

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 353

Introduced by Representative Susan A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a state party to the Basel Convention, the Philippines is obliged to, among others:

(a) Ensure that the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes within it is reduced to a minimum, taking into account social, technological and economic aspects;

(b) Ensure the availability of adequate disposal facilities, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, that shall be located, to the extent possible, within it, whatever the place of their disposal;

Congress passed RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act in 2000, and it was lauded as landmark legislation on proper handling of solid wastes. However, it only went as far as defining hazardous waste and labeling it under "special waste" and leaving its management to the LGUs.

However, and unfortunately, hazardous and radioactive waste management require inter-agency coordination coming from the national government to oversee and make inventory of hazardous waste creators and repository. Take for example what happened on the biggest industrial disaster in our country's history – the Marcopper mine tailings in Marinduque in 1996 which instantly killed the 27-kilometer long Boac river and the livelihood of the tens of thousands of people surrounding the river. That tragedy could have been prevented should there have been a proper law on the proper standard of mine waste management and force on the monitoring of the DENR.

In the NCR, hazardous and infectious healthcare wastes amount to 27 tons a day in 2003, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report. WHO has estimated that, based on population projections, local healthcare waste could reach as much as 69.5 tons per day by 2050. EcoWaste Coalition, an environmental NGO, raised the alarm on the presence of hazardous wastes dumped at Pier 18 of Manila coming from disposed hardware of computers, chip boards, and cellular phones which contain heavy metal which are toxic to humans. In 2009, Greenpeace panicked over the report that about 1.8 tons of radiotoxic plutonium in Mixed-Oxide (MOX) fuel intended for nuclear power plants is traveling to Japan via the Cape of Good Hope and the south-west Pacific Ocean and might cross the exclusive economic zones of the Philippines. Luckily, the shipment did not take the Philippine territory route.

These are but examples of actual incidents of continued neglect, mishandling, and disregard to the low standards of hazardous waste management in our country. Unfortunately for us, the environment is not the only thing at stake here but also our own health and lives. More unfortunately, this is a concern that, if deserted because of procrastination, will cost us for decades to come. As such, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SUSAN A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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6 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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13
14 AN ACT
15 PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE HAZARDOUS AND RADIOACTIVE
16 WASTES MANAGEMENT, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS
17 THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
18 PURPOSES

19 Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
20 assembled:

21
22 CHAPTER I
23 GENERAL PROVISIONS
24

25 SECTION 1. *Short title*. - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Hazardous and
26 Radioactive Wastes Management Act of 2010."
27

28 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to advance the
29 protection of human health and the environment from the potential risks of hazardous and
30 radioactive wastes within the framework of sustainable development. Towards this end, the State
31 shall:
32

33 (a) Develop and implement national and local integrated and comprehensive hazardous and
34 radioactive wastes management programs focusing on pollution prevention and resource
35 conservation recovery, which shall:

36 (1) Improve wastes management techniques, organizational arrangements, methods of
37 collection, separation and recovery of wastes;

38 (2) Promote environmentally safe disposal of residues;

39 (3) Minimize the generation of hazardous and radioactive wastes by encouraging cleaner
40 production, process substitution, resource recovery; recycling and reuse, and treatment; and

41 (4) Institutionalize public participation in the development and implementation of such
42 programs;

43 (b) Promulgate guidelines for the generation, collection, segregation, transport, recovery,
44 storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous and radioactive wastes including emergency and
45 contingency plans for accidents involving such wastes;

46 (c) Prohibit the entry, even in transit, of hazardous and radioactive wastes into the Philippine
47 territorial limits for whatever purpose consistent with multilateral international agreements and
48 protocols;

49 (d) Promote a national research and development program for improved hazardous and
50 radioactive wastes management and resource conservation techniques;

51 (e) Formulate and enforce a system of accountability for generators, including the promotion
52 of extended producer responsibility, product stewardship and responsible care program;

(f) Promote international environmental standards on wastes management, and
(g) Strengthen the integration of hazardous and radioactive wastes management and resource conservation and recovery topics into the academic curricula of formal and non-formal education in order to promote environmental awareness and action among the citizenry

SEC. 3. Coverage of the Act. - This Act shall apply to the generation, possession, collection, recovery, reuse, storage, transport, treatment and disposal of hazardous and radioactive wastes in the country for whatever purposes: Provided, That this Act shall cover the entry of such wastes, even in transit, into the Philippine territorial limits.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. -As used in this Act:

(a) Abandoned underground mines refer to worked out mineral mines with deep shafts extending to about one thousand (1,000) to two thousand (2,000) thousand feet below the ground surface.

(b) Best available techniques (BAT) refer to any technology that shall take into consideration costs and benefits of a measure as well as precaution and prevention such as, but not limited to:

(1) the nature, effects and mass of releases concerned;

(2) consumption and use of raw materials in the process and its energy efficiency ;

(3) the need to prevent or reduce to a minimum the overall impact of releases to the environment; and

(4) ensure occupational health and safety at the workplaces

(c) Best environmental practices (BEP) refer to practices that are generally accepted as "environmentally friendly", taking into consideration the nature, traditions and culture of the locality.

For this purpose, technological advances and changes in scientific knowledge and understanding shall likewise be considered in determining acceptable practices in preserving the environment.

(d) Borehole facilities shall refer to those that entail the emplacement of solid radioactive wastes in an engineered facility of relatively narrow diameter bored and operated directly from the surface. It covers a range of design concepts with depths ranging from a few meters up to several hundred meters, and their diameters can vary from a few tens of centimeters up to more than one (1) meter.

(e) Carcinogen refers to any substance that can cause or contribute to the incidence of cancer.

(f) Collection refers to the act of removing hazardous waste from the source or from a storage point.

(g) Construction refers to the erection or building of new structures.

(h) Contaminated sites refer to places or spots where the soil quality exceeds the soil standards set pursuant to Section 17 hereof.

(i) Corrective action refers to the steps taken to assess, prioritize and clean up hazardous and radioactive wastes from the treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) and/or contaminated sites in order to protect health and the environment.

(j) Corrosivity refers to a state where the waste has either of the following properties: (1) it is aqueous and has a pH less than or equal to 2 or greater than or equal to 12.5; (2) it is a liquid and corrodes steel (SAE 1020) at a rate greater than 6.35 mm. (0.250 inch) per year at a test temperature of 55°C (130°F).

(k) Degradability refers to the ability of a compound to be reduced to simpler forms through a breakdown of its structure.

(l) Deep injection well means a well used for subsurface injection of waste fluids and solids derived from industries such as geothermal and oil and gas into an injection zone.

(m) Department means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

(n) Disposal means the discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking or placing of any hazardous and radioactive wastes into or on any land or water so that such wastes, or any

1 constituent thereof, may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any
2 waters, including ground waters.

3 (o) Generation refers to the act or process of producing hazardous and radioactive wastes.

4 (p) Generator refers to a person, natural or juridical, who produces hazardous and
5 radioactive wastes.

6 (q) Geological repository refers to the isolation of high level radioactive waste using a system
7 of engineered and natural barriers at depths up to several hundred meters in a geologically stable
8 formation.

9 (r) Hazardous wastes refer to substances discarded from commercial and industrial
10 establishments, institutions and healthcare facilities which, because of, the concentration, or physical,
11 chemical or infectious characteristics, may cause or significantly contribute to increases in mortality
12 or serious illnesses, or pose an unreasonable risk and potential threat to human health and the
13 environment.

14 (s) Hazardous and radioactive wastes management means the systematic administration of
15 activities which provide for the identification, listing, collection, segregation, storage, transport,
16 recovery, reuse, processing, reprocessing, treatment and disposal of hazardous and radioactive
17 wastes.

18 (t) Healthcare waste refers to waste that is generated or produced as a result of the following
19 activities: diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals; research pertaining to
20 the above activities; production or testing of biologicals; and, waste originating from minor or
21 scattered sources.

22 (u) Ignitability refers to the characteristic used to define as hazardous wastes that could cause
23 a fire during transport, storage or disposal. A waste exhibits the characteristics of ignitability if a
24 sample of the waste has any of the following properties: (1) it is a liquid that has a flash point of less
25 than 60° C (140°F); (2) it is not a liquid and is capable, under standard temperature and pressure, of
26 causing fire through friction, absorption of moisture or spontaneous chemical changes and, when
27 ignited, burns so vigorously and persistently that it creates a hazard; (3) it is an ignitable gas; or (4) it
28 is an oxidizer.

