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ACE Paper 17/2017
For advice by circulation

**Report on the 139th
Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting**

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “Improvement Dredging for Lamma Power Station (LPS) Navigation Channel” under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 14 August 2017. The EIA report was submitted by The Hong Kong Electric Company Ltd. (HKE) (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to consider the views of EIA Subcommittee at paragraph 9 below and advise on the way forward for handling the EIA report.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. The LPS Navigation Channel (the Channel) was formed in 1981 to facilitate delivery of coal to the LPS by ocean going vessels. As the LPS is mainly a coal-fired power station that relies on coal-fired units for base load operations, there is a need to ensure safe access for ocean going coal-carrying vessels to the LPS in order to ensure the continuity of electricity supply to Lamma and Hong Kong Island. HKE is responsible for maintaining sufficient water depth of the Channel, and thus needs to carry out dredging operations whenever the required minimum channel depth is approached as a result of natural siltation.

4. In 2008, the Marine Department stipulated the current requirement for HKE to maintain a minimum channel depth of -15.65mPD. In order to meet the requirement, there is a need to re-profile and maintain the Channel to an optimal depth lower than the specified minimum as a longer term solution. To address high natural siltation in the Channel, HKE proposes to carry out maintenance dredging of sediment from the seabed along the gazetted Channel to a depth of -16.5mPD.

5. Please refer to the ACE-EIA Paper 3/2017 at **Annex A** for details.

VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

6. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with the relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report met the requirements of the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process (TM), for the purpose of exhibiting the report for public inspection under the EIAO. Comments from the public and the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) will be taken into account by DEP in deciding whether or not to approve the EIA report under the EIAO.

VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

7. The EIA report was made available for public inspection from 9 June to 8 July 2017. During the inspection period, four sets of public comments had been received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Specific concerns on fisheries and marine ecology are raised by the public. The public comments and the gist of the public comments for the EIA report were issued to EIA Subcommittee Members on 31 July 2017 for reference, with copies to non-Subcommittee Members for information.

8. The key issues discussed at the EIA Subcommittee meeting on 14 August 2017 are summarized at **Annex B**.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

9. Having considered the findings of the EIA report and the information provided by the Project Proponent, the EIA Subcommittee recommended that the full Council endorse the EIA report with the following conditions and recommendations –

Conditions of Endorsement

The Project Proponent shall–

- (a) review the maintenance dredging strategy of the Channel such that dredging is conducted more frequently with a view to reducing the need for large scale dredging of the Channel during the operation phase. Should re-profiling of the Channel with estimated dredging quantity of 2.9Mm³ be required during the operation phase, the Project Proponent should devise a detailed plan with clear justification on why frequent small scale dredging is not feasible. The plan should be provided to the ACE for comment prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of works;

- (b) conduct marine ecological and fisheries baseline review before commencement of each dredging. The marine ecological baseline review should cover species of conservation interest including but not limit to Green Turtle and Finless Porpoise. In preparing the detailed baseline report, the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department should be consulted and the report should be submitted to the DEP for approval before each dredging, including selected high spot dredging and re-profiling;
- (c) submit a plan to review the baseline sediment quality conditions before each dredging, including selected high spot dredging and re-profiling;
- (d) install extra water quality monitoring stations adjacent to the project site boundary in addition to the proposed stations near to water quality sensitive receivers. The exact locations of the additional monitoring stations and the relevant event action plan should be submitted to the DEP for approval before each dredging, including selected high spot dredging and re-profiling;

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (e) closely monitor the presence and movement of Finless Porpoise within the project area and avoid dredging operations in the night time and active seasons of the Finless Porpoise as far as practicable;
- (f) consider the use of trailer suction hopper dredgers for project areas not within nursery and/or spawning grounds with a view to minimizing the negative impacts due to disturbance of sediment;
- (g) explore the use of the dredged sediment generated from the project site for use by concurrent projects as fill materials as far as practicable; and
- (h) strengthen efforts on marine conservation with a view to preserving and enhancing the marine ecology within the project site.

10. The EIA Subcommittee has agreed that the Project Proponent and its consultant are not required to attend the full Council meeting.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat
August 2017**