

CB(2)124/00-01(01)

September 15, 2000

Mr Rob LAW
Director
Environmental Protection Department
28/F., Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Dear Mr. Law,

The International Review Panel has been asked to advise the Government of the HKSAR, as soon as possible, on whether any of our recommendations will have an impact upon the remaining Stage I works currently in progress, to the extent that it would be necessary to consider stopping or altering these works.

Stage I of SSDS involves a series of rock tunnels to transfer urban Kowloon and eastern Hong Kong Island sewage to Stonecutters Island for chemically enhanced primary treatment (CEPT).

IRP members have visited the Stonecutters Island CEPT plant and noted that it has been treating NW Kowloon flows since its completion in 1997. The low chemical dosage and high unit settling tank flow makes this facility the world's most efficient CEPT plant. We have full confidence that this plant will be capable of successfully treating the full Stage I flow when the transfer tunnels are completed.

The IRP has carefully reviewed the Stage I tunnel construction progress and the schedule for their completion. IRP members have visited the following tunnel construction sites A, B, C, E and F and have obtained direct information on tunnel progress, local geological conditions and rock mass quality. We are satisfied that all Stage I tunnels can be completed as now scheduled because the rock conditions for the remaining construction have been fully investigated.

We therefore recommended that all scheduled Stage I tunnels be completed as soon as possible. The IRP appreciates the many efforts to overcome the adverse geological conditions that have been encountered. This experience will be very valuable in the planning, design and construction of future sewage transfer tunnels in Hong Kong.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. Leonard K.H. Cheng

Prof. Donald R.F. Harleman

Dr Albert Koenig

Prof. Dr. Eng. Sebastiano Pelizza

Prof. Qian Yi

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