29 (v) Injection zone refers to a geological formation, group of formation or a part of a
30 formation located below the underground source of potable water, and which receives waste fluids
31 or solids through a deep injection well.

32 (w) International environmental standards refer to the requirements or standards under
33 existing international environmental agreements to which the Philippines is a party.

34 (x) Landfill refers to a waste disposal site designed, constructed, operated and maintained in
35 a manner that exerts engineering control over significant potential environmental impacts arising
36 from the development and operation of the facility.

37 (y) Land disposal refers to the placement of hazardous and radioactive wastes on the surface,
38 near surface and at depths within the soil column.

39 (z) Land treatment or land farming refers to a managed technology that involves the
40 controlled application of waste on the soil surface and/or the incorporation of waste or
41 contaminated soils into the upper soil zone.

42 (aa) Level 1 hospital refers to an emergency hospital that provides:

43 (1) initial clinical care and management to patients requiring immediate treatment, as well as
44 primary care on prevalent diseases in the locality;

45 (2) clinical services that include general medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and nonsurgical
46 gynecology and minor surgery;

47 (3) general administrative service and may provide ancillary services (primary clinics:
48 laboratory, first level radiology, pharmacy); and

49 (4) nursing care for patients who require minimal category of supervised care for twenty-four
50 (24) hours or longer.

51 (bb) Level 2 hospital refers to a non-departmentalized hospital that provides:

52 (1) clinical care and management on prevalent diseases in the locality;

53 (2) clinical services that include general medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology,
54 surgery and anesthesia;

(3) appropriate administrative and ancillary services (secondary clinical laboratory, first level radiology, pharmacy); and

(4) nursing care provided in the level 1 hospital as well as intermediate, moderate and partial category of supervised care for twenty-four (24) hours or longer.

(cc) Level 3 hospital refers to a departmentalized hospital that provides:

(1) clinical care and management on prevalent diseases in the locality as well as particular forms of treatment, surgical procedure and intensive care;

(2) clinical services provided in the level 2 hospital as well as specialty clinical care;

(3) appropriate administrative and ancillary services (tertiary clinical laboratory, second radiology, pharmacy); and

(4) nursing care provided in the level 2 hospital as well as total and intensive skilled care.

(dd) Manifest or consignment note refers to a form prescribed by the Department and the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) accompanying hazardous and radioactive wastes from the point of generation, through transport, to final disposition.

(ee) Military munitions refer to all types of both conventional and chemical ammunition products and their components produced by or for the military for national defense and security, including munitions produced by other parties under contract with or acting as agent for the Department of National Defense (DND).

(ff) Mined cavities refer to the emplacement of radioactive waste at some depths inside mines or caverns which is either man-made or natural.

(gg) Mutagens refer to any substance that can cause a change in genetic material.

(hh) Near surface facilities refer to the disposal of radioactive wastes with or without engineered barrier on or below ground surface where the formal protective covering is of the order of a few meters thick or in caverns a few tens of meter below the earth's surface.

(ii) On-site treatment facilities refer to facilities of generators who treat their own hazardous and radioactive wastes, either by themselves or through a service provider, inside their facilities in compliance with waste acceptance criteria promulgated by the Department, the Department of Health (DOH) and the PNRI.

(jj) Open burning refers to the low temperature thermal destruction of wastes by means of direct exposure to fire. For this purpose, this shall apply to the traditional small-scale methods of community sanitation called "siga".

(kk) Partial treatment refers to any process used to modify the characteristics of a hazardous or radioactive waste without totally negating its hazardous characteristics. This may include volume reduction, conditioning, moisture reduction and neutralization, among others.

(ll) Persistence refers to the substantial length of time a compound, once introduced into the environment, stays there, or the property of a substance whose half-life in water, sediment or soil exceeds duration of fifty (50) days.

(mm) Person(s) refers to any being, natural or juridical, susceptible of rights and obligations, or of being the subject of legal relations.

(nn) People's organization (PO) refers to a nonprofit and nonstock association of citizens in a locality, embracing a common goal to protect the environment and, ultimately, public health.

(oo) Radioactive wastes refer to materials that contain or are contaminated with radionuclides at concentrations or activities greater than clearance levels as established by the PNRI. This also refers to disused sealed sources for which no use is foreseen.

(pp) Reactivity refers to the state of a waste material, or a representative sample of the waste material, exhibiting any of the following properties:

(1) It is normally unstable and readily undergoes violent change without detonating;

(2) It reacts violently with water;

(3) It forms potentially explosive mixtures with water;

(4) When mixed with water, it generates toxic gases, vapors or fumes in a quantity sufficient to present danger to human health or the environment;

(5) It is a cyanide- or sulfide-bearing waste which, when exposed to pH conditions between 2 and 12.5, can generate toxic gases, vapors or fumes in a quantity sufficient to present a danger to human health or the environment;

(6) It is capable of detonation or explosive reaction if subjected to a strong initiating source or if reacted under confinement; or

(7) It is readily capable of detonation or explosive decomposition or reaction at standard temperature and pressure.

(qq) Resource recovery refers to the collection, extraction or recovery of recyclable materials from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling, generating energy or producing a product suitable for beneficial use: *Provided*, That such resource recovery facilities exclude incineration.

(rr) Recycling refers to the process of minimizing the generation of wastes by recovering usable products that might otherwise become waste.

(ss) Segregation refers to a wastes management practice of separating different materials found in hazardous waste in order to promote recycling and reuse of resources and to reduce the volume of wastes for collection and disposal. This also refers to separating radioactive wastes according to level of activity, physical form and half-life.

(//) Special hazardous wastes refer to substances discarded from households consisting of consumer or industrial goods or products which become hazardous at the end of its useful life by virtue of its hazardous content which may be released to the environment upon indiscriminate disposal.

(uu) Storage refers to the containment of hazardous and radioactive wastes, either on a temporary basis or for a period of years, consistent with the guidelines as prescribed by the Department and in such a manner as not to constitute disposal of such wastes.

(vv) Surface impoundments refer to pits, ponds, lagoons and dike areas that are either natural topographic depressions or man-made excavations that are primarily of earthen materials. They are designed and constructed to hold or store, treat and/or dispose liquid waste or waste containing free liquids through processes such as evaporation, cooling, aeration, photo decomposition and/or settling.

(ww) Sustainable development refers to development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

(xx) Special hazardous wastes collectors refer to entities which receive or collect special hazardous wastes and/or a take-back program or similar collection mechanism for the purpose of consolidating the wastes from households or consumers, preparatory to delivery to an accredited recycling or treatment facility.

(yy) Technical demonstration refers to the initial exhibition of a new technology process or practice, or a significantly new combination or use of technologies, processes or practices, subsequent to the development stage, for the purpose of proving technological feasibility and cost effectiveness.

(zz) Level 4 hospital refers to a teaching and training hospital (with at least one (1) accredited residency training program for physicians) that provides:

(1) clinical care and management on prevalent diseases in the locality as well as specialized and sub-specialized forms of treatment, surgical procedure and intensive care;

(2) clinical services provided in the level 3 hospital as well as subspecialized clinical care;

(3) appropriate administrative and ancillary services (tertiary clinical laboratory, third level radiology, pharmacy); and

(4) nursing care provided in the level 3 hospital as well as continuous and highly specialized critical care.

(aaa) Thermal treatment refers to the controlled heating which involves a prescribed heating rate, maximum temperature and cooling cycle to produce the property and grain structure required.

(bbb) Toxicity refers to the degree of danger posed by a substance to human or animal due to its acute lethality, chronic and sub-chronic toxicity, carcinogenicity, teratogenicity or mutagenicity, among others.

(ccc) Treatment refers to any method, technique or process designed to change the physical, chemical or biological character or composition of any hazardous and radioactive wastes so as to render such waste non-hazardous, safer for transport, amenable for recovery, amenable for storage or reduced in volume.

(ddd) Treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF) refers to a site where a hazardous substance is treated, stored or disposed.

(eee) Waste acceptance criteria refers to a list of parameters which describe the minimum characteristics which the waste should possess before it may be placed or accepted in a TSDF.

CHAPTER II MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SEC. 5. Identification and Listing of Hazardous Wastes. - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department shall, after notice and public consultation, develop, formulate and publish criteria for identifying and listing the characteristics of hazardous wastes, taking into account, but not be limited to, toxicity, persistence, reactivity and degradability in nature, potential for accumulation in tissue, and other related factors such as ignitability, corrosivity and other hazardous characteristics. Such criteria shall be reviewed and revised every four (4) years thereafter, or as the need arises: *Provided* That the Department, in coordination with the DOH and the PNRI, shall also identify or list those hazardous and radioactive wastes that contain certain constituents such as identified carcinogens, mutagens or teratogens that endanger human health: *Provided, further,* That the Department, in coordination with the DND and appropriate government agencies, shall formulate criteria for identifying when military munitions become hazardous and radioactive wastes: *Provided, finally,* that within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), after public consultation, shall formulate criteria for identifying and listing the categories of special hazardous wastes products to be tracked and regulated, taking into account, but not be limited to, the presence of toxicity, reactivity, ignitability and corrosivity.

