Hazardous Waste Management

Tunisia

Hazardous Waste Production

• **Industrial Hazardous Waste**: 150,000 tonnes per year in 2002, estimated to increase to 200,000 tonnes per year by 2010. Main components: waste from metals and mechanical sectors (45%).

• **Medical Hazardous Waste**: 5,400 tonnes in 2002, estimated to increase to 6,000 tonnes per year by 2010.

Hazardous Waste Management

• Hazardous waste is often stored at the production site, though a significant portion is dumped with domestic solid waste in municipal landfills.

• Some categories of hazardous waste are managed through specific systems: for example, used oils are collected and recycled by SOTULUB and a project for recycling used batteries has also begun.

Legal Framework

The current legal framework for hazardous waste in Tunisia is, in general, more advanced than those in other countries of the region. It is mainly defined by:

• Decree No. 82-1355 (October 16, 1982), regulating used oils recovery.

• Law No. 91-63 (July 29, 1991), for sanitary organization.

• Law No. 95-63 (July 10, 1995) related to the Basel Convention.

• Law No. 96-41 (June 10, 1996), for waste management and disposal.

• Law No. 97-37 (June 2, 1997), for hazardous material transportation by road.

• Decree No. 2000-2339 (October 10, 2000), establishing a list of hazardous wastes.

• Law No. 2001-14 (January 30, 2001), simplifying administrative procedures related to environmental authorizations.

• Decree No. 2002-693 (April 1, 2002), defining used oils recovery conditions.

Other decrees, including defining hazardous waste categories, are under development.

Institutional Framework

• **The Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Hydraulic Resources (MAERH)** is responsible for the elaboration of hazardous waste management strategies, the proposition of regulations, and the promotion of clean production technologies. It is supported by regional offices.

• **The National Environment Protection Agency (ANPE)** is under the umbrella of the MAERH and is the central institutional authority for hazardous waste management in Tunisia. The ANPE is responsible for the day-to-day activities in this area, including issuing permits, managing hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities, inspecting sites, etc.

• **The Tunis Environmental Technology International Center (CITET)** is also under the umbrella of the MAERH and serves as the main environmental knowledge repository in Tunisia. CITET provides training and technical assistance to
professionals, industry and other stakeholders. It also supports exporting and sharing Tunisian environmental expertise.

- **The Ministry of Public Health**, through its Hygiene and Environmental Protection division, is responsible for the planning, coordination and supervision of medical hazardous waste management in hospitals. It collaborates closely with the ANPE.
- **The Ministry of Communication Technology and Transport** prepares transportation regulations, including hazardous material transportation.
- **The Ministry of Interior and Local Development** is responsible, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication Technology and Transport, for issuing hazardous material shipping authorizations.
- **The Ministry of Industry and Energy** collaborates with MAERH and other institutions on environmental impacts of industrial and energy sector projects.

**Disposal Facilities**

- Preliminary studies for the implementation of a hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility project have been completed. Detailed studies are underway and the facility should be operational in 2006. The project also includes three regional pre-treatment, storage and transfer facilities.
- Since the early 1990s, Sotulub has operated a countrywide used oil recovery system. This system includes a re-collection network and a recycling plant at Bizerte.
- Approximately 20 hospital hazardous waste incinerators exist in Tunisia, though 25 percent are out of service. A large incineration facility exists in the Tunis area, but it needs to be revamped. Despite the waste separation efforts in hospitals, most medical hazardous waste is re-mixed and disposed with domestic waste.

**Overall Assessment and Options for Improvement**

- Though well developed for the region, the regulatory framework still needs to be reinforced, especially environmental requirements pertaining to hazardous waste storage, handling, treatment and disposal.
- The national hazardous waste management plan should be completed to provide a global framework for hazardous management initiatives.
- Institutional strengthening is required to support the implementation of the new regulations and prepare for the hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility.
- Institutional strengthening is needed in the health sector, especially for hospitals, to improve the medical waste separation, storage, transport and disposal.
- Improving hazardous waste transportation should be encouraged through incentives.
- A global communication strategy for hazardous waste producers and managers should be developed to prepare them for managing the future hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility.

Cooperation with neighboring countries for hazardous waste management, through the METAP program, should be improved. For instance, beneficial cooperation can be achieved through training and awareness programs development, and data, experience and knowledge sharing.