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**(ACE 60/95)**

**For advice**

## **Report of the EIA Subcommittee : the 16th Meeting on 5 December 1995**

The Subcommittee considered three EIA reports at its meeting on 5 December 1995.

### **Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse Supplementary Environmental Impact Assessment**

2. The Regional Services Department proposes to construct a new slaughterhouse at Sheung Shui to replace such existing facilities at Kennedy Town, Cheung Sha Wan and Yuen Long which have created environmental nuisances to the nearby residents. The site for the slaughterhouse has been reserved in the Outline Zoning Plan since the mid 1980s.

3. An EIA based on the preliminary design of the slaughterhouse was carried out in 1993. Subsequently, there were substantial changes in the layout and design criteria. The present supplementary EIA, which based on the latest design information and the previous EIA findings, was therefore conducted. This supplementary EIA supersedes the EIA carried out in 1993.

4. The EIA concluded that the following potential environmental impacts during the construction or/and operational phase will be kept within Government regulation and guidelines with the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures:

- (a) the odour impacts at the sensitive receivers can be reduced to within the established standard;
- (b) wastewater will meet the domestic standard for discharging into public sewer leading to the Shek Wu Hui Sewage Treatment Plant which has adequate capacity to accommodate the flow;
- (c) plant noise will be controlled to within noise standard;
- (d) traffic noise will be reduced to within the noise standard; and
- (e) waste (condemned meat and blood) would be disposed of through incineration and disposal at landfill which would not affect the surrounding area of the slaughterhouse.

5. Members were satisfied with the study and recommended its endorsement.

## **Treatment and Disposal of Waterworks Sludge from Existing Water Treatment Works**

6. At present, waterworks sludge from 14 of Hong Kong's 18 Water Treatment Works is discharged into the environment without any treatment. In 1993, a feasibility study of the treatment and disposal of waterworks sludge from existing water treatment works was conducted to formulate solutions to improve the situation. The present EIA was conducted for eight of the water treatment works sites as a result of one of the recommendations in the feasibility study. This EIA seeks to identify the nature and extent of environmental impacts arising from the construction and operation of the proposed works and to propose suitable mitigation measures of limit to acceptable levels those impacts identified.

7. The EIA arrives at the following conclusions:

- (a) waterworks sludge is not odorous;
- (b) the proposed sludge treatment and disposal facilities would have a beneficial impact on water quality;
- (c) with the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, the fugitive dust emissions will comply with established criteria and the potential ecological impacts will be limited; and
- (d) the existing practice for the Tai O Water Treatment Works does not have adverse effect on the environment. Consultants will further investigate whether the existing practice at the Tai O Water Treatment Works is fully acceptable. If this was found to be unacceptable when the results of the study was concluded, the original solution identified in the feasibility study would be adopted.

8. Members were content with the EIA and recommended its endorsement.

## **Lantau Port Development Stage 1 - Design of Reclamation and Edge Structures for Container Terminals 10 & 11 and Backup Areas**

9. The Preliminary Design and Ancillary Works studies of Lantau Port Development Stage 1 - Container Terminals 10 and 11 were endorsed by ACE in February 1995. The construction of the terminals was to be based on a drained reclamation scheme identified in the studies. The present EIA study follows on from the earlier studies, examines the construction phase impacts for the dredged reclamation techniques, compares it with, and updates the earlier results for the drained option. The EIA was brought before the EIA Subcommittee since ACE's endorsement to previous EIAs for the project required that, should the reclamation method be changed, an EIA study should be done and be reviewed by ACE.

10. The EIA concluded that:
- (a) the drained option is preferable to the fully dredged option in terms of water quality impact, marine ecology impact and the economy of fill materials and spoil disposal capacity;
  - (b) storm water discharge locations should be relocated to either the east or seaward edge of CT10;
  - (c) the dredged option have less air and noise impact on the environment; and
  - (d) the dredged option could be mitigated to within accepted standards and guidelines.

11. Members were generally concerned about two issues. First, the EIA did not indicate a preferred reclamation method to be adopted for the construction of CT10 and 11.

12. Secondly, the source of the fill material and the disposal route of the mud for the dredged option were not taken into consideration in the project. These issues, which could affect the conclusion of the report are being studied as part of the Fill Management Committee's studies. Members were also of the view that the policy issue of whether there should be a requirement on where the fill material were to be obtained and the mud disposed of should be considered, particularly if outside Hong Kong.

13. Except for one member who withholds endorsement of the report, due to uncertainties in issues such as water quality, Members agreed to recommend the endorsement of the report subject to the following condition:

- A further report should be submitted by the developer, before commencement of work, to assess the residual environmental impacts arising after mitigation from his proposed work method with regard to:
  - (a) the air, noise and water impact; and
  - (b) the source of fill material and site for a mud disposal.

14. Members requested an update on the conditions for endorsement of the previous EIA, a copy of which is attached.

15. Members would like to bring to the attention of the Main Council the policy issues on the source of fill, impact of obtaining the fill material and the disposal route of mud should these be outside of Hong Kong.

### **Advice Sought**

16. Members are requested to consider the recommendations of the Subcommittee:

- (a) endorsement of the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse supplementary environmental impact assessment (paragraph 5 refers);
- (b) endorsement of the environmental impact assessment on treatment and disposal of waterworks sludge from existing water treatment works (paragraph 8 refers);
- (c) endorsement of the report on Lantau Port development stage 1 - design of reclamation and edge structures for Container Terminals 10 and 11 and backup areas subject to a number of conditions (paragraph 13 refers);
- (d) note the request for an update on the conditions for endorsement of the previous EIA (paragraph 14 refers); and
- (e) consideration of the policy issues relating to fill material and mud disposal (paragraph 15 refers).

**Planning, Environment and Lands Branch  
December 1995**

## Lantau Port Development - CT10 and 11

### Previous ACE Recommendations

- 1) EIAs on borrow areas should come to ACE. The proponent should also consult ACE first if they were to choose the mega land borrow area option. The recently completed EIA report for the mega borrow area should be submitted to ACE.
- 2) There should be early diversion of all effluent from Discovery Bay and Peng Chau to the treatment plant at North Lantau; PELB should liaise with the relevant government departments to ensure that the required works are completed in time.
- 3) Monitoring programmes on the Chinese White Dolphins should be implemented during the construction stage.
- 4) An independent monitoring and audit office should be set up to monitor the cumulative construction impacts when multiple contracts take place.
- 5) CED should implement all the recommendations in the EIA studies, especially those noise mitigation measures.
- 6) The reports were endorsed based on a drained reclamation scheme. If other reclamation methods were to be used, separate EIAs had to be completed and presented to ACE.
- 7) There should be contribution from this project to off-site compensation programmes such as the artificial reef project currently considered by AFD.
- 8) Considerations should be given to the extension of the North Lantau Country Park up to the boundary of the proposed development.