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(ACE 14/95)
for advice

Report of the EIA Subcommittee: the 11th Meeting on 3 April 1995

The Subcommittee considered one information paper and two EIA study reports at its meeting held on 3 April 1995.

Paper on the Preliminary Works of Route 3 - Tai Lam Tunnel and Yuen Long Approach

2. The EIA report for the Route 3 Country Park Section: the Tai Lam Tunnel and Yuen Long Approach Road was endorsed by the main Council on 15 August 1994 on conditions.

3. At the same meeting, the Council was informed by the Highways Department, the project proponent, that as the project would likely be divided into phases, the detailed EIA as well as the implementation of mitigation measures would also be implemented in phases. The Council agreed to expedite its consideration on the reports so as to tie in with the construction programme.

4. This information paper addresses the predicted environmental impacts and proposed controls and mitigation measures to be implemented during the preliminary works which cover the first six months of the project.

5. Members accepted the conclusion of the paper that the environmental impacts associated with the preliminary works could be minimised through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring programmes. The Route 3 Contractors Consortium has agreed to implement all the recommendations in the paper.

6. Members agreed to recommend the report to the Council for endorsement subject to circulation of a satisfactory interim report on the additional ecological survey prior to the Council meeting.

EIA Study for the Centralised Incineration Facility for Special Wastes

7. Members considered the EIA report for the proposed Centralised Incineration Facility (CIF) which will provide a facility in the Special Industries Area in Tuen Mun Area 38 for the disposal of clinical wastes, animal carcasses and security wastes.

8. Members accepted the conclusion of the report that the all environmental issues of concern could be controlled to within established guidelines, provided that the recommended measures are adopted. The successful tenderer will use the findings of this EIA to carry out a detailed EIA study under the Design-Build-Operated contract and will be required to implement all mitigation measures and recommendations identified in the report.

9. Members agreed to recommend the report to the Council for endorsement on the condition that a comparison between the emission standards adopted for this facility and the overseas standards will be made and results circulated to members of the Subcommittee prior to the Council meeting.

EIA for Route 5 - Section between Shek Wai Kok and Chai Wan Kok

10. The proposal involves the construction of a high speed dual carriageway with an overall length of about 2km between the Tsuen Kam Interchange and Tuen Mun Road.

11. The study concludes that direct noise mitigation measures in the form of a package of enclosures, semi-enclosures, noise barriers and low noise road surfacing will be required to mitigate the traffic noise impact from the project to a practicable minimum. Other air and noise impacts associated with the road extension can be minimised to meet the established guidelines and standards through the implementation of stringent site control measures in the works contract during construction. The project proponent has agreed to implement all recommended mitigation measures.

12. Members agreed to recommend the report to the Council for endorsement on the conditions that complaint hotlines will be provided during the construction period to handle complaints from nearby residents and that there will be independent monitoring on the environmental impacts.

Consideration of EIA Reports

13. At present, the Subcommittee, after considering an EIA report, may recommend the Council to endorse the report without conditions, endorse the report with conditions, or reject the report. However, the Subcommittee feels that sometimes it is not possible to reject the EIA of a project outright as the Administration would then be unable to go ahead with the project. Also, a project may sometimes fall between an outright rejection and endorsement with conditions.

14. The Subcommittee recommended that a fourth option be included: the Council simply note the EIA report and impose conditions for the proponent to follow if the development is to go ahead.

Advice Sought

15. Members of the Council are requested to endorse the recommendations of the Subcommittee contained in paragraphs 6, 9, 12 and 14.

Planning, Environment & Lands Branch
April 1995