SEC. 6. Verification of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Activity. - Upon the effectivity of this Act, any person generating or managing hazardous or radioactive wastes is required to notify in writing the Department, the DOH and the PNRI of their hazardous or radioactive wastes activities) specifying, among others, the types of wastes, quantities and containers used for storage, including incidents involving hazardous and radioactive wastes.

SEC. 7. National Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Status Report. - The Department, in coordination with the DOH, the PNRI and other concerned agencies, shall, within six (6) months after the formulation of the criteria for identifying and listing of hazardous and radioactive wastes pursuant to Section 6 hereof, prepare a National Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management Status Report which shall be used as a basis in formulating the National Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management Framework provided in Section 8 of this Act. The said report shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Inventory of existing hazardous and radioactive wastes and their depots and facilities;
- (b) General waste characterization, taking into account, but not be limited to, the source, type and quantity of hazardous and radioactive wastes generated;
- (c) Projection of hazardous and radioactive wastes generation, including quantity for reduction, recovery and reuse;
- (d) Listing of treatment, storage and disposal facilities, including transporters of hazardous and radioactive wastes; and
- (e) Listing of identified contaminated sites.

SEC. 8. National Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management Framework. - Within eighteen (18) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the DOH, the PNRI and other appropriate agencies and entities, shall prepare and formulate a National Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management Framework, herein referred to as the Framework, that shall embody policies established pursuant to this Act. Specifically, the Framework shall contain the following:

- (a) Hazardous and radioactive wastes control strategies and techniques;
- (b) Proper hazardous and radioactive wastes transport, treatment, storage and disposal systems;
- (c) Waste reduction goals and targets;

- (d) Period of compliance for waste reduction;
- (e) Information and education campaign;
- (f) Human resources development; and
- (g) Roles and responsibilities of relevant government agencies.

The framework shall be adopted as the official blueprint for hazardous and radioactive wastes management with which all relevant government agencies must comply with.

SEC. 9. *Use of Best Available Technology and Best Environmental Practices in Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management.* – Generators and owners of treatment, storage and disposal facilities are required to use best available technologies and best environmental practices (BATBEP) in hazardous and radioactive wastes management. The Department, in coordination with the Inter-Agency Technical Advisory Council (IATAC) created herein, shall formulate criteria in assessing the proposed BATBEP to be used. In the formulation of these criteria, consideration shall be given, among others, to the relative economic feasibility of the technology. Further, such technology shall render the waste sufficiently low in toxicity, reactivity, corrosivity and ignitability as to present the least possible risk to human health and safety and to the environment.

SEC. 10. *Requirements for Generators of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes.* – Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the Department, the DOH and the PNRI shall establish requirements for generators of such hazardous and radioactive wastes necessary to protect human health and the environment. These requirements shall ensure that the generators shall be responsible for the proper management of the wastes generated and bear the costs for proper storage, transport, treatment and disposal of such wastes.

Further, such requirements shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Recordkeeping practices that accurately identify the quantities of such hazardous and radioactive wastes generated, the constituent thereof which are significant in quantity or in potential harm to human health or the environment, and the disposition of such wastes;
- (b) Use of appropriate storage facilities and containers to prevent release of materials to the environment;
- (c) Labeling practices for any containers used for the storage, transport or disposal of such hazardous and radioactive wastes that will identify accurately such wastes;
- (d) Use of a manifest or consignment note system and any other means necessary to assure that all hazardous and radioactive wastes generated are designated for treatment, storage or disposal in, and arrived at TSDFs with appropriate permit issued pursuant to this Act;
- (e) Emergency and contingency plans for effective action to minimize damage and contain and mitigate effects of spills and accidents in connection with the generation, transport, storage or disposal of such wastes;
- (f) When it is necessary to transport the wastes, the generators shall only engage the services of transporters and the TSDFs holding permits issued pursuant to this Act; and
- (g) In the case of radioactive wastes, the wastes generator is required to submit a certificate of transport from their radiological health and safety officer (RHSO) for the transport of radioactive wastes to the treatment facility.

SEC. 11. *Requirements Applicable to Transporters of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes.* – Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the DOH, the PNRI and the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), shall establish requirements applicable to transporters of hazardous and radioactive wastes necessary to protect human health and the environment. Such requirements shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Recordkeeping concerning such wastes transported, and their Source and delivery points;
- (b) Use of carriers duly registered with the DOTC;
- (c) Transport of wastes only if properly labeled;

(d) Transport of wastes only to the TSDF which the generator designates in the manifest form to be a facility holding appropriate permit issued pursuant to this Act;

(e) Emergency and contingency plans for effective action to minimize damage and contain and mitigate effects of spills and accidents in connection with the transport of such wastes; and

(f) Coordination with other concerned government agencies in the event that transport of such hazardous and radioactive wastes to the designated TSDF requires security escort or police protection and assistance.

SEC. 12. *Requirements Applicable to Owners of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities.* - Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the DOH and the PNRI, shall establish requirements applicable to owners of the TSDFs of hazardous and radioactive wastes necessary to protect human health and the environment: *Provided*, That the Department, the DOH and the PNRI shall, where applicable, distinguish requirements appropriate for new and existing facilities at the time of the effectivity of this Act. Such requirements shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(a) Performance standards for the design, construction, operation, maintenance and monitoring of the facility;

(b) Requirements and standards to ensure adequate resources, including human and financial, throughout the life cycle of the facility;

(c) Requirements and standards for the closure, decommissioning and post-closure care, monitoring and maintenance and use of the facility;

(d) Waste acceptance requirements and procedures, approved by the Department, the DOH and the PNRI, for different types of hazardous and radioactive wastes packages; and

(e) Management, engineering controls and use of personnel protective equipment to minimize exposure of workers to the hazardous wastes and medical surveillance of workers directly involved in the collection, transport, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes.

SEC. 13. *Categories of TSDFs for Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes.* - Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the Department shall formulate specific, relevant and appropriate standards, including waste acceptance criteria, for the various categories of TSDFs identified hereunder: *Provided*, That no waste shall be accepted unless it complies with the waste acceptance criteria formulated pursuant to this Act: *Provided, further*, That the Department shall revise, as the need arises, the regulations, standards and guidelines applicable to the categories listed hereunder, taking into account improvements in the technology of control and measurement: *Provided finally*, That such regulations shall specify criteria for the acceptable location of new and existing TSDFs as necessary to protect human health and the environment. The categories of TSDFs are as follows:

(a) Facilities that conduct on-site storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes generated or produced at the premises through industrial or commercial processes and activities other than disposal via sewer - The Department shall encourage on-site treatment of hazardous wastes by, among others, providing for incentives: *Provided*, That generators who undertake partial treatment of wastes shall not be considered as on-site facility operators for purposes of this category: *Provided, however*, That mining operations shall fall under this category;

(b) Commercial or industrial hazardous wastes ' thermal treatment facilities;

(c) TSDFs in this category are facilities that conduct on-site and off-site thermal treatment: *Provided*, That the Department shall promulgate regulations on hazardous wastes used as fuel and raw material: *Provided further*, That the Department may also exempt from the requirements hereof facilities which burn *de minimis* quantities of hazardous wastes as fuel, as defined by the Department, if:

(1) the wastes are burned at the same facility at which such wastes are generated;

(2) the waste is burned to recover useful energy, as determined by the Department on the basis of the design and operating characteristics of the facility and the heating value and other characteristics of the waste; and

(3) the waste is burned in a type of device determined by the Department to be designed and operated at a destruction and removal efficiency sufficient such that the protection of human health and environment is assured;

(d) Landfills that accept hazardous wastes for disposal - The Department shall, after due review and public consultation, promulgate regulations concerning the prohibition of specified hazardous wastes in landfills: *Provided*, That the placement of such specified hazardous wastes in landfills may be allowed upon determination by the Department that the prohibition for disposal of such waste in landfills is not required in order to protect human health and the environment for as long as the waste remains hazardous, taking into account the following factors:

- (1) The long-term uncertainties associated with land disposal;
- (2) The goal of managing hazardous wastes in an appropriate manner in the first instance;
- and
- (3) The persistence, toxicity, mobility and propensity to bioaccumulate such hazardous wastes and their hazardous constituents.

