MTR Corporation Limited

HONG KONG SECTION OF GUANGZHOU – SHENZHEN – HONG KONG EXPRESS RAIL LINK (No. EP-349/2009/B)

Contingency Plan for Groundwater Drawdown for Mei Lai Road to Hoi Ting Road Tunnels (Contract 820) (Revision 1)

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Position:	Independent Environmental Checker
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MTRC Express Rail Link Contract 820 Mei Lai Road to Hoi Ting Road Tunnels

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Document Title:

Contingency Plan for Groundwater Drawdown

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Drawdown

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1.1 Background

As stated in the Particular Specification 22.5.2, the Contractor shall develop a Groundwater Monitoring and Emergency Response Plan and submit the plan to the Engineer for Approval in order to establish a mechanism on checking any excessive drawdown of groundwater level during the course of tunneling and deep excavation. This plan is prepared to fulfill the condition 2.11 of the Environmental Permit.

With the implementation of effective groundwater level monitoring programme, it is anticipated that any unusual/ significant drop of groundwater level will be identified beforehand and mitigation measures will be promptly taken when foreseeable excessive water level drawdown is encountered. As a result, any adverse effect such as ground settlement, damage of existing building service in the vicinity of works and influence to aquatic life, if any, around the works area can be minimized.

Hydrogeological impact assessment has been carried out during the EIA study for the designated project, Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou – Shenzhen – Hong Kong Express Rail Link. It is suggested in the study that the effect of groundwater drawdown due to tunneling work along the section of ecologically sensitive areas, e.g. Mai Po Area, has to be considered and preventive actions must be established to avoid the actual occurrence of significant drawdown of groundwater level during the course of the work. As there are no ecologically sensitive areas and identified stream courses along the vicinity of the Contract 820, the effect of the variation of groundwater level to the nature environment shall not be a major issue for the project.

It is anticipated that the variation of groundwater level for the Contract shall be under control with the effective implementation of approved methodology of tunneling and delivery of quality workmanship throughout the course of the work.

1.2 Programme of Monitoring

As listed in the Environmental Permit No. EP-349/2009/B and required under the P.S. 22.5.2, a groundwater monitoring programme is developed in this plan to monitor the groundwater level as part of the comprehensive ground monitoring strategy with reference to Appendix N of the Particular Specification. Responsible parties are listed in Appendix A for the implementation of the plan.

Groundwater monitoring locations will be determined on site with reference to drawings as shown in the attached drawing No. 820/W/380/ATK/C06/650 to 820/W/380/ATK/C06/656 and 820/W/380/ATK/C06/660.

The groundwater monitoring will be conducted by the following phases:

- Background monitoring:
 - Conducted at initial phase to establish the existing ground water level conditions;
- Active monitoring:
 - Conducted during active construction works within 50m of instrument; and
- Standard monitoring:

Conducted during times when background and active monitoring are not required, or when works are considered minor that will unlikely caused changed to conditions of groundwater by the Engineer.



1.3 Methodology of Monitoring and Reporting

Methodology

The methodology of groundwater level monitoring shall follow M&W Clause 23.19.03 which details below:

- (1) A formal initial reading of an open standpipe piezometer shall consist of the average of three readings with the water level indicator. The indicator shall be removed from the riser pipe between these three readings.
- (2) Each reading other than the formal initial reading shall be a single reading with the water level indicator.
- (3) Reading accuracy shall be ±10mm and shall be referenced to the top of the riser pipe.
- (4) Field calibration of water level indicators shall consist of checking the graduated tape against a standard traceable to a national standards agency approved by the Engineer, to an accuracy of ±5mm.

Monitoring will be undertaken by recording the water level in existing piezometers and those installed by the Contractor.

Reporting

The reporting of the groundwater level monitoring results shall follow M&W Clause 23.19.04 which details below:

- (1) Plots of open standpipe piezometer data shall show groundwater elevation versus time.
- (2) For standpipe piezometers in areas influenced by tidal variation, the plots of piezometer data shall also show the tide level plotted against time on the same axis.

1.4 Frequency of Monitoring

The groundwater monitoring program will be conducted by the frequencies specified in Table 1.4a and 1.4b.

