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(ACE 39/95)
for advice

Report of the EIA Subcommittee: the 12th Meeting on 3 July 1995

The Subcommittee considered three EIA reports at its meeting on 3 July 1995.

Environmental Impact and Safety Assessment for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Storage Facility at Siu A Chau

2. The proposed facility covers a total site area of 0.61 hectare, and includes a small storage facility, a helicopter landing pad and a 85 metre long jetty for marine access. The facility is required because the waste is currently stored in a disused air-raid tunnel in Wan Chai, and the condition of the tunnel is deteriorating.
3. The facility will be implemented under a design-build-operate (DBO) contract. It is intended that the ultimate management of the facility will be transferred to the Department of Health.
4. A working group led by the Planning Department conducted a site search and shortlisted four sites. Of these four sites, the consultants concluded that Siu A Chau was the most suitable site for the facility.
5. The study concluded that with the adoption of the recommended measures, all key environmental and radiological issues would be controllable to within established guidelines. The successful tenderer would use the findings in this study to develop his own detailed study under the DBO contract. He would also be required to implement all mitigation measures and recommendations identified in the detailed study.
6. Members agreed that:
 - (a) there was a need for the storage facility;

(b) the conclusion of the report that there would not be major adverse environmental impacts was acceptable; and

(c) of the four shortlisted sites, Siu A Chau was the best choice.

However, there were concerns about the site selection process (i.e. how the four sites were shortlisted) and the planning intention for the Soko Islands. As views were divided, Members agreed to refer the case to the full Council for a decision. Members also requested that a supplementary paper be prepared on the two aforesaid issues.

EIA Study for Tseung Kwan O Development, Town Centre North - Roads, Bridge & Subways

7. Members considered the EIA report on the proposed roadworks in Tseung Kwan O Town Centre.

8. Members accepted the conclusion of the report that direct noise mitigation measures in the form of noise barriers and low noise surfacing would be required to mitigate the traffic noise impact. Furthermore, Members noted that through implementation of stringent site control measures incorporated in the works contract, other air and noise impacts associated with the construction of the roadworks will be minimized to meet the established guidelines and standards.

9. Members agreed to recommend the report to the Council for endorsement.

EIA for the Proposed Green Island Public Dump

10. The proposal will occupy part of the Sulphur Channel between Hong Kong Island and Green Island and will cover an area of 37 hectares. The proposal will provide the only facility on Hong Kong Island to receive construction wastes, with a potential to receive seven million cubic metres of fill materials over a period of seven years. All dump materials will be transported to the public dump site by marine barges only. To alleviate possible land traffic congestion at one locality, the project proponent has decided to adopt a multiple marine barging points approach.

11. The study concluded that environmental impacts associated with the proposed public dump could be controlled to within established standards and guidelines through proper designs of the works and the implementation of recommended mitigation measures. The Civil Engineering Department would try to ensure that all recommendations of the EIA study would be implemented.

12. Members agreed that the EIA report was technically acceptable, but felt unable to endorse the report at the meeting because they considered there was a need to consider the proposed project in the wider context of the Green Island Reclamation. Members suggested that a paper on the Green Island Reclamation and a paper on the planning intention for the Sunshine Islands be submitted to the full Council on 10 July 1995. The latter paper was requested because some Members felt that Sunshine Island would be an appropriate place for off-site mitigation measures.

13. Members also suggested that if the full Council was satisfied with the issue related to the Green Island Reclamation, the EIA report for the proposed public dump could be endorsed on the following conditions:

- (a) additional ecological studies on the Green Island area; and
- (b) implementation of on-site and off-site ecological mitigation measures.

Advice Sought

14. Members are requested to endorse the recommendation of the Subcommittee in paragraph 9, and note the recommendations contained in paragraphs 6, 12 and 13.

Planning, Environment & lands Branch
July 1995