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**(ACE 11/95)**

for advice

**Aviation Fuel Receiving Facility (AFRF) at Sha Chau  
Environmental Impact Assessment Study  
Supplementary Information Submitted by Provisional Airport Authority**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this note is to report on the views of the Study Management Group on the supplementary information submitted by the Provisional Airport Authority (PAA).

**Background**

2. At its meeting on 20 February, the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) decided not to endorse the EIA report for the Aviation Fuel Receiving Facility (AFRF) at Sha Chau.

3. In response to the issues raised by the ACE, the PAA have submitted supplementary information to the Study Management Group (SMG) on 13 March 1995. These information are contained in a separate paper submitted by the PAA. As directed by SPEL, a SMG meeting was convened on 15 March 1995 to consider PAA's latest proposals. All relevant government departments, PAA and their consultants attended the meeting. The SMG was requested to consider the following specific issues, based on the latest information contained in the paper prepared by PAA:

- (a) the timing of a permanent facility; and
- (b) the report submitted by Dr. Wursig on the effects of the Sha Chau AFRF on the Chinese White Dolphins.

4. The views of the SMG on the above two issues are summarised below.

**The Timing of a Permanent Facility**

5. As a result of the risk concerns identified by the SMG and ACE, the PAA have presented new proposals which reduce the operational life of the Sha Chau facility and bring forward the permanent pipeline by using a deep bored tunnel pipeline running from Tsing Yi all the way to the new airport. According to PAA's estimate, this pipeline option can be completed within 4.5 years and could be operational by the end of 1999. The PAA have further committed that once the permanent pipeline is completed, the Sha Chau facility

will only be used as an emergency back-up facility. This would mean the operational life of the Sha Chau facility will be reduced from 5-7 years to 2-3 years. The PAA have also undertaken to carry out urgently preliminary site investigation, EIA and feasibility studies, and to lay down conditions in the licence for the franchisee to restrict the operational life of the Sha Chau facility to this shorter period.

6. On the basis of the new proposals from the PAA and the commitment by the PAA to reduce the operational life of the Sha Chau facility, upon the advice of the Director of Environmental Protection, the SMG agreed that the ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) principle has been complied with.

#### Dr Wursig's Report on the Potential Effects on Chinese White Dolphins

7. The key findings of the study by Dr Wursig are that the Sha Chau AFRF by itself is not likely to greatly affect the Chinese White Dolphins, but cumulative effects to dolphins must be considered in an overall dolphin management plan. The report contains a set of recommended mitigation measures, including the establishment of a dolphin sanctuary in Sha Chau, and a list of additional studies.

8. Upon the advice of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, the SMG is satisfied with the findings, conclusions and recommendations in Dr Wursig's report.

#### Advice Sought

9. Members are requested to consider the findings on the above two issues based on the latest information submitted by the PAA.

Study Management Group  
March 1995

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