For this purpose, disposal of hazardous wastes in landfills is deemed to be protective of human health and the environment if it is determined that there will be no migration of hazardous constituents of the wastes from the disposal unit or injection zone: *Provided, however*, That the disposal of any liquid in landfills shall be prohibited *Provided, further*, That the disposal in landfills of wastes containing hazardous solvents, pesticides and polycyclic hydrocarbons such as, among others, furans and dioxins, as determined by the Department, after public consultation, is prohibited unless the Department determines the prohibition of the disposal of such waste is not required in order to protect human health and the environment for as long as the waste remains hazardous, taking into account the factors referred to in subparagraphs (1) to (3) of this category.

Within six (6) months from the preparation of the status report, the Department shall review, classify and rank, subject to public consultations, all hazardous wastes listed pursuant to this Act, other than those wastes which are referred to in subparagraph (3) of this category or deep injection wells. Within twelve (12) months thereafter, the Department, when necessary, shall promulgate regulations prohibiting disposal in landfills of such hazardous wastes listed and ranked: *Provided*, That the Department shall promptly publish in a newspaper of general circulation notice of such determination, together with an explanation of the basis for such determination: *Provided, further*, That the storage of hazardous and radioactive wastes in landfills is hereby prohibited;

(e) Facilities that recycle or reprocess hazardous wastes which are not generated or produced at the premises - The Department, in coordination with the DOST, shall promulgate standards for this category of the TSDF. Facilities in this category are those that receive off-site treatment of hazardous wastes and recover valuable materials from the hazardous wastes, use hazardous wastes as input materials or fuel for production, or produce compost by biological treatment of hazardous wastes. These also include, but are not limited to, reclaimers of spent lead-acid batteries, precious metals and oil recyclers;

(f) Other off-site treatment facilities - Facilities in this category are those facilities that receive hazardous wastes outside the premises and transform physical and/or chemical characteristics of the hazardous wastes by physicochemical or thermal treatment other than incineration or in order to dispose of them into landfills;

(g) Facilities that store hazardous and radioactive wastes which are not generated or produced at the premises within allowable period. The storage of any hazardous and radioactive waste is prohibited, unless such storage is solely for the purpose of the accumulation of such quantities of hazardous wastes as are necessary to facilitate proper recovery, treatment or disposal but shall not be longer than is prescribed by the Department; and

(h) Other land disposal facilities - Facilities under this category shall include, among others, deep injection wells, borehole facilities, near surface facilities, mined cavities, surface impoundments, land treatment units/land farming and abandoned underground mines.

SEC. 14. Closure Plan. - The owner of TSDFs shall submit a closure plan, including the funds and human resources necessary for the same, subject to the review and approval of the Department.

1 SEC. 15. *Post-closure of Facility.* - The owner of a TSDF must close the facility upon
2 termination of its operation and shall, after such closure, provide for protection during a post-
3 closure care period, in accordance with the requirements of the Department and the closure plan,
4 including the funds and human resources necessary for the same. The protection shall include, but
5 shall not be limited to, monitoring, repair and maintenance. The owner shall maintain a hazardous
6 waste facility permit for the post-closure care period pursuant to Chapter VI hereof.

7
8 SEC. 16. *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System.* - Prior to the establishment of TSDFs,
9 all government agencies and private corporations, firms and entities which intend to set up TSDFs
10 shall be subject to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System pursuant to the provisions of
11 Presidential Decree No. 1586 and its implementing rules and regulations.

12
13 SEC. 17. *Formulation of Soil Quality Standard for Identification of Contaminated Sites.* - Within six (6)
14 months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department in coordination with other relevant
15 government agencies, shall formulate soil quality standards which shall be used to determine
16 contaminated sites.

17
18 SEC. 18. *Registry of Contaminated Sites.* - The Department shall maintain a registry of
19 confirmed contaminated sites in the country based on the soil quality standards set pursuant to
20 Section 17 hereof: *Provided,* That the Department shall take all necessary action to ensure that the
21 registry provides a complete listing of all such sites, their exact location and the types of waste found
22 at each site: *Provided, further,* That in developing and maintaining the registry, the Department shall
23 assess, based upon new information received, the relative priority of the need for action at each site
24 to remedy environmental and health problems resulting from the presence of hazardous and
25 radioactive wastes at such sites: *Provided, finally,* That any site classified as properly closed or
26 remediated where no evidence of present or potential adverse impact exists shall be deleted from the
27 registry.

28
29 SEC. 19. *Import and Export of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes.* - In accordance with Section
30 2(c) hereof, the Department and the PNRI shall promulgate rules and regulations on the import and
31 export of hazardous and radioactive wastes consistent with relevant multilateral international
32 agreements and protocols.

33
34 ~

35 SEC. 20. *Market-based Instruments, Responsible Care and Product Stewardship Program.* - Within six
36 (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the manufacturers
37 of commercial or industrial products, shall identify and implement market-based instruments,
38 extended producer responsibility, responsible care, products stewardship programs that shall
39 promote cleaner production, waste minimization and resource recovery: *Provided,* That the
40 Department shall identify and list products that shall be covered by such programs.

41 42 CHAPTER III 43 RADIOACTIVE WASTES 44

45 SEC. 21. *Listing of Radioactive Wastes.* - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act,
46 the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - PNRI, in coordination with the Department,
47 after public consultation, shall formulate and publish the criteria for identifying and listing the types
48 of radioactive wastes to be monitored and regulated.

49
50 SEC. 22. *Classification of Radioactive Wastes.* - The PNRI shall establish the waste classification
51 system based on internationally-acceptable guidelines. The classification system shall be based
52 primarily on the safety aspects of radioactive wastes disposal: *Provided,* That other stages of
53 radioactive wastes management may also be developed by the PNRI
54

1 SEC. 23. *Management of Radioactive Wastes.* - Pursuant to Sections 10, 11 and 12 hereof, the
2 PNRI shall promulgate rules and regulations on radioactive wastes management. Said rules and
3 regulations shall be based on the best available technique to limit the outflow of radioactive
4 substances to the environment, taking into account the benefits as well as the cost of the technique.
5 The technique shall be both technically and economically feasible: *Provided,* That said rules and
6 regulations may be based on, but not be limited to, the following methods of managing radioactive
7 wastes:

8 (a) Dilute and Disperse - Radioactive waste with activity level that can be disposed of as
9 ordinary waste into the sewage, municipal landfills, etc.

10 (b) Delay and Decay - Short-lived radionuclides by storing under well controlled conditions
11 until the radioactivity has decayed to a level which meets the established exemption or clearance
12 limits for such waste.

13 (c) Characterization, Segregation, Treatment, Conditioning, Transport, Storage, Disposal -
14 Methods for managing radioactive wastes containing longlived radio nuclides, including disused
15 sealed sources and other wastes that cannot be managed under subsections (a) and (b) of this
16 section: *Provided,* That the acceptable storage period for conditioned wastes prior to the
17 establishment of a final disposal repository shall be for a maximum period of fifty (50) years.

18
19 SEC. 24. *Guidelines for the Acceptance of Radioactive Wastes by Transporters and TSDFs.* - Within six
20 (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the PNRI shall formulate specific, relevant and
21 appropriate waste acceptance criteria for transporters and TSDFs of radioactive wastes: *Provided,*
22 That no radioactive waste shall be accepted unless it complies with the waste acceptance criteria
23 formulated pursuant hereof.

24
25 SEC. 25. *Site Requirements and Selection Criteria.* - The PNRI shall develop and promulgate
26 generic site requirements for locating a final repository for radioactive wastes.

27
28 SEC. 26. *Safety Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)* - The PNRI shall develop
29 and promulgate criteria and regulations on the performance requirements and safety assessment of
30 the TSDF: *Provided,* That the safety assessment shall, among others, address both radiological and
31 nonradiological risks: *Provided, further,* That non-radiological EIA shall be carried out in accordance
32 with relevant environmental laws.

33
34 SEC. 27. *Emergency Preparedness.* - The PNRI shall promulgate requirements and guidance on
35 the formulation of emergency plans commensurate to the seriousness of the accidents that could
36 occur at the TSDFs.

37
38 SEC. 28. *Security.* - The PNRI shall promulgate guidelines on security arrangements that
39 should be in place to ensure that radioactive waste is not accidentally or deliberately removed from
40 their proper location without location. Particular attention shall be given to materials of intrinsic
41 value that could pose a serious threat to human health and the environment if control were lost.

