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(ACE 52/94) for information

Review of Contaminated Mud Disposal at East Sha Chau

PURPOSE

To present to Members the findings of a study commissioned by the Civil Engineering Department to review the disposal of contaminated mud at East Sha Chau.

BACKGROUND

- 2. At the ACE meeting on 15th August 1994, members were briefed by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering Department (CED) on the progress of the studies being undertaken to examine the Territory-wide physical and ecological effects of dredging and dumping in Hong Kong (Paper ACE 34/94 refers).
- 3. During the meeting, discussion of Paper ACE 34/94 was broadened to include the disposal of contaminated mud at East Sha Chau. In particular, members sought clarification about the possible effects of the disposal operation on the marine environment and on public health.
- 4. Following on from the meeting, CED commissioned EVS Environment Consultants of Canada to carry out a review of the East Sha Chau disposal operation. The Consultant's were asked to address the following issues:
 - i) Examination of the results of the environmental monitoring that has been carried out to date in connection with the East Sha Chau contaminated mud disposal operation,
 - ii) An assessment of the results of the environmental monitoring in terms of any adverse trends in the levels of contaminants outside the disposal pits,
 - iii) A review of the current disposal technique, the method of managing the dumping operation and the type and scope of environmental monitoring being undertaken, and
 - iv) An assessment of the possible environmental effects of the disposal operation and of whether such effects could be detrimental to public health.
- 5. A report on the findings of the Consultant's review is attached.