

Progress of Landfill Extension Plan

Objective

This paper summarizes the latest progress of the landfill extension plan.

Background

2. The Environmental Protection Department completed a strategic study in 2003 on the long-term demand for landfill capacity as well as the potential sites for the extension of existing landfills and development of new landfills. The study identified an urgent need to extend the filling capacity of the three existing landfills by early to middle of 2010s. A strategic environmental review (SEA) had also been conducted to assess the preliminary environmental acceptability of the proposed landfill extensions and new landfills.

3. The key findings and recommendations of the strategic study and SEA were presented to ACE-EIA Subcommittee at its meeting on 23 December 2003 (*ACE-EIA Paper 9/2003*). Engineering feasibility and EIA studies have been commissioned subsequently for each of the three landfill extension projects.

4. While the general progress on the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling initiatives under “A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” has been reported to the Waste Management Subcommittee from time to time, this paper elaborates on the progress of the planning of the three landfill extension projects.

Latest Progress

NENT Landfill Extension

5. The engineering feasibility and EIA studies for the North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill Extension Project were commissioned in February 2005.

6. Having taken into consideration the site investigation findings as well as the views and concerns of relevant authorities and key stakeholders, a preferred layout option with total avoidance of any encroachment into the catchment area of the Lin Ma Hang Stream was identified in early 2006. Detailed EIA for the preferred layout option was subsequently conducted.

7. The engineering feasibility and EIA studies are now being finalized. The EIA Report for the NENT Extension Project is available for public inspection until 24 July, and will be considered at the ACE EIA Subcommittee on 23 July. Subject to the approval of the EIA, the project will proceed with the tender preparation, town planning and land resumption processes, which will take about 3-4 years to complete.

SENT Landfill Extension

8. The engineering feasibility and EIA studies for the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill Extension Project were commissioned in August 2005.

9. A series of tentative development or layout options have been considered during the course of the studies. In order to develop a 17 Mm³ landfill extension within a very confined site area, it is necessary to consider the temporary occupancy of a coastal slope with an area about 3 to 5 hectares in the Clear Water Bay Country Park. The Country & Marine Parks Board (CMPB) was consulted in September 2006 and May 2007.

10. With the CMPB's in principle agreement to the temporary occupancy in May 2007, the engineering feasibility and EIA studies will proceed to their final stage in the next few months. It is anticipated that the EIA Report for the SENT Extension Project will be available for public inspection and ACE consideration in late 2007. Subject to the approval of the EIA, the project will proceed with the tender preparation process, with a view to commissioning its operation upon the exhaustion of the existing SENT Landfill in early 2010s.

WENT Landfill Extension

11. The engineering feasibility and EIA studies for the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill Extension Project were recently commissioned in March 2007. Various development options to address different constraints within the development areas are being formulated and evaluated. Public communication strategy is also developed. It is anticipated the studies would be completed in late 2009.

Public Communication

12. We have adopted a Continuous Public Involvement (CPI) process in the course of the EIA studies for the landfill extension projects. Project briefing and view-sharing sessions as well as formal meetings and site visits have been arranged with relevant District Councils, local community, green groups, professional institutions and other relevant stakeholders in various stages of the planning process. Project websites have been developed to enable direct communication with the general public since the early stage of the EIA process. Views and concerns of the public have been or will be addressed in the EIA studies.

13. In order to facilitate the communication of EIA findings with the general public, 3-dimensional visualization of the EIA findings will be developed and made available to all key stakeholders including the general public. Looking ahead, we shall continue with the public engagement initiatives during the course of project planning and implementation, with a view to soliciting the necessary public acceptance of the projects.

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