



PRESS

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Pollution Control Department

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H.E. Mr. Varawut has assigned PCD to support Local Administration Organizations to manage wastewater treatment facilities countrywide.

Mr. Athapol Charoenshunsu, Director General of Pollution Control Department (PCD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) revealed that H.E. Mr. Varawut Silpa-Archa, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment has assigned PCD to monitor the efficiency of wastewater collecting systems and wastewater treatment facilities of Local Administration Organizations (LAO) as well as strengthen their preparedness in wastewater treatment facility management. From the evaluation of operation efficiency of 149 municipal central wastewater treatment facilities and cluster wastewater treatment facilities, it was found that 125 facilities had regular operation and could collect water quality samples of effluent. The 21 facilities did not operate their systems because of being ruined/under improvement. The 3 facilities were under construction. The 34 facilities had effluent qualities which did not comply with the effluent discharge standard of municipal central wastewater treatment facilities.

Mr. Athapol said that from the investigation of municipal wastewater management implementation of Local Administration Organizations, there were problems and obstacles including 1) Lacking of support in efficient management of wastewater collecting systems and wastewater treatment facilities, 2) Wastewater collecting systems and municipal central wastewater treatment facilities did not cover all areas of Local Administration Organizations, 3) Lacking of public relations campaigns to provide public participation in municipal wastewater management, 4) Wastewater volume entering into system was less than designed system which affected the efficiency of wastewater treatment facilities, and 5) Lacking of efficient operation of wastewater treatment facilities.

PCD has suggested recommendations of preliminary wastewater management guideline to Local Administration Organizations including 1) Assigning staffs which have knowledge and expertise especially in wastewater treatment facility management or providing Wastewater Management Authority or private third parties to be in charge of system operation in order to efficient operation, 2) Evaluating the efficiency of preliminary municipal central wastewater treatment facility operation, and 3) Driving of local ordinance issue regarding wastewater treatment service charge as well as publicizing to build understanding in mentioned issue.

However, Local Administration Organizations have proposed programmes/projects on addressing municipal wastewater problems to increase wastewater management efficiency in 5 areas namely 1) Rayong Provincial Administration Organization 2) Tha Bo City Municipality, Nong Khai Province 3) Maha Sarakham City Municipality 4) Phayao City Municipality and 5) Chum Saeng City Municipality, Nakhon Sawan Province. PCD will support and strengthen preparedness of Local Administration Organizations in wastewater treatment facility management. This is a part of continuous activities under the 20-Year Master Plan on Water Quality Management of Thailand (B.E. 2561 – 2580) in order that Local Administration Organizations can efficiently administrate wastewater treatment facilities further, Mr. Athapol said.