



Practical use of the Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices

Case study:

Open burning of waste, including burning of landfill sites

The volume of municipal solid wastes in the town has dramatically increased over the last two decades and the composition of these wastes has considerably changed. The landfill nowadays rivals the tallest building in town.

The metropolitan waste authority, has had a series of voluntary programmes for recycling of aluminium, glass, and news paper, which has had a beneficial effect in the reduction of the waste volume; However in the absence of adequate markets for the recycled material, local residents have not participated actively in the programme thus the landfill has continued receiving waste; some of the local residents that have continued to separate their wastes, have solved their problem by burning their wastes in barrels in their backyards or in open burning fires.

One year ago, it was noticed that solvent and other hazardous chemical wastes were leaching from the landfill into the underground water sources.

The central government has now advised the municipal authorities that in accordance with the National Implementation Plan that was submitted by the national Government to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, the part III source: open burning of waste, including burning of landfill sites has been identified as a national priority and thus the application of BAT and BEP is now required.

Questions:

As the environmental advisor to the Municipal authority, what measures would you recommend the Mayor implements in order to address open burning of waste and comply at the local level with the Stockholm Convention?

The list of activities could include:

- BAT&BEP activities and any related actions contributing to their implementation;
- possible timeframe of implementation;
- main stakeholders to be involved.