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Integrated waste plant launching on Nov 7

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The country's first integrated scheduled waste management plant will be officially launched on Nov 7.

The multi-million ringgit plant at Bukit Nanas, Negri Sembilan, was completed after about three years.

Science, Technology and Environment Ministry deputy secretary-general (I) Dr Islahuddin Baba said today Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had been invited to launch the plant.

An official from Kualiti Alam Sdn Bhd, the company given the 15-year concession to finance, construct and operate the facility, said the plant had already begun full operations.

The company has obtained a permit to operate the plant.

To date, Kualiti Alam has received some 60,000 tonnes of scheduled waste.

The official said 740 companies which generate scheduled waste had signed an agreement with Kualiti Alam to use the facilities.

Department of Environment director-general Rosnani Ibarahim said Kualiti Alam had carried out trial runs for the incinerator a few months ago.

She hoped factories would send their waste to the plant instead of storing it on their premises.

On the fee schedule for the services offered by the plant, Rosnani said the interim rate imposed by the Cabinet on Feb 26 last year was still being used.

"Kualiti Alam and the industrial sector have not come to any agreement on a permanent fee structure yet. As such, they will continue using the current rate."

The Cabinet had last year directed Kualiti Alam to reduce its proposed fees by 10 per cent as an interim measure to enable the two parties to work out a permanent fee structure.

This was because Kualiti Alam and the industrial sector could not come to a compromise on the rates.

The industrial sector had complained that the rates proposed by Kualiti Alam were too high.

The interim fee structure was to have been reviewed after December last year.

Kualiti Alam said it could not work out another fee schedule without sufficient data such as the amount and type of waste factories would send to the plant.

The more than RM318 million plant was built following complaints from factories about the absence of such a facility in the country.

They had complained that they were forced to store their scheduled waste on their premises.

The plant now consists of a landfill; a solidification facility which stabilises liquid waste or semi-solid sludge; a physical/chemical treatment facility which treats inorganic liquid waste such as spent acid, alkaline, cyanide and chromate waste; and an incineration facility which treats all organic waste and can destroy combustible materials.

The solidification plant is capable of processing 15,000 tonnes of waste a year, the physical/chemical treatment plant about 5,000 tonnes and the incineration facility about 30,000 tonnes.

The plant is designed to treat all the 107 scheduled wastes listed in the Environment Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations 1989.

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