42 43 CHAPTER IV 44 HAZARDOUS HEALTHCARE WASTES 45

46 SEC. 29. *Listing of Hazardous Healthcare Wastes* - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of
47 this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the Department and the DILG, after public consultation,
48 shall formulate criteria for identifying and listing the categories of hazardous healthcare wastes to be
49 tracked and regulated. In the formulation of such criteria, the DOH shall take into account, but not
50 be limited to, presence of infectious agents, toxicity, reactivity, ignitability and corrosivity

51
52 SEC. 30. *Management of Hazardous Healthcare Wastes in Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities.* -
53 Pursuant to Sections 10, 11 and 12 hereof, the DOH shall promulgate rules and regulations on the
54 effective management of hazardous healthcare wastes in hospitals and other healthcare facilities.
55 Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Hospitals and other healthcare facilities shall practice or implement waste minimization and segregation;

(b) Segregation at 'source shall be the responsibility of the waste generator;

(c) Appropriate storage receptacles or bins shall be provided for each healthcare waste category;

(d) Labeling of receptacle per waste category shall likewise be implemented for identification of waste and management measures in case of accidents;

(e) All hazardous healthcare wastes shall be collected and stored in designated on-site storage areas until transported to a TSDF;

(f) Treatment of hazardous healthcare wastes on-site shall be done through appropriate treatment methods;

(g) Upon the approval of the Department, healthcare facilities with capacity to manage hazardous healthcare wastes on-site may also treat for a fee the hazardous healthcare wastes generated by other healthcare facilities: *Provided*, That in case of treatment of radioactive healthcare wastes, approval of the PNRI shall be secured;

(h) For hazardous healthcare liquid waste, all healthcare facilities shall provide wastewater treatment facilities and comply with the effluent standards set by the DENR. Treatment and disposal of sludge shall conform to the provisions of this Act; and

(i) To ensure the proper management of hazardous healthcare wastes, a committee on hazardous healthcare wastes management may be created in all healthcare facilities: *Provided*, That in all level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4 hospitals, the creation of a committee on hazardous healthcare wastes management shall be mandatory. The committee shall also develop an emergency plan to ensure an immediate and appropriate action once an emergency occurs. For other healthcare establishments, a hazardous healthcare waste management officer shall be designated.

CHAPTER V SPECIAL HAZARDOUS WASTES

SEC. 31. *Collection of Special Hazardous Wastes.* - Local government units (LGUs) shall be responsible for the collection of special hazardous wastes, as listed by the Department in accordance with Section 5 hereof, from persons and households: *Provided*, That the LGUs may enter into agreement with entities duly accredited by the Department for the collection of special hazardous wastes.

SEC. 32. *Responsible Care Program for Special Hazardous Wastes.* - The LGUs shall enact appropriate ordinances implementing responsible care, extended producer responsibility or product stewardship program that shall include, but shall not be limited to, take back or return to supplier schemes, that shall promote cleaner production, waste minimization and resource recovery.

SEC. 33. *Transport, Treatment, Storage and Disposal of Special Hazardous Wastes.* - Upon collection of hazardous special wastes by LGUs pursuant to Section 31 hereof, the transport, treatment, storage and disposal of special hazardous wastes shall be regulated in accordance with this Act.

CHAPTER VI INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

SEC.34. *Lead Agency.* - The Department shall be the lead government agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this Act, including in Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) areas, special economic zones and freeports, unless otherwise provided herein. As such, it shall have the following functions, powers and responsibilities:

(a) Prepare a National Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Report;

(b) Prepare a National Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management Framework;

(c) Develop and promulgate criteria for identifying and listing the characteristics of hazardous and radioactive wastes;

(d) Establish, enforce, review and revise standards for generators of hazardous and radioactive wastes;

(e) Establish, enforce, review and revise standards for transporters of hazardous and radioactive wastes;

(f) Establish, enforce, review and revise standards applicable to owners and operators of facilities for the treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous and radioactive wastes;

(g) Exercise jurisdiction over all aspects of generation, possession, collection, destruction, recovery, use, storage, transportation, entry into, even in transit, treatment and disposal of hazardous and radioactive wastes;

(h) Evaluate applications for and issue permits and licenses pursuant to this Act;

(i) Revoke, modify or deny in accordance with the standards, rules and regulations, hazardous waste transporter licenses, TSDFs permits and other permits/licenses issued in accordance with this Act;

(j) Establish a cooperative effort among the national government, LGUs, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector to attain the objectives of this Act;

(k) Develop and implement programs to achieve goals and objectives set under this Act;

(l) Accept, receive and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public and private agencies for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act. Funds received by the Department pursuant to this section shall accrue to the Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management Fund;

(m) Secure necessary scientific, technical, including laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise;

(n) Encourage, coordinate, participate in or conduct studies, investigations, research and technical demonstrations relating to hazardous and radioactive wastes management as it may deem advisable and necessary for the discharge of its duties pursuant to this Act;

(o) Encourage waste reduction, resource recovery, exchange and energy conservation in hazardous and radioactive wastes management;

(p) Oversee any corrective action work undertaken pursuant to rules and regulations issued in accordance with this Act;

(q) Formulate and undertake appropriate protocol with other concerned agencies for immediate coordinated responses to hazardous and radioactive waste-related emergency incidents;

(r) Issue order against any person or entity and impose fines, penalties and other administrative sanctions to compel compliance with the provisions hereof, standards, rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act; and

(s) Exercise such powers and perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 35. *Role of the DOH.* - The DOH shall be primarily responsible in performing the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Develop, promulgate and publish criteria in identifying and listing the categories of hazardous healthcare wastes to be monitored and regulated;

(b) Develop and promulgate rules and regulations on the effective management of hazardous healthcare wastes in hospitals and other healthcare facilities; and

(c) Exercise such powers and perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 36. *Role of the PNRI.* - The PNRI shall be primarily responsible in performing the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Develop and promulgate regulations establishing a program for the monitoring of the radioactive wastes listed pursuant to this Act;

(b) Develop, promulgate and publish criteria for identifying and listing the types of radioactive wastes to be monitored and regulated;

(c) Develop and promulgate rules and regulations on the radioactive wastes management pursuant to Section 23 hereof;

(d) Formulate specific, relevant and appropriate waste acceptance criteria for transporters and TSDFs of radioactive wastes pursuant to Section 24 hereof;

(e) Exercise jurisdiction over all aspects of generation, possession, collection, recovery, transport, entry, even in transit, into Philippine territory, treatment, storage and disposal of radioactive wastes; and

(f) Exercise such powers and perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 37. *Role of local Government Units (LGUs).* - Local government units shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Share the responsibility for the implementation, enforcement and monitoring of the provisions of this Act within their territorial jurisdictions such as the registration and compliance monitoring of generators, transports and TSDFs;

(b) Prepare a compliance scheme in accordance with their special hazardous wastes management program;

(c) Segregation and collection of special hazardous wastes;

(d) Emergency preparedness and response;

(e) Participate in all efforts concerning hazardous and radioactive wastes management; and

(f) Enact appropriate ordinances to implement LGU's role in this Act.

SEC. 38. *The Interagency Technical Advisory Council (IATAC).* - For purposes of policy integration and harmonization and coordination of functions, there is hereby created an IATAC attached to the Department which shall be composed of the following officials or their duly authorized representatives:

Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, as chairperson;

Secretary of Health, as co-chairperson;

Secretary of Science and Technology, as co-chairperson;

Secretary of Agriculture;

Secretary of Finance;

Secretary of Trade and Industry;

Secretary of National Defense;

Secretary of Foreign Affairs;

Secretary of Transportation and Communications;

President of league of cities;

President of league of municipalities;

President of league of provinces;

President of league of barangays;

Director General of the Philippine Export Zone Authority;

Representative from civil society;

Representative from the industry;

Representative from the TSDF operators; and

Representative from the academe, as members.

The IATAC shall have the following functions, among others:

(a) Develop and promulgate criteria in assessing the proposed BAT/BEP to be used in accordance with Section 9 hereof; and

(b) Constitute and authorize a multidisciplinary body to conduct annual audit to determine compliance of the TSDF operators with the terms and conditions in the permits and licenses issued pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 39. *The IATAC Technical Working Group.* - The IATAC shall be supported by a technical working group (TWG) which shall be composed of representatives of the following:

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department;

Environmental and Occupational Health Office of the DOH;

Philippine Nuclear Research Institute of the DOST;

1 Industrial Technology Development Institute of the DOST;
2 Bureau of Health Facilities and Services of the DOH;
3 Bureau of Soil and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
4 Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority of the DA;
5 Bureau of Customs of the Department of Finance;
6 Bureau of International Trade Relations of the DTI;
7 Board of Investments of the UTI;
8 Bureau of Import Services of the DTI;
9 Department of National Defense;
10 Land Transportation Office of the DOTC;
11 Occupational Health and Safety Center of the Department of Labor and Employment;
12 Philippine Coast Guard;
13 Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs);
14 Industry; and the Academe.

