

The Waste Information Today

A Quarterly newsletter that is aimed at communicating the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Branch: Chemicals and Waste Management projects.

ENQUIRIES

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This issue

Health Care Risk Waste Workshop	P1-2
Asbestos Dialogue	P2-3
Review of the National Waste Management Strategy	P 4

Health Care Risk Waste Sector Workshop

The Department, in partnership with the Department of Health (DoH), hosted a stakeholder workshop with the health care risk waste (HCRW) sector on 8 March 2017. The workshop was attended by over 70 participants including representatives from private and public healthcare facilities, HCRW treatment facilities, HCRW treatment technology suppliers and government officials. The workshop aimed to facilitate the engagement of government with the sector as well as engagement within the sector itself. It furthermore provided a platform for attendees to share local experiences and lessons learnt. Topics of the presentations provided included provincial legislation relevant to HCRW, an enforcement perspective on HCRW management, management of pharmaceutical waste and HCRW treatment figures. A summary of the discussions are provided below:

i. HCRW management – an enforcement perspective

The DEA provided a presentation on dealing with HCRW crime over the last seven years highlighting that any crime dealing with HCRW is considered a priority crime within the waste and pollution sector. Experience with the sector has shown there appears to be a perverse incentive to pollute rather than to pay the costs for conducting activities in an environmentally responsible manner and that any such offence is seen as arbitrary especially when the damage to the environment has been removed. The presentation also provided an overview of the administrative, criminal and civil mechanisms used in enforcing waste and pollution crime.

ii. Management of pharmaceutical waste

The DoH provided a presentation on the management of pharmaceutical waste and included details of sources of pharmaceutical waste; good pharmacy practice relating to pharmaceutical waste and destruction of the different schedules of medicines. As part of the presentation delegates were informed that the DoH has published the “Draft General Medicine Regulations” in terms of section 35 of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965) for comment. These are relevant to the HCRW sector as Regulation 26 of the draft regulations provides the requirements for the destruction of medicines. The draft regulations may be downloaded at http://www.gov.za/sites/www.gov.za/files/40577_gon50.pdf. Any person who wishes to submit written comments on the draft Regulations are invited to do so by 27 April 2017 by e-mail to DG@health.gov.za or posted to DoH, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 001.

iii. Provincial experience with Health Care Waste legislation

Presentations were made by the two provinces that have legislation specific to HCW namely – the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) presenting on the Gauteng Health Care Waste Management Regulations, 2004 and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs, Development and Planning (DEADP) presenting on the Western Cape Health Care Waste Management Act, 2007 and Western Cape Health Care Risk Waste Management Regulations, 2013. The presentations provided an overview of the legislation highlighting the role of the different stakeholders involved in the management of HCRW operating within both provinces.

NOTICE TO REQUIRE THE TYRE INDUSTRY TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN INDUSTRY WASTE TYRE MANAGEMENT PLAN TO THE MINISTER FOR APPROVAL

The above notice was gazetted for public comments on 31 March 2017.

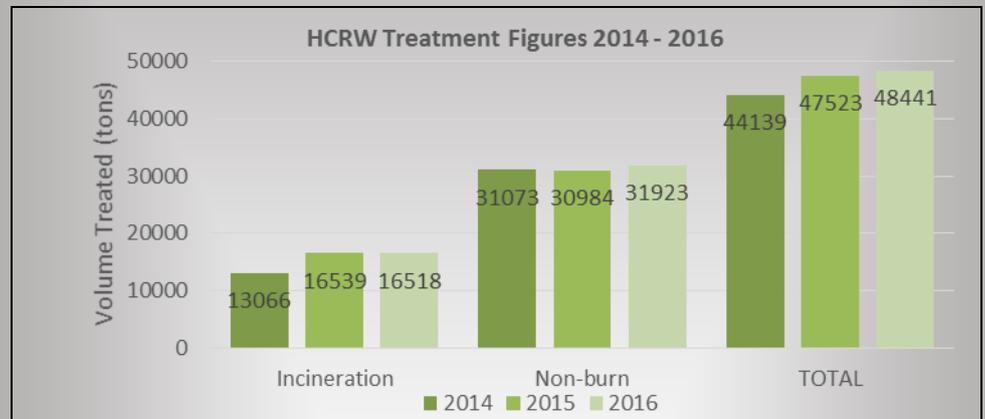
Members of the public are invited to submit comments within 30 days of publication. Written representations or objections to the notice can be sent to the Department.

