

Information Paper for Legislative Council
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Supplementary Note on
Flood Control and Prevention Strategy and Measures

Introduction

In the LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works meeting on 13 June 2001, members requested the Administration to provide the following supplementary information -

- a) The work of the Task Force on Improvement of Drainage Systems
- b) Clearance of blockages in drainage systems during heavy rain
- c) Actions against unauthorised land use in the New Territories
- d) Cause of flooding in June 2001 and compensation
- e) Stabilisation of soil stockpiles near banks of River Indus

Task Force on Improvement of Drainage Systems

2. The Task Force on Improvement of Drainage Systems is led by the Secretary for Works. Other members include the Director of Drainage Services, the Director of Territory Development and the Director of Home Affairs. The Task Force met twice on 13 and 29 June 2001 and reviewed comprehensively the overall programme of the major flood protection projects. Upon completion in 2003 of the current major training projects for the midstream and downstream sections of the main river channels, the flooding problem in the Northern New Territories would be much improved.

3. The Task Force was also aware of members' concern expressed in the Panel Meeting on 23 April 2001 and in the PWSC meeting on 30 May 2001 about the speeding up of the flood prevention projects. The Government had in fact started a review on the existing project delivery procedures aiming to speed up the implementation of the remaining flood prevention projects so as to bring early solution to the flooding problem of the New Territories.

4. The Task Force was also noted that there had been delay in some of the current flood protection works at the midstream and downstream sections of River Indus. It asked the works department concerned to take appropriate measures to tackle the existing problem and to monitor the progress of works closely, ensuring that the critical channel works could be completed before the rainy season in 2003.

5. The Task Force also instructed the works departments concerned to implement short-term measures to reduce the risk of flooding in the Northern New Territories. Such measures would include: strengthening site supervision to ensure the smooth flow of existing river courses, enhancing communication with nearby residents and providing sufficient standby resources on site to ensure timely arrangement of flooding relief works within the works areas.

Clearance of Blockages in Drainage Systems during Heavy Rain

6. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has implemented an on-going preventive maintenance programme for the existing public drainage systems. The DSD will strengthen such work before and during the wet season each year. During flooding emergencies, the DSD will activate an emergency co-ordination centre to deal with reports of flooding. An inspection team will be deployed to the location of flooding and carry out all possible immediate remedial works on the spot including removing of blockages in the drainage systems.

Actions against Unauthorised Land Use in the New Territories

7. The Planning Department is responsible for enforcement action under the Town Planning Ordinance against unauthorised uses of private land in rural New Territories. Proactive approach has been adopted aiming at channelling potential operators to relocate to legal permanent sites or to seek planning permissions to regularise their developments. The planning permissions granted by the Town Planning Board include, among other approval conditions, the requirement to provide drainage facilities to the satisfaction of the DSD. So far, the Planning Department has succeeded in causing the unauthorized use of 690 hectares of land to stop or to be regularised by planning permission. At the same time, a total of 476 prosecution cases were processed.

8. The Task Force (Black Spots) of the Lands Department is responsible for bringing forward environmental improvements to existing permitted land uses. In the drainage aspect, operators will be required to provide adequate drainage facilities in their lands to ensure that existing drainage systems in the vicinity are not adversely affected. Up till now, a total of 1626 blackspots covering about 207 hectares of land have been cleared.

Cause of flooding in June 2001 and Compensation

9. The DSD is now investigating into the cause of flooding that occurred in June this year. It will also assess whether the construction activities in the vicinity of the flooded areas may have aggravated the flooding. An independent expert will be invited to review the investigation report. The investigation findings will be made public and submitted to the Panel after the summer recess.

10. If certain contractors are found to be held responsible for the flooding, the Government will definitely request them to follow up any claims from those residents suffered losses as a result of the flooding and to make reasonable compensation to them on individual case basis according to the established procedures.

Stabilisation of Soil Stockpiles near Banks of River Indus

11. The excavated soil material stockpiled near banks of the River Indus are to be used in the permanent works as fill material. Both the Territory Development Department and its consultant have been very concerned of the stability of the stockpiles and urged the contractor to carry out necessary measures to avoid washout during heavy rains. **Annex A** contains copies of some of their relevant correspondences with the contractor issued in early this year. The contractor has completed stabilising measures for all the stockpiles.

