Report of the Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee

Introduction

In mid September 2003, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage I, Phase II Package J – Sok Kwu Wan Sewage Collection, Treatment & Disposal Facilities.

Advice Sought

2. Members are requested to advise whether the EIA report and the proposed condition in paragraph 7 below should be endorsed.

Views of the Subcommittee

Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage I Phase II Package J – Sok Kwu Wan Sewage Collection, Treatment & Disposal Facilities (ACE-EIA Paper 7/2003)

Need for the project

- 3. The water quality at Sok Kwu Wan on Lamma Island has been deteriorating over the last decade with the increase in both the number and size of seafood restaurants in Sok Kwu Wan Village which are currently served by individual septic tanks and soakaway systems. The water quality surveys conducted in 1998 and 1999 for the EIA showed that the background levels of total inorganic nitrogen were high in Sok Kwu Wan with the dry season level exceeding the Water Quality Objectives limit of 0.1mg/L.
- 4. The proposed facilities will collect and transfer sewage arising from existing villages and restaurants to a new sewage treatment works. The sewage would then receive full secondary treatment with nitrogen removal and disinfection prior to

disposal near the mouth of Sok Kwu Wan through a proposed submarine outfall. The proposed facilities will serve the daily sewage service need of about 1,800 residents and 6,000 day visitors by the year 2016.

Description of the project

- 5. The proposed system comprises the following-
 - (a) about 1.4km of gravity sewers and 1.4km of rising mains;
 - (b) 3 pumping stations of capacities of 353m³/d, 508 m³/d and 879 m³/d;
 - (c) a secondary level sewage treatment works of an installed capacity of 940 m³/d with nitrogen removal and UV disinfection; and
 - (d) a 765 m long submarine outfall.
- 6. The outfall, the sewage treatment works, one of the pumping stations and a small section of the sewage pipeline are designated projects under the EIA Ordinance. Construction of the facilities will commence in December 2004 and will be completed by August 2007.

Views and recommendations of EIA Subcommittee

After receipt of the EIA report, the Subcommittee Chairman declared interest in view of his involvement in the field of sewage treatment and through the Secretariat, he invited the Deputy Chairman, Prof. K.C. Ho, to chair the EIA Subcommittee meeting. Having regard to the findings and recommendations of the EIA report, the EIA Subcommittee agreed by circulation that the report could be endorsed and one of the Members suggested to add a condition that local plants/tree species should be adopted as far as practicable in mitigation planting. The EIA Subcommittee meeting was subsequently not held.

EIA Subcommittee Secretariat September 2003