

Outline of the Law on Special Measures concerning Removal of Environmental Problems Caused by Specified Industrial Wastes

<Background>

Industrial wastes dumped illegally before the implementation of the 1997 Revised Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law

- Problems affecting the surrounding living environment have occurred for a long period of time.
- It is a symbol of public distrust of industrial wastes management and is a hindrance to the creation of a sound material-cycle society.

It is necessary to solve problems early by providing local governments with financial support through the enactment of a law effective for a defined period.

Formulation of fundamental policy by the Minister of the Environment

The Minister of the Environment formulates fundamental policy in order to promote programs systematically and steadily to remove environmental problems by the end of FY2012.

- The Minister of the Environment consults with the heads of the related administrative organizations.

Formulation of implementation plans by prefectural governments or municipal governments with a public health office

Prefectural/municipal governments formulate implementation plans to remove environmental problems in areas under their jurisdiction in accordance with the fundamental policy.

- Prefectural/municipal governments hold an environmental council and collect opinions from concerned municipal governments.
- Prefectural governments consult with the Minister of the Environment. (Before the Minister of the Environment agrees with the implementation plan made by the prefectural/municipal governments, the Minister consults with the Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Post and Telecommunications.)

Implementation of specified problem removal programs

Prefectural governments carry out removal programs themselves in accordance with their implementation plans.

Financial support from the national government for implementing specified problem removal programs

A special case of issuing local bonds to cover costs shouldered by prefectural/municipal governments