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tabled on 19.9.94
for advice

Report of the EIA Subcommittee: the 5th Meeting on 12 September 1994

The following studies were discussed at the meeting:

EIA Study for Natural Gas Supply to Black Point Power Station: Submarine Pipeline for Hong Kong Territorial Waters, Gas Receiving Station and Related Facilities

2. Members considered the EIA study for a private sector project, the natural gas supply system to the Black Point Power Station. The delivery system comprises a submarine pipeline from the gas field in China to land at a gas receiving station at Black Point abutting the power station. This EIA report only covers the works within Hong Kong's territorial waters.

3. Members accepted the EIA conclusions that the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the gas supply system will be kept within relevant standards and guideline through the application of appropriate mitigation measures. Water quality monitoring and audit programme will be implemented by the project proponent during pipeline installation. And the project proponent has agreed to implement all the measures recommended in the EIA study.

4. While Members were generally satisfied with the technical aspects of the EIA report, they were concerned about the timing of submission of the report for consultation, as works under this project had already began in mid August 1995. Some Members expressed strong reservations to endorse EIA reports on projects whose works had already started.

5. Members were advised that under the current administrative procedures, all public sector proponents are required to consult ACE before taking any irrevocable development decisions. But a private sector proponent can only be encouraged to follow the same procedures. Being a private sector proponent, ^{AKCO} (China Light & Power) had been requested to provide full justification to Planning, Environment and Lands Branch before commencement of work.

6. Noting the above, the Subcommittee has accepted the EIA study and recommends the Council to endorse the EIA report. But the Subcommittee has also come to the view that it may not accept future EIA studies if they are late for submission without full justification.

7. At the request of the Subcommittee, the justifications provided by the project proponent for the need to commence works before completion of public consultation process is attached at ----- Annex 1.

Initial Environmental Assessment Study for Aviation Fuel Receiving Facility at Sha Chau

8. Upon the request of a member of the Council, the Subcommittee considered an initial EIA for the first time. This initial EIA forms the first stage of the EIA of the aviation fuel receiving facility at Sha Chau. The detailed study is still in progress. The full results of the detailed EIA study will be submitted to the Subcommittee once it is completed.

9. Members noted the recommendations of the initial EIA and suggested that the detailed EIA should look into the following areas:

- the impacts of the project on the Chinese White Dolphin and King Crab;
- an integrated assessment on the risks associated with the use of Ma Wan Channel and operation of this project;
- more details on ecological risk;
- benthic studies on the site and coastal ecology issues;
- hydrodynamic modelling especially related to Sha Chau;
- justifications for screening out other alternative sites; and
- any other plans of the Government or its agencies to build on Sha Chau.

Advice Sought

10. Members are requested to endorse the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

Planning, Environment & Lands Branch
September 1994