



Room 2006, 20th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel: 848 2551 Fax: 845 3489
香港中環花園道美利大廈20樓2006室 • 電話: 848 2551 傳真機: 845 3489

(ACE 38/94)
for advice

Declaration of Victoria Harbour (Phase One) Water Control Zone

Introduction

This paper seeks members' advice on the proposal to declare Victoria Harbour (Phase One) Water Control Zone (WCZ) in November 1994 and to establish water quality objectives for the zone.

Background

2. The Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) provides the main statutory framework for the declaration of WCZ to cover the waters of Hong Kong. Within each zone, discharges of effluent are controlled by a licensing system administered by the Environmental Protection Department.

3. Controls in the first WCZ, Tolo Harbour and Channel, commenced on 1 April 1987 and since then eight other WCZs have been established namely, Southern WCZ (August 1988), Port Shelter and Junk Bay WCZs (August 1989), Deep Bay and Mirs Bay WCZs (December 1990), North Western WCZ (April 1992), Eastern Buffer and Western Buffer WCZs (June 1993). In June 1993, two supplementary WCZs were also established to complete the coverage of the water gathering grounds of the Tolo Harbour and Channel, and Southern WCZs.

4. Under Section 4 of the WPCO, the Governor-in-Council may, by order published in the gazette, declare any part of Hong Kong to be a WCZ after consultation with the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE). It is now proposed to extend the WPCO requirements to cover waters in the Victoria Harbour (Phase One) WCZ.

Existing Water Quality in the New WCZ

5. The marine waters in the Victoria Harbour (Phase One) WCZ are amongst the most polluted waters in Hong Kong. In the eastern portion of the WCZ, the Kowloon Bay Typhoon Shelter, downstream of the Kai Tak Nullah and Channel is the most polluted. In the western portion of the WCZ, the polluted waters include those adjacent to Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and in the Rambler Channel Typhoon Shelter where the dissolved oxygen in the water is low and the contents of toxic metals in the sediment are high. The extremely poor water quality in the new WCZ reflects the impact of domestic, industrial and commercial discharges from the adjoining heavily populated and industrialized land.

Water Quality Objectives for the New WCZ

- A** 6. Under Section 5 of the WPCO, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands will, after consultation with the ACE, establish water quality objectives for the new WCZ. The water quality objectives at Annex A are defined with a view to achieving and maintaining the conservation goals for the water bodies in the new WCZ which are general amenity, aesthetic, aquatic life, industrial, commercial and domestic uses. As in all WCZs, the Director of Environmental Protection should seek to achieve the established water quality objectives and maintain the quality so achieved.
- B** 7. The areas covered by the proposed Victoria Harbour (Phase One) WCZ are shown in the plan at Annex B.

Scope of Control

8. As with existing WCZs, all types of discharges within the proposed zone will be controlled. These will include all discharges from residential, industrial, commercial and institutional establishments. The only exceptions will be the discharge of domestic sewage into communal foul sewers and unpolluted water into communal sewers or communal drains for the carriage of surface drainage water.

Implementation

9. To enable control measures to be implemented over a reasonable time scale, two action dates will be provided for under section 7 of the WPCO. The first date - the First Appointed Day (FAD) - is proposed to be 1 November 1994. For any new effluent discharge commencing after this date, a licence must be obtained before the discharge can commence.

10. The second date - the Second Appointed Day (SAD) - is proposed to be 1 July 1995. Application for a licence for any discharges which are in existence on or before 1 November 1994 (FAD) should be made before the SAD.

Consultation

11. Four district boards (Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Sai Kung), the Municipal Councils, Heung Yee Kuk, the Industry and Technology Development Council and major industrial/commercial organisations have been consulted on the proposed declaration of the new WCZ. In general, they supported the proposals.

Advice Sought

12. Members are requested to advise whether the following proposals should be endorsed :

(a) to recommend to the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands to establish water quality objectives for the Victoria Harbour (Phase One) WCZ as set out in Annex A; and

(b) to recommend to the Governor-in-Council to declare the Victoria Harbour (Phase One) WCZ as shown in Annex B.

A

B

Planning, Environment and Lands Branch
Environment Division
August 1994