



The waste-to-energy incinerator project site in Ladang Tanah Merah, Port Dickson. FILE PIC

'Govt will not pay until facility is fully operational'

SEREMBAN: Internal problems in the concession company in charge of the Ladang Tanah Merah waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator plant have delayed its completion date.

State Housing, Local Government and New Village Committee chairman Teo Kok Seong confirmed this to the *New Straits Times* as the project faced its third delay in two years.

"The new deadline is in December. The testing and commissioning sessions will be carried out in January and they will last three months. If they are successful, the plant will start operating.

"The concession company will bear the cost of the delay. The government will not pay for the operating cost until the facility is fully operational.

"At the moment, the government only pays tipping fees of RM33 per tonne for waste disposal."

He said although the plant was behind schedule, solid waste collected could still be disposed of in the existing cells used for inert waste.

Inert waste — substances that are not chemically reactive — must be sent to a landfill.

"Two cells for domestic waste have been allocated at the Ladang Tanah Merah landfill, with one of the cells expected to be fully utilised by December.

"Another cell has been prepared for domestic waste after the first cell is full. The landfill also has two cells for inert waste.

"If the incinerator's completion is delayed, the cell can be used up to four years.

"Based on our August 2019 data, the total amount of waste generated in Negri Sembilan was 22,955.68 tonnes per month or 740.50 tonnes per day.

"Last year, the state recorded total waste disposal amounting to 273,637.30 tonnes per year, which is equal to 745 tonnes per day."

Teo said the WTE project would help ensure that solid waste sent to the landfill could be treated before it was disposed of at the landfill.

"This will benefit the government as it will help reduce the cost in land acquisition for landfills."

THIRD TIME

WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY FACES ANOTHER DELAY

Incinerator project fails to meet June completion target

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AS the country tries to resolve its waste problem, news of the revival of the first waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator plant in Ladang Tanah Merah here should have come as a breath of fresh air.

The project, developed by Cypark Resources Bhd, has experienced delays since last year.

The plant, which is supposed to generate power from solid waste, had been initially targeted for completion in January last year.

However, the developer cited difficult geological formation at the site, which set back the project for another year.

When it missed its second deadline at the end of last year, Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin stepped in.

During a visit to the site in March, she assured people that the project would be up and running by June.

However, the deadline has since lapsed.

A source told the *New Straits Times* that the project was at risk of another delay.

"The plant's construction is behind schedule again.

"It is supposed to start operating in June, but until today, there is no news."

The source said the delay could harm the environment as waste from municipalities continued to be sent to the adjacent Ladang Tanah Merah landfill.

"Due to this delay, we have to opt for other landfills to send the waste. The excessive waste will shorten the lifespan of the landfill, which is supposed to last 20 years.

"When this happens, the government has no choice but to find another site for the landfill."

When the issue was highlighted to Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun, he said the state government would look into complaints that the accumulation of waste would lead to pollution issues in the surrounding area.

rounding area.

He said the issue of safety would be scrutinised in the wake of a second fire incident that struck an integrated waste treatment plant near here recently.

When addressing rumours that municipalities dumped their waste at the site, he said, this occurred as a way to run tests on the WTE incinerator's system.

"Yes, the waste is already there because without it, how can we test the system?" he said, while admitting there was another delay in the project's completion.

He said the project was under the ministry, and that it had nothing to do with the state government.

He said the state government was not too affected by the delay as the cost of building the plant did not involve any allocation from it.

"This is the first WTE project under the ministry. It has nothing to do with the state government. However, we are monitoring its progress.

"I have been informed that there has been another delay in completing the plant and it is targeted for completion next year."

The federal government is

working towards making the plant a success as it will be the country's first solid waste facility that will create renewable energy.

Zuraida had stressed this during her visit to the site in March.

She had said that WTE facilities could take sustainable waste management into the future.

"It is important for this plant to work well because it could be our future model," she was quoted as saying after the visit.

Zuraida said the plant would be an impetus for other states to develop their own WTE incinerator.

There are plans to have at least one WTE facility in every state by next year.

Built on a 4ha area, the Ladang Tanah Merah WTE incinerator project will be able to handle 600 tonnes of mechanically-segregated and processed municipal solid waste per day, once it is completed.

This will produce between 20MW and 25MW of green energy, sufficient to power about 25,000 households in its vicinity.

It is learnt that the project is a RM300 million public-private partnership under the build-operate-manage-transfer concept for a lease period of 25 years.