

## SEMINAR INFORMATION

### VIETNAM ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION, MONRE - ORGANIZING SEMINAR ON DRAFT DECISION FOR AMENDING AND MODIFYING OF DECISION NO. 50/2013/QĐ-TTg ON THE RETRIEVAL AND DISPOSAL OF DISCARDED PRODUCTS, AND DRAFT CIRCULAR FOR DETAILED GUIDANCE

**HCMC, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014** – Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA), under the Ministry of Resource and Environment (MONRE), organized a seminar on the implementation and feedback collection for the “Draft Decision for amending and modifying of Decision No. 50/2013/QĐ-TTg on the retrieval and disposal of discarded products, and Draft Circular for detailed guidance”. The seminar is sponsored by VN Oil JSC.

In addition, the seminar also introduced VN Oil Plant with state-of-the-art technology for thorough treatment of used lube oil and producing API group II base oil. This is currently the most advanced technology in the field of used lube oil treatment, exclusively licensed from the United States for VN Oil JSC, and first time to be employed in Vietnam.

Seminar participants included VEA, HCM City Department of Natural Resource and Environment, HEPZA, HIPC, VN Oil Joint Stock Company, and representatives from various lubricant producers, importers, and distributors in Vietnam.



*MONRE Deputy Minister Bui Cach Tuyen giving seminar's opening speech*

Used lube oil, classified as hazardous waste according to Circular No. 12/2011/TT-BTNMT, can do severe damage to our environment such as polluting cultivated soil, surface and underground water, and human health. It is estimated that yearly more than 300,000 MTA of used lube oil is released to the environment in Vietnam, with virtually no government control on the collection and treatment of waste oil.

Currently, used lube oil is mostly sold to small and individual buyers in plastic drums and plastic containers, and transported by simple means of transport such as motorbikes, most of which do not meet technical and safety standards. These used oils are then delivered to small treatment centers with very primitive treatment technology to be recovered as low-quality diesel oil, or even to be ‘recycled’ to the market as counterfeit lube oil, jeopardizing the environment, consumer benefit / health, and manufacturer’s reputation.

This *status quo* will end upon the Government’s Decision on the Retrieval and Disposal of Discarded Products for used lube oil becoming effective. In addition to environmental protection, it will also solve the problem of low-quality and/or counterfeit products, which causes devastating consequences to businesses every year. The implementation of the Decision would also require strict coordination from local government, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.



*Mr. Nguyen Huu Van, Chairman of VN Oil JSC, sharing experience on used lube oil treatment*

The seminar also introduced VN Oil Plant located in Hiep Phuoc Industrial Park, Nha Be, HCMC, using exclusive treatment technology from Chemical Engineering Partners (CEP), U.S. This is currently the most advanced technology for thorough treatment of used lube oil in the world, and at the same time producing high quality API II base oil - the main ingredient for lubricant production, completing the closed cycle for sustainable lube oil consumption. CEP technology has been adopted by many countries worldwide as the government-endorsed, top-priority treatment method. The VN Oil process allows thorough treatment of used lube oil, and safe disposal of all solid, liquid, and gaseous wastes throughout the treatment processes.

Until now, Vietnam has to import 100% of its base oil demand for domestic lubricant production, estimated up to 400,000 tones, equivalent to half a billion USD per year.

Brazil is one of the countries where Government has mandated the retrieval and treatment of used lube oil by re-refining, and has been very successful thus far in protecting the environment and natural resources with a used oil treatment plant of 150,000 MTA capacity (3 times bigger than VN Oil Plant). Why can't we?



*From left to right: Mr. Nguyen Van Hung (VEA specialist), Mr Hoang Minh Son (Vice Head, VEA Department of Policy and Legislation), and Mr Nguyen Huu Van (Chairman of VN Oil JSC) answering questions during the discussion session*

*Contact: Mr. Nguyen Cao Nha, VN Oil JSC – Tel: +84.8.62992239 ext. 112 – Email: [nhanguyen@vn-oil.com](mailto:nhanguyen@vn-oil.com)*

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