

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

(20.6.1994)

(ACE 32/94)
for information

Central Reclamation, Phase I - Engineering Works
Focused EIA
Report on Progress of Implementation of
Recommended Mitigation Measures

Introduction

The Central Reclamation, Phase I Focused EIA Study findings and recommendations were presented and discussed at the EPCOM Meeting on 18 November 1992 (EPCOM paper 36/92-93). Members generally endorsed the EIA report and agreed that the mitigation measures recommended in the EIA report should be implemented. Members also asked that periodic progress report should be made to EPCOM. The last report was sent to members in February 1994 (ACE 9/94). This is the 5th progress report submitted for Members' information.

Progress

2. The Central Reclamation, Phase I Project started on 1 September 1993 and the mitigation measures are being implemented as part of the project.
3. The recommended mitigation measures improvement Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 have been completed. Improvement No. 2 regarding desilting trunk sewer in Connaught Road will be carried out by DSD regularly.
4. Regarding the remaining mitigation measures, i.e. improvement Nos. 5, and 7 to 18 inclusive, funding will be provided under the Central Reclamation, Phase 1 project, given that the mitigation measures are required to reduce the water pollution problem which, although it has been a long standing situation, would be aggravated by the proposed reclamation in the area.
5. Detailed design of the above mitigation measures is being finalized. A small scale manhole survey has been completed to gather supplementary information to determine the scope of the works required.

6. Detailed programming of these works is also being formulated, taking into account the interface of the Central Reclamation with other projects in the Central area carried out at the same time, such as the laying of 275kV cables by HKE and the construction of the Central subway of MTRC. Special care will be taken to ensure good co-ordination of the traffic diversion measures as required by the works so as to reduce any disruption to the general traffic to the minimum. The temporary traffic management scheme during construction is being derived as part of the detailed design.

7. The above focused EIA study and the proposed mitigation measures were presented to the Central and Western District Board Environment and Works Committee at its meeting on 29 July 1993. The Committee generally had no adverse comments on the study findings but expressed grave concerns regarding potential adverse traffic implications due to implementation of the proposed mitigation measures in the busy Central area. The Committee requested consultation with the Central and Western District Board (or its Traffic and Transport Committee) prior to road excavation being carried out.

8. Further investigations involving study/survey for catchments (Gilman Street) and D (Jubilee Street) to identify pollution sources have been completed by EPD. Additional mitigation measures to the south of Queen's Road Central have been recommended and they will be carried out by DSD as routine maintenance work or under the Central, Western and Wan Chai West Sewerage Master Plan implementation project.

9. Similar investigations for Catchment F (Pedder Street) and J1 (Murray Road) have also been completed by EPD while mitigation measures at various locations have been recommended for implementation by DSD.

10. The implementation of mitigation measures mentioned in para. 5 above will be closely monitored in order to ensure timely completion as recommended in the EIA report.