



33/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong  
香港灣仔告士打道5號稅務大樓33樓

**ACE Paper 8/2022**  
***For advice by circulation***

**Report on the 153<sup>rd</sup> Environmental Impact Assessment  
Subcommittee Meeting**

**PURPOSE**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “**Yuen Long South Effluent Polishing Plant**” (the Project) submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 23 May 2022. The EIA report was submitted by the Drainage Services Department (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to note the views of the EIA Subcommittee and advise whether the EIA report should be endorsed.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

3. The Government plans to develop Yuen Long South Development Area (YLSDA) to meet the territory’s medium to long-term need for housing development. The YLSDA is proposed to accommodate a population of approximately 101,200 and generate about 13,630 employment opportunities on full development.

4. This EIA project proposed to construct and operate the Yuen Long South Effluent Polishing Plant (YLSEPP), a tertiary sewage treatment works comprising a sewage treatment plant and its associated supporting structures, to treat the sewage collected from YLSDA and other developments in the North West New Territories.

5. Please refer to ACE-EIA Paper 4/2022 (*Annex A*) for details of the EIA project.

## **VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

6. Members noted that the EIA report was made available for public inspection during the period from 6 April to 5 May 2022. A total of 16 sets of public comments were received by the Environmental Protection Department. All public comments had been submitted to Members of the Subcommittee for consideration before the meeting.

7. Relevant extract of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 23 May 2022 is at *Annex B*.

## **VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

8. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report has met the requirements in the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process, for the purpose of its exhibition for public inspection under Section 7(4) of the EIAO.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

9. Having regard to the findings of the EIA report as well as the information provided by the Project Proponent and its consultants at the meeting, the EIA Subcommittee recommended the full Council to endorse the EIA report with the following conditions and recommendations –

### ***Conditions of Endorsement***

The Project Proponent shall –

- (i) devise a detailed Compensatory Tree Planting Implementation Plan (the Plan) with engagement of terrestrial ecologist(s) and arborist(s), which shall include details of the planting objectives, planting numbers and locations, and list of native tree species to be used, with the aim to enhance urban biodiversity as well as landscape compatibility with the surrounding natural environment. The Project Proponent shall consult the relevant authority and seek advice from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the Plan prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of the compensatory tree planting; and

- (ii) develop a contingency and response plan (the Plan) for handling potential overflow of effluent under adverse weather conditions and emergency discharges due to other incidents. The Plan shall be submitted to the DEP for approval before commencement of the construction works.

### ***Recommendations***

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (iii) liaise with the relevant parties to tie in the construction programme of the YLSEPP with the neighbouring Water Reclamation Facility, with a view to commencing the two facilities at the same time such that the treated effluent of YLSEPP could be utilised for further treatment as reclaimed water for other usage as far as possible;
- (iv) explore ways to enhance the generation of renewable energy in the Project, such as through enhancing the efficiency of co-digestion and photovoltaic panels, with a view to reducing the carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality in the construction and operational phases as far as practicable;
- (v) devise a monitoring and contingency plan for greenhouse gases, in consultation with the DEP, with a view to ensuring safety in the operation of the facility through monitoring, preventing and timely handling of any potential leakage of greenhouse gases such as methane in the Project; and
- (vi) devise a comprehensive Waste Management Plan which shall include the installation of automatic system for real-time tracking and monitoring of the dump trucks, in consultation with the DEP, with a view to minimising the generation as well as preventing illegal dumping of solid waste, including but not limited to inert construction and demolition materials, chemical waste and other types of waste, arising from the Project as far as possible.

10. Members of the EIA Subcommittee have agreed at the meeting that the Project Proponent would not be required to attend the full Council meeting in respect of the EIA report.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat  
June 2022**