



PRESS Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Pollution Control Department

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PCD in collaboration with ISOC followed up on addressing wastewater at Ratchaburi pig farm, drew a line if officer did not take action, would be punished for neglect of duty.

Mr. Athapol Charoenshunsa, Director General of Pollution Control Department (PCD), along with Maj. Gen. Patrawut Choonhavan, Deputy Director of the Action Coordination Center No. 4 of ISOC, Mr. Polkrit Phuangwalaisin, Chom Bueng District Chief, Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), Regional Environmental Office 8, Ratchaburi (REO8), Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment, Ratchaburi Province (Ratchaburi PONRE), Ratchaburi Provincial Livestock Office, Ratchaburi Provincial Public Health Office, Office of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, Ratchaburi Province, Forest Resources Management Office 10, Ratchaburi, Water Resources Office 7, Ratchaburi Provincial Land Office, Internal Security Operations Command, Ratchaburi Province (ISOC, Ratchaburi Province), and Chom Phon Municipality participated in the inspection and meeting to address the problem of wastewater leaking from the pig farm of Suparerk Farm Co., Ltd. into agricultural areas.

Mr. Athapol Charoenshunsa, Director General of PCD, revealed that people in the Village No. 5, Chom Bueng Sub-district, Chom Bueng District, Ratchaburi Province complained that they suffered from water flowing through Suparerk Farm Co., Ltd.'s area. The water leaked into people's land and the flooding caused farming to be incapable. The evidence has been complained continuously for more than 3 years. According to information on the pig farming business of Suparerk Farm Co., Ltd., it is classified as a type A pig farm with 5,100 sows, 20,000 fed pigs, and 20,000 piglets and has been licensed of pig farming type to operate a business that is harmful to health from Chom Phon Municipality. From the inspection and attending the meeting to address the problem of wastewater leaking into agricultural areas on 7 October 2021, the meeting considered and had resolutions together in 3 issues, including

1. For land issue, let land officers, forest officers, the District, and Chom Phon Municipality join in the investigation on the issuance of title deeds for encroachment on public land and forest land or other state land.

2. For environmental issues, let PCD consider the fines by taking into account the amount of pollution to be appropriate for the damage to the environment. Allow entrepreneurs to act in accordance with the administrative order to modify wastewater treatment system to be able to treat water according to the standards. If after the administrative order is due on 28 October 2021, the entrepreneur is unable to comply, let REO8 take action as required by law.

3. For administrative action, let the local officers (municipality) order the operator to notify improvements in accordance with regulation and law by 8 October 2021, and consider ordering suspension of license in accordance with Section 59 of the Public Health Act 1992 (B.E. 2535) according to the procedures, including report the violation of the officer's order in case that the operator does not comply or indirectly comply with the provisions of the law, ministerial regulations or local ordinances or conditions specified in the license. This must be done by 28 October 2021. If the local officers do not enforce the law in accordance with their powers and duties, let REO8 file a complaint of negligence in accordance with Section 157 of the Criminal Code and notify the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) to take action later. In addition, let the local officers (municipality) proceed with the procedure for submitting non-compliance to the law to the Comparison Committee under the Public Health Act 1992 (B.E. 2535) for consideration one more time. Moreover, let PCD support inspection information for people to file a lawsuit to the Administrative Court. The Administrative Court shall order the competent officers to proceed and perform duties in accordance with the law in order to revoke the business license later.

However, entrepreneur was willing to invest in the construction of standard drainage channels. PCD requested the District and REO8 to organize a tripartite meeting to consider the suitability and find a solution together. If after 28 October 2021, there is still wastewater leaking into the environment and affecting people. PCD will proceed according to all laws, both the persons causing the damage and the officers responsible according to the laws, Mr. Athapol said.