

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Tuesday 22 November 2022 via Electronic Mail**

RESPONDENTS: Ms. Davida Morris, Chair
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Member
Mr. Willie Ferguson, Member
Mr. Jonathan Starling, Member
Mrs. Susan Armstrong, Member

1. STORAGE OF SHIPPING CONTAINERS OF CLINICAL WASTE ON PUBLIC ROAD

Issue: On 5 August 2022, the Environmental Authority granted an annual operating licence to MediWaste Ltd. for two clinical waste incinerators (CWI; OL-1185, OL-1186) at Lot 28, Waller's Point Road, St. David's, subject to approved conditions. The purpose built incinerators have not yet been constructed on the site. It is expected to be operational in March 2023.

In the meantime, the Bermuda Hospitals Board's (BHB) steam sterilizer macerator units have been shut down and are unable to process clinical waste. The BHB entered into a contract on or about 30 March 2022 whereby MediWaste Ltd. is to collect and treat clinical waste generated at the hospitals as well as that from satellite offices (e.g. Doctors, vets, clinics).

Unknown to the Department of Environment & Natural Resources until late October 2022, clinical waste is being collected by MediWaste and stored in unrefrigerated 20 ft shipping containers on Carter's Bay Road, St. David's until the clinical waste incinerators are commissioned. It is noted that the process of commissioning will require waste to be treated in order to help cure the refractory. Presently seventeen (17) shipping containers are awaiting incineration, and it is expected that upwards of 30 shipping containers may be accumulated before the facility is commissioned and becomes operational.

Operating Licence condition #15 specifies that the intermediate storage of infectious clinical waste delivered to the site of the CWI shall be for as short a period of time as is practicable using appropriate refrigerated facilities and with trained personnel using appropriate PPE and good housekeeping as recommended by best practices in other developed jurisdictions. DENR sought consideration by Attorney General's Chambers who agree that MediWaste is in breach of condition #15 of their operating licence. DENR has informed MediWaste of this breach and insisted that the clinical waste containers be moved from this public road to a secure location.

MediWaste was unable to secure an appropriate site for the storage of the shipping containers of clinical waste and DENR sought assistance from the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to locate a suitable area.

MPW identified a suitable site at the Airport Waste Management Facility, however, their operating licence (OL-168) does not permit storage of clinical waste. *[It is noted that MPW required of MediWaste, as a condition of this offer, that the shipping containers be stored door-to-door and with no permission being granted for the opening of these containers on site].*

DENR Recommendation: Permission is sought from the Authority to amend the Airport Waste Management Facility Operating Licence (OL-168) to permit the temporary storage of clinical waste.

Mr. Jonathan Starling stood aside during consideration of this application.

The Authority **APPROVED** the amendment of the Ministry of Public Work's Airport Waste Management Facility's Operating Licence OL-168 to permit the temporary storage of shipping containers providing the containers are sealed and not opened on site.



CHAIRMAN

29 NOVEMBER 2022

DATE