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ACE Paper 16/2007
For advice

Report of the Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill Extension (ACE-EIA Paper 6/2007 refers) by circulation. All Members of the Subcommittee agreed that the EIA report could be considered by the Subcommittee without a presentation by the project proponent, Environmental Protection Department (EPD), and the EIA report could be endorsed without condition.

2. The public inspection period of the EIA report is from 25 June to 24 July 2007. Eight sets of public comments were received by the EPD during the period which have been referred to Members for reference.

ADVICE SOUGHT

3. Members are requested to advise whether the EIA report on NENT Landfill Extension could be endorsed without condition.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

4. Currently, about 6 million tonnes of waste are disposed of each year at the three strategic landfills in Hong Kong, including the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill, the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill and the NENT Landfill.

5. At the time of commissioning, the three landfills with a total capacity in the order of 140 million cubic metres (Mm^3) were expected to be able to meet the waste disposal needs of Hong Kong until 2020 or beyond. The actual waste disposal rate at the landfills has been, however, higher than expected. It is thus projected that the three existing landfills would last only until early to mid next decade.

6. To tackle the problem, further efforts have been taken to reduce and recycle waste. Also, the Government has planned to develop Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) to substantially reduce the volume of waste requiring landfill disposal. Yet these measures could not obviate totally the need for new landfill capacity in Hong Kong, especially as the implementation of IWMF will take time and its residues will still need to be disposed of.

7. The EPD therefore commissioned a Study in 2000 on the Extension of Existing Landfills and Identification of Potential New Waste Disposal Sites. Amongst the potential sites recommended in this territory-wide study is an extension of the existing NENT Landfill, with a target capacity of about 19 Mm^3 .

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

8. The project involves developing an extension site for the existing NENT Landfill. It will have an area of about 70 hectares and a filling capacity of about 19 Mm^3 located immediately east of the existing NENT Landfill. A large proportion of the extension, about 42 hectares, is in fact the borrow/stockpiling area and haul road of the existing landfill development. Location of the project is shown in **Figure 1** attached. The project will involve the following works –

- (i) Site formation and preparation;
- (ii) Installation of a liner system to separate rubbish and leachate from groundwater;
- (iii) Installation of leachate collection, treatment and disposal facilities;
- (iv) Installation of gas collection, utilization and management facilities;
- (v) Utilities provisions and drainage diversion;
- (vi) Operation of the landfill;
- (vii) Restoration and aftercare in subsequent stages; and
- (viii) Measures to mitigate environmental impacts as well as environmental monitoring and auditing to be implemented.

9. The project is classified as a designated project under Schedule 2, G.1, of the EIA Ordinance, i.e. “*a landfill for waste as defined in the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354)*”.

VIEWS AND CONCLUSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

10. Having regard to the findings and recommendations of the EIA report, Members agreed by circulation that the EIA report could be endorsed without condition. The Subcommittee endorsed Members’ views and agreed to recommend the EIA report to the full Council for endorsement without condition.

EIA Subcommittee Secretariat
July 2007

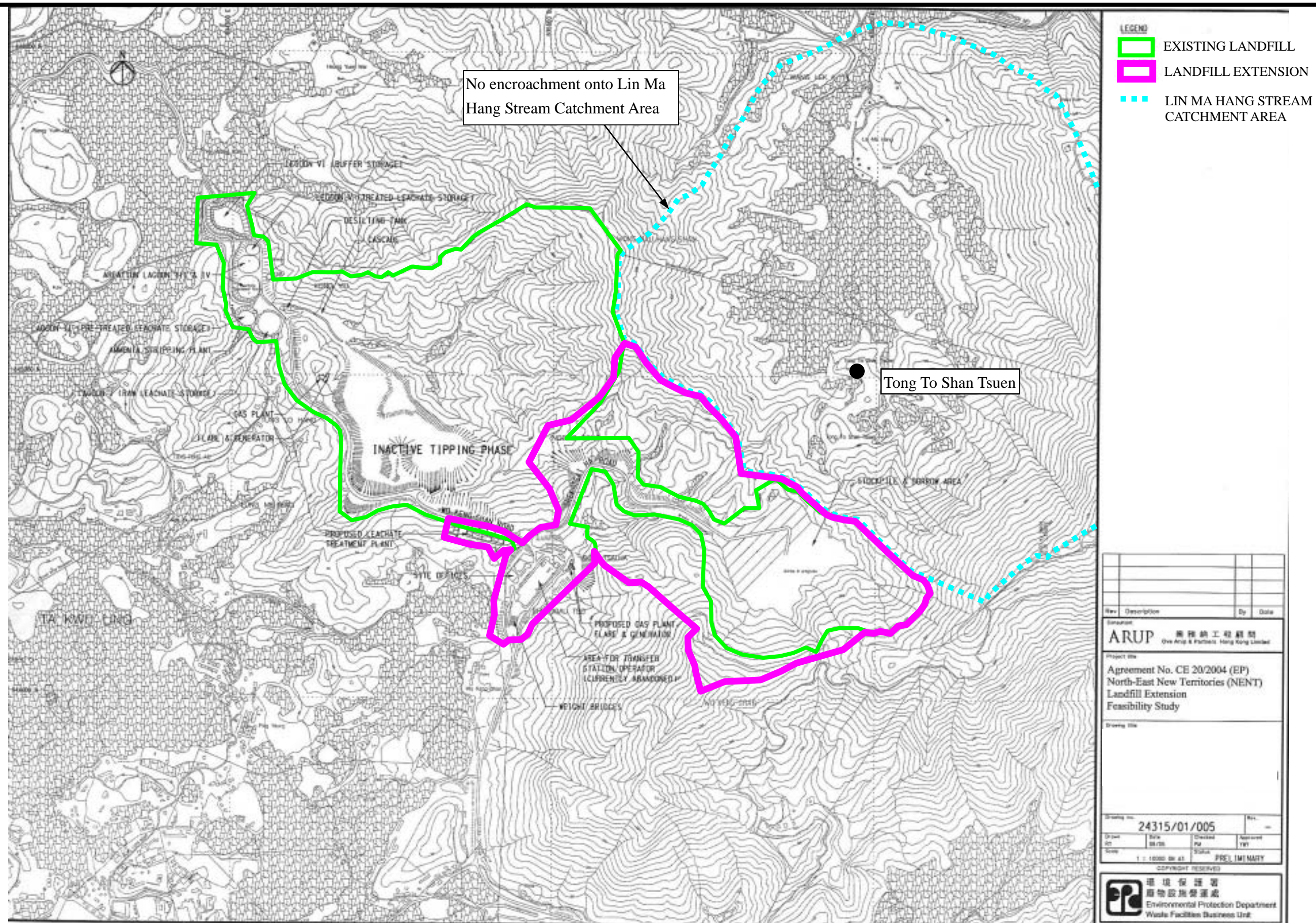


Figure 1 NENT Landfill Extension Layout Plan (Extracted from Drawing no. 24315/01/005 of the EIA report)

Application No. EIA-133/2007