15
16 The TWG shall provide technical support to the IATAC.

17
18 SEC. 40. *Linkage Mechanism.* - The Department and its concerned agencies may coordinate
19 and enter into agreement with other government agencies, civil society, industrial sector and other
20 concerned sectors in the furtherance of the policies of this Act: *Provided,* That the Department shall
21 coordinate with the DILG and the Philippine National Police in the enforcement of the
22 requirements for transporters issued pursuant to this Act.

23
24 SEC. 41. *Visitorial Powers.* - The Department, the PNRI and the DOH or their duly authorized
25 representatives shall have access to, and the right to copy therefrom, the records required to be
26 maintained pursuant to the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of the Department and the DOH
27 and the Director of the PNRI or their authorized representatives shall likewise have the right to
28 enter the premises of any generator, transporter or TSDF any time to question any employee or
29 investigate any fact, condition or matter which may be necessary to determine any violation, or
30 which may aid in the effective enforcement of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.
31 This section shall not apply to private dwelling places unless the visitorial power is otherwise
32 judicially authorized.

33 34 CHAPTER VII 35 PERMITS AND FEES 36

37 SEC. 42. *Permits for Treatment, Storage or Disposal of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes.* - (a)
38 issuance of Permit - Any person owning an existing or a new TSDF of hazardous or radioactive
39 wastes identified or listed pursuant to this Act is required to secure a permit or license pursuant to
40 this section. The Department and the PNRI shall prescribe reasonable fees for the issuance of said
41 permit or license.

42 (b) Duration of Permit - Any permit under this section shall be issued annually during the
43 first three (3) years of operation as a TSDF. Thereafter, the Department and the PNRI may issue a
44 permit or license which is valid for five (5) years to a TSDF who has satisfactorily complied with the
45 rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act for three (3) consecutive years: *Provided,* That an
46 annual audit shall be conducted by a multidisciplinary body constituted and authorized by the
47 IATAC created pursuant hereof

48 (c) Permit Modification, Suspension and Revocation - The Department and the PNRI shall
49 modify, suspend and revoke such permit upon a determination of noncompliance by a TSDF with
50 the relevant provisions of this Act or the terms and conditions of the permit,

51 (d) Interim Status - Any person who owns a TSDF in existence prior to this Act which is
52 required to have a permit under this section shall be treated as having been issued such permit for a
53 period of twelve (12) months after the effectivity of this Act: *Provided,* That the required application
54 for a TSDF permit or license shall have been filed within the said twelve (12)-month period: *Provided,*

1 further, That this paragraph shall not apply to any facility which has been previously denied a TSDF
2 permit or license or if authority to operate the facility has been previously terminated.

3
4 SEC. 43. *Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Transporter License.* -

5 (a) Any person transporting any hazardous and radioactive waste is required to secure a
6 waste transporter license from the Department, subject to the payment of a reasonable fee.

7 (b) Duration of License - A waste transporter license issued under this section shall be valid
8 for a period of one (1) year

9 (c) License Modification, Suspension and Revocation - The Department and the PNRI shall
10 modify, suspend and revoke such license upon a determination of noncompliance by a transporter
11 with the relevant provisions of this Act or the terms and conditions of the permit. A license is not
12 required for the transport of any hazardous or radioactive waste on the premises where it is
13 generated or onto a property owned by the generator thereof located within a one (1)-kilometer
14 radius from said premises or within the same industrial estate: *Provided*, That the Department is
15 notified in writing prior to the transfer and a week after the transfer has been completed. Nothing in
16 this section shall be interpreted to preclude the Department and the PNRI from inspecting
17 unlicensed hazardous waste transporting equipment and to require that it be adequate to provide
18 protection for the health of humans and the environment.

19
20 SEC. 44. *Hazardous Wastes Disposal Fee.* - All hazardous wastes disposal facilities shall collect,
21 on behalf of the government, from each hazardous waste generator or transporter disposing such
22 wastes at the disposal site, a fee that shall accrue to the hazardous wastes management fund. The fee
23 shall be established by the Department, taking into consideration the following:

24 (a) To provide strong economic inducement for generators to modify their production or
25 management processes;

26 (b) To cover the cost of administering hazardous and radioactive wastes management;

27 (c) Reflect damages caused by hazardous and radioactive wastes on the surrounding
28 environment, including the cost of rehabilitation;

29 (d) Category of wastes; and

30 (e) Classification of wastes.

31
32 The fee, which shall be established after due public consultation, shall be based on the
33 quantity of wastes disposed.

34
35 CHAPTER VIII
36 FINANCING HAZARDOUS WASTES MANAGEMENT

37
38 SEC. 45. *Financial Liability for Environmental Rehabilitation.* - The Department shall require
39 generators and owners of TSDFs to put up Environmental Guarantee Fund (EGF) as part of the
40 Environmental Management Plan attached to the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC),
41 pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1586 and its implementing rules and regulations. The EGF shall
42 finance the needs of emergency response, clean up or rehabilitation of areas that may be damaged
43 during the generation, transport, treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous and radioactive wastes.
44 Liability for damages shall continue even after the termination of the project and until the lapse of a
45 given period indicated in the ECC, as determined by the Department. The EGF may be in the form
46 of a trust fund, environmental insurance, surety bonds, letters of credit, self-insurance and any other
47 instrument which may be identified by the Department. The choice of the guarantee instrument or
48 combinations thereof shall depend, among others, on the assessment of the risks involved.
49 Proponents required to put up guarantee instruments shall furnish the Department with evidence of
50 availment of such instruments.

51
52 SEC. 46. *Performance Bond.* -Prior to issuance of the required permit to operate, the
53 Department shall require transporters, owners of treatment and storage facilities to post
54 performance bond. The performance bond shall be forfeited in the event of abandonment of sites
55 and/or nonperformance of post-closure requirements issued pursuant to Section 15 hereof:

1 Provided, That this provision shall not apply to State-owned treatment and storage facilities and to
2 recyclers identified and listed as such, pursuant to this Act.

3 4 CHAPTER IX 5 INCENTIVES 6

7 SEC. 47. *Rewards.* - Rewards, monetary or otherwise, shall be provided to individuals, private
8 organizations and entities, including NGOs that have undertaken outstanding and innovative
9 projects, technologies, processes and techniques or activities in hazardous and radioactive wastes
10 management. Said rewards shall be sourced from the Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes
11 Management Fund herein created.

12
13 SEC. 48. *Incentives Scheme.* - An incentive scheme is hereby provided for the purpose of
14 encouraging enterprises, private entities, LGUs and NGOs to develop or undertake an effective
15 hazardous and radioactive wastes management, or actively participate in any program geared towards
16 the promotion thereof, consistent with the objectives of this Act.

17 (a) Tax and Duty Exemption on Imported Capital Equipment and Vehicles - Within five (5)
18 years upon the effectivity of this Act, registered enterprises, LGUs and NGOs shall enjoy tax- and
19 duty-free importation of machinery, equipment, technology and spare parts used for the processing,
20 storage and treatment of hazardous and radioactive wastes, including cleaner production and waste
21 minimization technologies: *Provided*, That the importation of such machinery, equipment, technology
22 and spare parts shall comply with the following conditions:

23 (1) They are not manufactured domestically in sufficient quantity, of comparable quality and
24 at reasonable prices;

25 (2) They are reasonably needed and will be used actually, directly and exclusively, for the
26 abovementioned activities; and

27 (3) There is an approval from the Board of Investment (BOI) of the DTI for the
28 importation of such machinery, equipment, technology and spare parts: *Provided, further*, That the
29 sale, transfer or disposition of such machinery, equipment, technology and spare parts, without prior
30 approval of the BOI, within five (5) years from the date of acquisition shall be prohibited; otherwise,
31 the registered enterprise, LGU or NGO concerned and the buyer, transferee or assignee shall be
32 solidarily liable to pay twice the amount of tax and duty exemption given it.

