the Mpumalanga provinces have already designated their Provincial Waste Management Officers, an act which was highly commended by the Minister. The Eastern Cape WMO is Ms Lulama Macanda and Mpumalanga's WMO is Mr Fikile Theledi. Over and above this, the Minister launched the Waste Khoro logo as a branding for all annual conferences.



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Waste Khoro continues.....

The 2010 programme focused specifically on the Legislative framework, Governance & Planning, Compliance & Enforcement, Waste Services, Capacity building & awareness and Reduce, reuse & recycling.

By the end of the conference, delegates agreed on a Programme of Actions which will be reviewed in the 2011 Khoro. The actions included amongst others; the development of a waste management model by-law to assist Municipalities to align with the Waste Act, the development of Integrated Waste Management Plan by all Municipalities, the revision of the guideline for the designation of waste management officers as well as the designation of WMO's by all spheres of government, the roll out of the training programme from landfill site operators, and the identification of Industrial waste stream for purpose of reuse.

All the presentations made at the Waste Khoro will be made available on the www.wastekhoro.co.za. For more information please contact Ms. Khashiwe Masinga at 012 210 3377 Kmasinga@environment.gov.za or Mr Mashudu Nevuvha at 012 310 3733, Mnevuvha@environment.gov.za

DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS (IWMP'S) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 11 OF NEM: WA, 2008

With the coming into effect of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (hereinafter referred to as "Waste Act") in July 2009, the development of IWMP's is now mandatory for all spheres of government. To date there has been some Provinces and Municipalities that have developed their IWMP's, guided primarily by the 1999 National Waste Management Strategy. Accordingly, these now need to be reviewed in order to align them with the Waste Act. Municipalities in particular are urged to develop their IWMP's by June 2011. This is in order that these are ready for consultation and approval after the local government elections.

One of the major challenges that have been cited with the first generation of IWMP's has been that most Municipalities developed their IWMP's but lacked financial resources and capacity to implement them. It is on these grounds that this generation of IWMP's is developed timeously and integrated into the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process to ensure that waste management will be properly funded by all municipalities. The Department of Environmental Affairs is developing an IWMP Guideline to assist Municipalities in developing their IWMP's.

For more information on the IWMP Guidelines and the IWMP Status quo, please contact Ms. Thandeka Mandigora at 012 310 3220, email tmandigora@environment.gov.za



Waste Information Regulations

The department is currently considering all written submissions from interested and affected parties on the Draft Waste Information Regulations, which were published on 23 July 2010 for a comment period of thirty (30) days. After considering all the written submissions received, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs will announce the implementation date of the Regulations in the government gazette.

For more information please contact Mr. Donald Sehaswana on 012 310 3602 or E-mail: dsehaswana@environment.gov.za

UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE POLICY AND REGULATIONS

As a result of a number of issues raised by stakeholders at the workshop on the draft Health Care Risk Waste (HCRW) policy and regulations, two service providers were appointed to assist the Department with work on the following:

- ARUP (Pty) Ltd - the use of mercury by the healthcare sector; and
- Talbot & Talbot - microbial inactivation standards for non-burn HCRW treatment technologies and standards/protocols for sterilization of reusable containers.

The study on the use of mercury by the HC sector is underway and site visits are planned for October – November 2010 to a sample of public and private healthcare institutions in three provinces to discuss the use of the mercury containing devices within the institutions. The team will also investigate the availability of alternative devices and the management of broken mercury containing devices.

The study on microbial inactivation standards is nearing completion. The project included meetings with a number of HCRW non-burn treatment facilities as well as the analytical laboratories who conduct the testing required by the facilities. The study will propose standards that should be met by non-burn treatment technologies as well as the procedure for disinfecting reusable containers. The standards will be incorporated into the regulations which will be workshopped with stakeholders on a date to be announced by the Department.

For more information on the HCRW policy and regulations, please contact Dr Shauna Costley on scostley@environment.gov.za or Ms Sabona Kgasi on skgasi@environment.gov.za

