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**(ACE Paper 19/96)**  
**for information**

## **Contaminated Mud Disposal at East Sha Chau Interim Report IV**

### **Purpose**

To provide Members with a regular update on general activities at East Sha Chau and, more specifically, to update Members on progress in implementing the future strategy for dealing with contaminated mud. The latter was outlined in the most recent report to Members, Interim Report III, which was discussed at their meeting on 20 November 1995.

### **Update on General Activities at East Sha Chau**

2. CMP IIIa which is currently the active disposal pit, is expected to be filled by mid-1996, at which time CMP IIIb will be used. Thereafter, three further small pits, CMP IIIc, d & e, will be used until about mid-1997 when, as discussed below, CMP IV is expected to be available. Capping of CMP IId was completed in February 1996. Chirp seismic profiling of the caps of CMP IIc and IId will be carried out very soon, followed by vibrocoreing to confirm the structure of the two caps. Attachment A shows the locations of disposal pits at East Sha Chau.

3. Cumulative impact monitoring and compliance monitoring have continued in and around the East Sha Chau facility. No adverse trends have been identified. An independent QA/QC audit of the field and laboratory procedures of the monitoring programme will be undertaken in May/June 1996.

### **Update on Implementation of Future Strategy**

4. Interim report III explained the future strategy for dealing with contaminated mud. The strategy involves three interdependent elements :-

- 4.1 a critical review of the current strategy of contained marine disposal at East Sha Chau using the Dredged Material Assessment Framework guidelines recently adopted by the London Convention,
- 4.2 use of the empty sand borrow pit at East Sha Chau as Contaminated Mud Pit IV (CMP IV) for disposal of contaminated mud at least to the year 2000, and
- 4.3 a review of the existing regulatory procedures with a view to revising the contamination criteria so that the control framework would be more in line with the prevailing international environmental requirements.

5. EVS Environment Consultants of Canada have now completed the first component of the strategy, paragraph 4.1 above, and the Executive Summary of their report "Review of Contaminated Mud Disposal Strategy and Status Report on Contaminated Mud Disposal Facility at East Sha Chau" is at Attachment B. Copies of the full report are available to Members on request. This report has been reviewed and endorsed by the Environmental Protection Department, the Agriculture & Fisheries Department and the Civil Engineering Department. The main conclusions of the EVS review are:

- 5.1 There is an on-going need for disposal of contaminated mud and marine disposal continues to be the most practical option.
- 5.2 Contained marine disposal is environmentally acceptable within an appropriate management and monitoring structure. The current management programme and its associated refinements provide such an acceptable framework.
- 5.3 East Sha Chau is a suitable area and the one which is preferred for contaminated mud disposal. Current monitoring programmes do not indicate evidence of localized ecosystem impacts. Risk assessments do not indicate general or site-specific public health and ecological risks posed by the present disposal activities at East Sha Chau.

6. On the basis of the conclusions of the EVS review, the second element of the future strategy, paragraph 4.2 above, has commenced and consultants ERM Hong Kong Ltd have been appointed to undertake the focussed EIA on the use of the empty sand borrow pit as CMP IV. This consultancy is due for completion in late 1996.

7. To provide continued disposal capacity until the first half of 1997 when, subject to the outcome of the focussed EIA, CMP IV will be available, three additional small pits, CMP IIIc, d & e will be formed.

8. Consultants EVS have commenced the third element of the future strategy, paragraph 4.3 above. This review of the regulatory procedures is expected to lead to revisions of the present sediment quality criteria and also to recommend alternative disposal/treatment methods for any material which might be unsuited for marine disposal. This review is scheduled to be completed in August 1996.

#### **Next Report to ACE**

9. The next report to ACE will be in September 1996.

#### **Attachments**

Attachment A Drawing no. FMC/357C "East Sha Chau Contaminated Mud Disposal Area"

Attachment B EVS Environment Consultants' "Executive Summary - Review of Contaminated Mud Disposal Strategy and Status Report on Contaminated Mud Disposal Facility at East Sha Chau"

Fill Management Committee Secretariat  
Geotechnical Engineering Office  
Civil Engineering Department  
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