33 (b) Tax Exemption on the Sale of Domestic Capital Equipment - Within five (5) years from
34 the effectivity of this Act, the sale of domestic capital equipment, including its spare parts to
35 registered enterprises, LGUs and NGOs to be used for the processing, storage and treatment of
36 hazardous and radioactive wastes, shall be exempted from any applicable taxes imposed under the
37 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended *Provided*, That said incentive shall be subject to
38 the same conditions and prohibition cited in the preceding paragraph.

39 (c) Tax Exemption of Donations, Legacies and Gifts - All donations, gifts and legacies made
40 by any person or entity in favor of the registered enterprises, LGUs and NGOs, for the support and
41 maintenance of the program for effective hazardous and radioactive wastes management, shall be
42 exempt from donor's tax and such amount of donations shall be deductible from the gross income
43 of the donor pursuant to Section 34, paragraph (H) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997,
44 as amended.

45 (d) Financial Assistance Program - Government financial institutions such as the
46 Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP), the
47 Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and such other government institutions providing
48 financial services shall, in accordance with and to the extent allowed by the enabling provisions of
49 their respective charters or applicable laws, accord high priority to extend financial services to
50 individuals, enterprises or private entities engaged in hazardous, radioactive, medical and hazardous
51 special wastes management.

52 (e) Extension of Grants to LGUs - Cities or municipalities whose special hazardous wastes
53 management programs have been duly accredited by the Department or have adopted innovative
54 wastes management programs may be entitled to receive grants for the purpose of developing their

1 technical capacities toward actively participating in the program for effective and sustainable wastes
2 management.

3 (f) Incentives to Host LGUs - LGUs which host common hazardous and radioactive wastes
4 management facilities shall be entitled to incentives as provided for under this Act.

5 (g) Tax Exemption on Hazardous Wastes Generated Within PEZA Areas, Freeports and
6 Other Special Ecozones - Hazardous waste materials generated within *PEZA* areas, Freeports and
7 other special ecozones shall be allowed to be brought to the Philippine customs territory for the sole
8 intention of recycling and treatment, and shall be exempted from payment of any tax due on said
9 hazardous wastes: Provided, That said recyclable hazardous waste materials are identified and listed
10 in accordance with Section 5 of this Act.

11
12 CHAPTER X
13 CIVIL LIABILITY AND PENAL PROVISIONS
14

15 SEC. 49. Generator's Liability. - The generator is. Primarily responsible for the management
16 of hazardous and radioactive wastes until said waste has been certified as properly treated or
17 disposed by duly accredited TSDFs: Provided. That wastes that are exported outside of the country
18 and treated and disclosed in accordance with international agreements, the TSDFs in the country of
19 destination shall issue the certificate of treatment and disposal. All other environmental service
20 providers involved in the transport, treatment, storage and disposal of said waste shall be jointly and
21 severally liable with the generator in the event of any adverse environmental impacts due to the
22 improper management of the waste.

23
24 SEC. 50. Prohibited Acts. -The following acts are prohibited (a) Discarding, throwing or
25 dumping of hazardous or radioactive wastes, as listed pursuant to this Act in public places, such as
26 roads, sidewalks, canals, esteros, parks, establishments and municipal solid waste facilities, or causing
27 or permitting the same;

28 (b) Undertaking activities involving the collection or transport of hazardous or radioactive
29 wastes in violation of the standards and other requirements or permits set forth in this Act;

30 (c) Causing or permitting the collection of non-segregated or unsorted hazardous wastes;

31 (d) Operating TSDFs without permits issued pursuant to this Act;

32 (e) Transporting hazardous or radioactive wastes without the required permit or license
33 pursuant to this Act;

34 (f) The mixing of source-separated recyclable material with other hazardous wastes in any
35 vehicle, box, container or receptacle used in hazardous or radioactive wastes collection or disposal;

36 (g) Disposal of hazardous or radioactive wastes in open and controlled dumps as enjoined in
37 this Act, or causing and permitting the same;

38 (h) Establishment and operation of open and controlled dumps for hazardous and
39 radioactive wastes;

40 (i) Transporting and dumping of collected hazardous or radioactive wastes in areas other
41 than facilities prescribed under this Act;

42 (j) Open burning of hazardous or radioactive wastes;

43 (k) Transporting any hazardous or radioactive wastes to a TSDF which is not authorized to
44 receive such waste pursuant to this Act;

45 (l) Treating, storing or disposing of any hazardous or radioactive waste either: (1) without
46 permit or license to do so pursuant hereof; or (2) in knowing violation of any material condition or
47 requirement of such permit or license; or (3) in violation of any standard promulgated pursuant to
48 this Act;

49 (m) Making any false material statement, representation or certification in any application,
50 label, permit, record, report, manifest or other document filed, maintained or required to be
51 maintained under this Act;

52 (n) Falsifying, tampering with or rendering inaccurate any monitoring device or result
53 therefrom used, filed, maintained or required to be maintained under this Act;

(o) Generating, treating, storing, transporting, disposing of or handling any hazardous or radioactive waste, and who, in connection therewith, knowingly destroying, altering or concealing any record required to be maintained pursuant to this Act;

(p) Owning, maintaining or operating any hazardous or radioactive waste disposal facility in a manner which permits any acts or hazardous waste management practices in violation of standards or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act;

(q) Failing to notify the Department, the DOH and the PNRI of hazardous or radioactive wastes activities pursuant to Section 6 hereof

(r) Importing or causing or permitting the entry, even in transit, into Philippine territory in violation of the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations, and relevant international agreements and protocols;

(s) Constructing, substantially altering or operating, including all postclosure activities and operations specified in the rules and regulations, a hazardous or radioactive waste TSDF without first obtaining a permit as specified in this Act; and

(t) Site preparation, construction, expansion or operation of TSDFs without an ECC required pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1586 and this Act.

For purposes of this provision, the term "hazardous wastes" shall include special hazardous and healthcare wastes.

SEC. 51. *Fines, Damages and Penalties.* - Unless otherwise provided herein, any person who commits any of the prohibited acts provided in the immediately preceding section or violates any of the provisions of this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be fined by the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) in the amount not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) for every violation: *Provided,* That for violation of Section 52 involving prohibited acts under paragraphs (a), (g), (h), (i), (l), (p), (s) and (t) of the immediately preceding section, the fine shall be imposed for every day of violation.

For purposes of the application of the fines, the PAB, within one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, shall establish a fine rating system to adjust the maximum fine based on the violator's ability to pay, degree of willfulness, degree of negligence, degree of severity of the offense, history of noncompliance and degree of recalcitrance.

The fines herein prescribed shall be reviewed and revised, whenever necessary, every three (3) years to compensate for inflation and to maintain the deterrent function of such fines: *Provided,* That the PAB may order the closure, suspension of development or construction, or cessation of operations until such time that proper environmental safeguards are put in place and/or compliance with this Act or its rules and regulations are undertaken. This paragraph shall be without prejudice to the issuance of an *ex parte* order for such closure, suspension of development or construction, or cessation of operations during the pendency of the case: *Provided, further,* That if the prohibited act undertaken shall require cleanup and rehabilitation, the offender shall also be required to restore or compensate for the restoration of the area.

The PAB may also award such damages as it may deem just under the circumstances in favor of the private complainant in the case.

In case of gross violation of this Act, the PAB shall issue a resolution recommending that the proper government agencies file criminal charges against the violators. Gross violation shall mean any of the following:

(a) Deliberate disposal of hazardous or radioactive wastes without the required permit issued pursuant to this Act;

(b) Three (3) or more violations referred to in paragraphs (a), (d), (g), (k), (l) and (m) of Section 50 hereof within a period of two (2) years; or (c) Blatant disregard of the orders of the PAB, such as the nonpayment of fines, breaking of seals or operation of the source of pollution despite the existence of an order for closure, discontinuance or cessation of operation, or unjustified refusal for the entry or access to any premises of an authorized Department representative. In which case,

1 offenders shall be punished a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but
2 not more than Three million pesos (P3,000,000.00) and/or with imprisonment of not less than three
3 (3) years but not more than ten (10) years, at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a juridical
4 person, the chief executive officer and the pollution control officer or its equivalent shall suffer the
5 penalty herein provided *Provided*, That the officers and incorporators of the TSDFs who violated the
6 post-closure requirements issued pursuant to Section 15 hereof shall be banned from setting up
7 TSDFs and hazardous and radioactive waste transport companies and engaging in the operation of
8 the same.

9
10 If the offender is an alien, he or she shall, after service of the sentence prescribed above, be
11 deported without further administrative proceedings.

12
13 The fines herein prescribed shall be reviewed and revised, whenever necessary, every three
14 (3) years to compensate for inflation and to maintain the deterrent function of such fines.