Table 1.4a Groundwater Monitoring Plan along Regular Works Area

Instrument Type	Depth	Proposed Monitoring Frequency		
		Background Monitoring	Standard Monitoring	Active Monitoring
Open Standpipe Piezometer	Existing Standpipe Tip Depth	Weekly	Monthly	Daily

Table 1.4b Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Nam Cheong Launch Shaft including Nam Cheong Ventilation Building

Instrument Type	Depth	Proposed Monitoring Frequency		
		During Wall Installation	During Excavation	Prior to Backfilling to Ground Level
Open Standpipe Piezometer	Temporary Retaining Wall Toe Level	Weekly	Daily	Twice a Week

Appendix N (Table N6) of the Particular Specification has listed the existing piezometers to be monitored. The current piezometers in monitoring are listed in Table 1.4c.

Table 1.4c Current Piezometers in Monitoring

No.	Hole No. 2108/XRL/	No.	Hole No. 2108/XRL/	No.	Hole No. 2108/XRL/
1	A053	16	D035	31	D294
2	A060	17	D037	32	D297
3	A062	18	D272	33	D298
4	A063	19	D273	34	D300
5	A065	20	D275	35	D300a
6	A067	21	D276	36	D301D
7	A068	22	D278	37	EDH-11
8	A069	23	D279	38	EDH-13
9	A070b	24	D281	39	
10	A072	25	D283	40	
11	A073	26	D287	41	
12	B031	27	D288	42	
13	D030	28	D290	43	
14	D031	29	D291	44	
15	D033	30	D292	45	

The Designer of the Contractor will advise whether additional monitoring points shall be added.

1.5 Trigger Levels

Groundwater monitoring is conducted to monitor both the works and the impact of these works on the adjacent area. Groundwater monitoring will be carried out in accordance with the monitoring plan and "Alert", "Action" and "Alarm" response values as tabulated in Table 1.5

Dragages - Bouygues Joint Venture 寶嘉 - 布依格聯營

Table 1.5 Monitoring Trigger Levels

Monitoring	Alert	Action	Alarm
Groundwater Drawdown	500mm below the lowest historical groundwater level	800mm below the lowest historical groundwater level	1000mm below the lowest historical groundwater level

1.6 Actions Taken Upon Activating of Trigger Levels

The Dragages – Bouygues Joint Venture (the JV) shall review the existing standpipes/piezometers installed by the Employer, propose and install new standpipes/piezometers and other relevant instrumentation at new underground excavation areas upon agreement with Employer. In addition, the JV will develop procedures for prompt data collection and interpretation and communication of critical readings and subsequent remedial measures, if necessary.

The JV will adopt the following framework for the actions to be taken in order to minimize the accidentally excessive drawdown of groundwater.

Table 1.6 Action Plan

Item	Action Taken	Action Party
Alert Level	Notify the Engineer;	JV
	Review any abnormal readings on other instrumentation monitoring points;	JV
	Liaise all relevant land/ property owner and utility undertaker	JV and the Engineer
Action Level	Notify the Engineer;	JV
	 Review any abnormal readings on other instrumentation monitoring points by the JV; 	JV
	Investigate any physical impact on Existing Building Structure and water mains;	JV
	Increase the frequency of monitoring;	JV
	Propose mitigation measures for the Engineer to consider if necessary;	JV and the Engineer
	Implement the mitigation measures once agreed	JV
Alarm Level	Notify the Engineer;	JV
	 Review any abnormal readings on other instrumentation monitoring points by the JV; 	JV





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Item	Action Taken	Action Party
	 Investigate any physical impact on Existing Building Structure and water mains; 	JV
	 Carry out comprehensive condition survey and assessment 	JV
	 Cease the work adjacent any Existing Building Structure and water mains under significant influence if considered necessary or once ordered by the Engineer 	JV
	 Propose mitigation measures for the Engineer to consider; 	JV and the Engineer
	Implement the mitigation measures	JV

Note:

- The designer of the Contractor shall review the readings of the instruments exceeding the AAA values and those surrounding them. The designer will advise what mitigation measures are required if levels are triggered.
- Mitigation measures when reaching monitoring trigger levels can only be considered case by case. However, some typical measures may include grouting at the affected area or revise method by avoiding large scale of excavation.



APPENDIX A

Organization Chart for Implementation of Contingency Plan for Groundwater Drawdown



MTR
(Review and check Contractor's Submission)

Geotechnical Team of DBJV
(Control of monitoring team for undertaking Groundwater Monitoring & Review Monitoring Data, Propose and discussed with Designer on actions when AAA levels are trigger)

Sub-contractor for undertaken Groundwater Monitoring
(Undertake regular monitoring)

APPENDIX B

Monitoring Locations of Groundwater















