

# IMPROVED WASTE MANAGEMENT IN GEORGIA

The Project is committed to meet European Union (EU) standards for the disposal of waste. As there were no EU compliant waste facilities in Georgia, the approach was to purchase a waste incinerator unit that would meet EU emission standards. The incinerator arrived in Georgia in October 2003 and began test operations at the PSG1 (Pump Station 1 in Georgia) Central Waste Accumulation Area (CWAA). The incinerator was to be the disposal solution for hazardous and non-hazardous non-recyclable/re-useable waste, but from the onset, the unit failed to meet the required performance standards.

Significant efforts were made over the past year to improve the incinerator's performance. Experts were consulted and numerous tests performed. Nevertheless, some of the unit's deficiencies could not be resolved in a feasible and timely manner. In the meantime, a significant quantity of domestic wastes accumulated at the CWAA in PSG1. BTC considered that the onsite storage of this waste presented an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of workers and therefore in discussion with the Ministry of Environment an existing licensed, although non-EU compliant, landfill at Iagluja was chosen as the disposal location.

Iagluja landfill is the most widely used waste disposal site in Georgia. It is located near the city of Rustavi and has been in operation for nearly 40 years. It is the closest licensed municipal waste disposal site to PSG1, with the safest road access and lower operational risks than other available sites.

However, as with most old municipal waste disposal sites, Iagluja lacks the necessary infrastructure and operating practices to meet EU standards. As such, BTC commissioned the development of a Landfill Conditioning Plan (LCP) that would evaluate current conditions and provide recommendations to lead this site towards EU compliance prior to its eventual closure by Georgian authorities.

Based on the LCP's findings, achieving the goal of EU compliance at Iagluja would require a significant amount of effort and funds. Although the Project's disposal needs involve a very small volume of domestic waste in contrast to the overall volumes existing and currently received at this site (less than 1% of the total Iagluja waste), BTC has offered to contribute to both managing and to funding the implementation of specific civil works as well as to providing training to the landfill's operating staff on how to improve site practices.

In recognition of the intended eventual closure of the Iagluja site, BP and its partners have additionally offered to assist in the funding, design and construction of a new EU compliant non-hazardous waste landfill for the disposal of BTC's and other non-hazardous waste currently going to Iagluja. The construction of the new landfill will greatly benefit the citizens of Georgia for many years to come.