15
16 SEC. 52. *Administrative Sanctions.* - Local government officials and officials of government
17 agencies concerned who fail to comply with and enforce rules and regulations promulgated relative
18 to this Act shall be charged administratively in accordance with Republic Act No. 7160 and other
19 existing laws, rules and regulations.

20
21 SEC. 53. *Administrative Action.* - Without prejudice to the right of any affected person to file
22 an administrative action, the Department, the DOH and the PNRI shall, on its own instance or
23 upon verified complaint by any person, institute administrative and civil proceedings against any
24 person who violates:

- 25 (a) Standards or limitations provided under this Act; or
26 (b) Any order, rule or regulation issued by the Department, the DOH or the PNRI with
27 respect to such standard or limitation.

28
29 SEC. 54. *Citizen suits.* - For purposes of enforcing the provisions of this Act or its
30 implementing rules and regulations, any citizen may file an appropriate civil, criminal or
31 administrative action in the proper courts or bodies against the following:

- 32 (a) Any person who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this Act or its
33 implementing rules and regulations; or (b) The Department or other implementing agencies with
34 respect to orders, rules and regulations issued inconsistent with this Act; or

- 35 (c) Any public officer who willfully or grossly neglects the performance of an act specifically
36 enjoined as a duty by this Act or its implementing rules and regulations; or abuses his authority in
37 the performance of his duty; or, in any manner, improperly performs his duties under this Act or its
38 implementing rules and regulations: *Provided, however*, That no suit can be filed until after a thirty (30)-
39 day notice has been given to the public officer and the alleged violator concerned and no
40 appropriate action has been taken thereon.

41
42 The court shall exempt such action from the payment of filing fees, except fees for actions
43 not capable of pecuniary estimations, and shall, likewise, upon *prima facie* showing of the non-
44 enforcement or violation complained of, exempt the plaintiff from the filing of an injunction bond
45 for the issuance of a preliminary injunction.

46
47 Within thirty (30) days, the court shall *make* a determination if the complaint herein is
48 malicious and/or baseless and shall accordingly dismiss the action and award attorney's fees and
49 damages.

50
51 SEC. 55. *Suits and Strategic Legal Action Against Public Participation (SLAPP) and the Enforcement*
52 *of this Act.* - Where a suit is brought against a person who filed an action as provided for in Section
53 54 of this Act, or against any person, institution or government agency that implements this Act, it
54 shall be the duty of the investigating prosecutor or the court, as the case may be, to immediately
55 make a determination not exceeding thirty (30) days whether said legal action has been filed to

1 harass, vex, exert undue pressure or stifle such legal recourses of the person complaining of or
2 enforcing the provisions of this Act. Upon determination thereof, evidence warranting the same, the
3 court shall dismiss the case and award attorney's fees and double damages. This provision shall also
4 apply and benefit public officers who are sued for acts committed in their official capacity, there
5 being no grave abuse of authority, and done in the course of enforcing this Act.

6
7 CHAPTER XI
8 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
9

10 SEC. 56. *Mandatory Public Hearings.* - Mandatory public hearings for the Framework shall be
11 undertaken in accordance with the process to be formulated by the Department.
12

13 SEC. 51. *Research on Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes Management* - The Department, after
14 consultations with the cooperating agencies, shall encourage, cooperate with and render financial
15 and other assistance to appropriate government and private agencies, institutions and individuals in
16 the conduct and promotion of researches, experiments and other studies on hazardous and
17 radioactive wastes management, particularly those relating to:

- 18 (a) adverse health welfare effects of the release into the environment of hazardous and
19 radioactive wastes, and methods to eliminate said effects or minimize the health risks;
20 (b) the operation and financing of hazardous and radioactive wastes disposal programs;
21 (c) the planning, implementation and operation of resource recovery and resource
22 conservation systems;
23 (d) the production of usable forms of recovered resources, including fuel from hazardous
24 wastes;
25 (e) the development and application of new and improved methods of collecting, separating
26 and disposing of hazardous and radioactive wastes and processing and recovering materials and
27 energy from hazardous and radioactive wastes;
28 (f) cleaner production technologies;
29 (g) improvements in land disposal practices for hazardous and radioactive wastes; and
30 (h) development of new uses of recovered resources and identification of existing or
31 potential markets of recovered resources.
32

33 In carrying out hazardous and radioactive waste researches and studies, the Department, the
34 DOH and the PNRI or their authorized representatives may award grants or enter into contracts
35 with government agencies, NGOs and private persons.
36

37 SEC. 58. *Public Education and Information.* - The Department, the PNRI and the DOH, in
38 coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills
39 Development Authority (TESDA), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the DILG, the
40 Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and the LGUs, shall conduct a continuing education and
41 information campaign on hazardous and radioactive wastes management. Such education and
42 information program shall:

- 43 (a) Aim to develop public awareness of the impacts of hazardous and radioactive wastes and
44 how to prevent or minimize their adverse effects;
45 (b) Concentrate on activities which are feasible and which will have the greatest impact on
46 hazardous and radioactive wastes management; and
47 (c) Encourage the general public, accredited NGOs and POs to publicly endorse and
48 patronize environment-friendly products.
49

50 SEC. 59. *Environmental Education in the Formal and Non-formal Sectors.* - The national
51 government, through the DepEd and in coordination with concerned government agencies, NGOs
52 and private institutions, shall strengthen the integration of environmental concerns in school
53 curricula at all levels, with particular emphasis on hazardous and radioactive wastes management
54 principles in order to promote environmental awareness and action among the citizenry.
55

1 SEC. 60. *Business and Industry Role.* - The Department, the DOH and the PNRI shall
2 encourage commercial and industrial establishments, through appropriate incentives other than tax
3 incentives, to initiate, participate and invest in integrated hazardous and radioactive wastes
4 management projects; to manufacture environment-friendly products; to introduce, develop and
5 adopt innovative processes that shall recycle and reuse materials, conserve raw materials and energy,
6 reduce waste and prevent pollution; and to undertake community activities to promote and
7 propagate effective hazardous and radioactive wastes management practices.

8
9 CHAPTER XII
10 FINAL PROVISIONS
11

12 SEC. 61. *Appropriations.* -The Secretaries of the DENR, the DOH and the DOST shall
13 include in their programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in
14 the annual General Appropriations Act. In addition, the departments concerned may accept
15 donations, contributions, grants, bequests or gifts, in cash or in kind, from various sources, domestic
16 or foreign, for purposes relevant to hazardous and radioactive wastes management functions:
17 *Provided,* That in case of donations from foreign governments, acceptance thereof shall be subject to
18 prior clearance and approval of the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the
19 Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Receipts from donations shall be accounted for in the books of the
20 recipient government agency in accordance with pertinent accounting and auditing rules and
21 regulations.

22
23 SEC. 62. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this
24 Act, the Department, the DOH and the PNRI, in coordination with the Committees on
25 Environment and Ecology of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, shall
26 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act: *Provided,* That rules and regulations
27 issued by other government agencies and instrumentalities relative to hazardous and radioactive
28 wastes management consistent with this Act shall supplement the rules and regulations issued by the
29 DENR, the PNRI and the DOH pursuant to the provisions of this Act. There shall be a mandatory
30 review of the implementing rules and regulations and standards set pursuant to the provisions of this
31 Act.

32
33 SEC. 63. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* - There is hereby created a Joint Congressional
34 Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of this Act. The Committee shall be
35 composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives, to be appointed by the Senate President
36 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be
37 co-chaired by a Senator and a Representative designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of
38 the House of Representatives, respectively.

39
40 SEC. 64. *Transitory Provision.* - Pending the establishment of the Framework under Section 8
41 hereof and the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, pertinent
42 existing laws, regulations, programs and projects on hazardous and radioactive wastes management
43 shall be enforced: *Provided,* That for specific undertaking, the same may be revised in the interim in
44 accordance with the intentions of this Act.

45
46 SEC. 65. *Report to Congress.* - The Department shall report to Congress not later than March
47 30 of every year following the approval of this Act, detailed account of its accomplishments and
48 progress on hazardous and radioactive wastes management during the year and make the necessary
49 recommendations in areas where there is a need for legislative action.

50
51 SEC. 66. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision
52 to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the
53 application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such
54 declaration.
55

1 SEC. 67. *Repealing Clause.* - Republic Act No. 6969, Executive Order No. 192, Republic Act
2 No. 9003, Republic Act No. 7160 and Republic Act No. 2067, as amended, are duly modified. All
3 laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
4 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
5

6 SEC. 68. *Effectivity.* -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least
7 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
8

9 Approved,
10