The notice can be found on the SAWIC website under draft documents for comment <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/?menu=302>.

For more information, please contact
Mr Anben Pillay on 012 399 9827
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2016 HCRW TREATMENT FIGURES

In the year 2016 no new health care risk waste (HCRW) treatment facilities came into operation, with figures remaining at seven (7) non-burn and seven (7) burn technologies. Three waste management licences were issued for the installation of HCRW treatment facilities, however none of the facilities have come online as yet. The existing treatment facilities reported a total of 48 440 tons treated HCRW, demonstrating a 2% increase from 2015 (total of 47 523) as indicated in the graph below. Of the total, 64% was treated by means of non-burn and 36% by means of burn technology.



The contact details of the licensed HCRW treatment facilities currently in operation are available at www.sawic.environment.gov.za

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Asbestos Dialogue

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) held a National Asbestos Dialogue on 23-24 March 2017. This dialogue aimed to create an information exchange platform between and amongst the Natural Science community, consultants, industries and technology inventors/experts, municipalities, parastatals, NGOs, community leaders, provincial environmental departments, provincial local government and relevant national departments.

The theme for the National Asbestos Dialogue was "Promoting Sustainable Management through Collaboration and Innovation". The Dialogue was held for two days and it comprised of a plenary session and two commissions. The first commission focused on Government Initiatives while the second commission dealt with Asbestos Technologies.

In commission one, DENOVO presented a case study on the management of projects in Penge village. The presentation highlighted the challenges associated with the project and the subsequent measures to ensure that project becomes a success. Zama Mtembu presented on Best Management Practice on the removal and disposal of Asbestos waste. The challenges facing local municipalities on asbestos were also highlighted in the presentation and specific reference was made to the USA Model in disposal of waste.

In commission two, a technology used for treating asbestos was presented. NuCoating (Pty) Ltd presented encapsulation technology. This technology ensures that asbestos is managed in a way that prevents the inhalation of asbestos fibres.

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The discussions were fruitful and progressive. The following recommendations stemmed from the workshop:

- The National Asbestos Strategy must be developed to integrate the implementation of asbestos management efforts
- A review of the National Norms for Disposal of Waste to landfill is required to ensure that asbestos waste is disposed. This review should not be limited to Class A landfill sites. There must be an opportunity for comments on the revised Asbestos Abatement Regulations to ensure that there is an alignment of legislative requirements
- The DEA should engage with the South African Bureau of Standards regarding the approval requirements for the technologies for asbestos management.

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The Review of National Waste Management Strategy

In 2011, The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) developed the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) as a fulfilment of a key provision of Section 6 (1) of the National Environmental Waste Management Act, 2008 (NEMWA). The NWMS is considered to be a five year implementation plan in respect of the Waste Act.

The NWMS explicitly outlines the 8 goals of which various role players in the waste sector were to achieve during its implementation.

There goals are as follows:

1. Promote waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste
2. Ensure the effective and efficient delivery of waste services
3. Grow the contribution of the waste sector to the green economy
4. Ensure that people are aware of the impact of waste on their health, well-being and the environment
5. Achieve integrated waste management planning
6. Ensure sound budgeting and financial management for waste services
7. Provide measures to remediate contaminated land
8. Establish effective compliance with and enforcement of the Waste Act

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Team from the Chemicals & Waste Management Branch drafted a baseline and status quo report on the review of the NWMS in the second quarter of 2016. The purpose of this report was to determine the progress and challenges encountered against the implementation of the eight goals set in the NWMS. The report focusses on the DEA's achievement as the one identified implementing stakeholder.

The Chemicals & Waste Management Branch has also developed policy tools and guidelines to assist certain Organs of State to implement and achieve the goals of the NWMS and NEMWA objectives. In the last quarter of the 2016/17 financial year the team further reported on an assessment of the use of these tools at the local government level. This report, together with the baseline report, will form part of the comprehensive review of the NWMS.

The DEA plans to conduct a comprehensive review of the NWMS in 2017/18 financial year. The review aims to determine if the goals were achieved in time as prescribed in the NWMS report. The DEA has developed a Terms of Reference which will guide the review process.