Works Bureau

August 2001



新界北拓展處
NEW TERRITORIES NORTH
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

傳真號碼 Our Fax No. 2593 2518
來函編號 Your Reference
本處來函 Our Reference (JC) in NTN 6/8/26(B) Pt. 2
電話 Telephone 2684 1779
日期 Date 20 February, 2001

Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.,
8/F., Grand Central Plaza, Tower 2,
138 Shatin Rural Committee Road,
Sha Tin,
New Territories.
(Attn: Mr Michael LAI)

Dear Sir,

TDD Contract No. FL 23/99
Main Drainage Channels for Fanling, Sheung Shui and Hinterland
River Training Works for Upper River Indus

I attach a copy of the self-explanatory letter received from the Shek Wu San Tsuen Concern Group on 15 February 2001. The villagers are concerned about the adequacy of existing pipe-crossings to convey flow during the wet season, possible flooding of the temporary cross-channel bridges, potential washout from the stockpiled fill materials, as well as slow progress of the works. The Contractor has agreed to implement a series of remedial measures at a joint site meeting held with the villagers, DON, RSS and this office on 16 February 2001. You are required to ensure that the necessary remedial works at Shek Wu San Tsuen are completed as soon as possible.

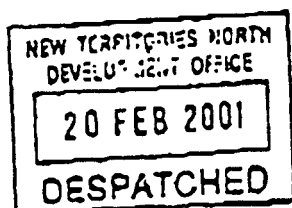
With the imminent onset of the wet season, you must step up your supervision of the river training works. At the Tai Po & North Works Coordination Committee Meeting held on 8 February 2001, I have reminded you to resume regular inspection of the condition of the drainage channels and to submit reports to this office on a bi-weekly basis. This exercise must start from 1 March 2001. At the Bi-weekly Progress Monitoring Meeting held on the same day, you were further requested to prepare a drawing showing all constrictions caused by drainage diversions, agree with DSD a wet season plan by end February 2001 and to ensure implementation of remedial works to remove all restrictions before end March 2001. I look forward to your close attention on these matters to minimize potential of flooding due to the impacts of the construction works.

Yours faithfully,

(C.L. NG)

for Project Manager/NT North

CLN/W/FL/NTN/FL/26/99/Pt.2/01



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20th April 2001

Maunsel

Our ref: WHL:hyl:93996/02/40-3142

Guangdong Water Conservancy &
Hydro-Power Engineering Development Co., Ltd.
22/F, Guangdong Water Building
83 Austin Road
Tsimshatsui
Kowloon

URGENT - By Fax & Post

FAKED
2/11/01

Attn: Mr. Ji Jing Li / Mr. Guan Wo Kang

Dear Sirs,

**TDD Contract No. FL 23/99
Main Drainage Channels for Fanling,
Sheung Shui and Hinterland -
River Training Works for Upper River Indus
Stockpiling Areas Close to Existing Rivers**

We refer to previous site discussions between your Mr. Yang Jian and our Resident Site Staff in March 2001 and the meeting between your Mr. Guan Wo Kang and Mr. Yang Jian and our Mr. Michael Lai, Mr. Regis Lo, Mr. Dennis Leung, Mr. K.K. Ngan and the undersigned at our Shatin Office on 19th April 2001 in respect of the captioned.

We write to record our advice given to you in the above discussions that in our views the proposed stabilization measures you intended to take on the stockpiling areas are inadequate and as an initial assessment, your existing stockpiling areas on site should be trimmed to meet, at least, the general requirements as shown on the attached sketch. Details of trimming work together with substantiation calculation to stabilize these stockpiling areas should be provided by you. We record that you agreed to submit these by today in the above meeting.

As observed on site, your current resources deployed for trimming the stockpiling areas are much inadequate to achieve the target completion date of 21st April 2001 as previously promised by your staff in the meeting with the legislator, Mr. Wong Shing Chi and the Employer's representative on 11th April 2001. As such, we consider that you should immediately deploy more resources to speed up the works.

Yours faithfully,
for MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LTD

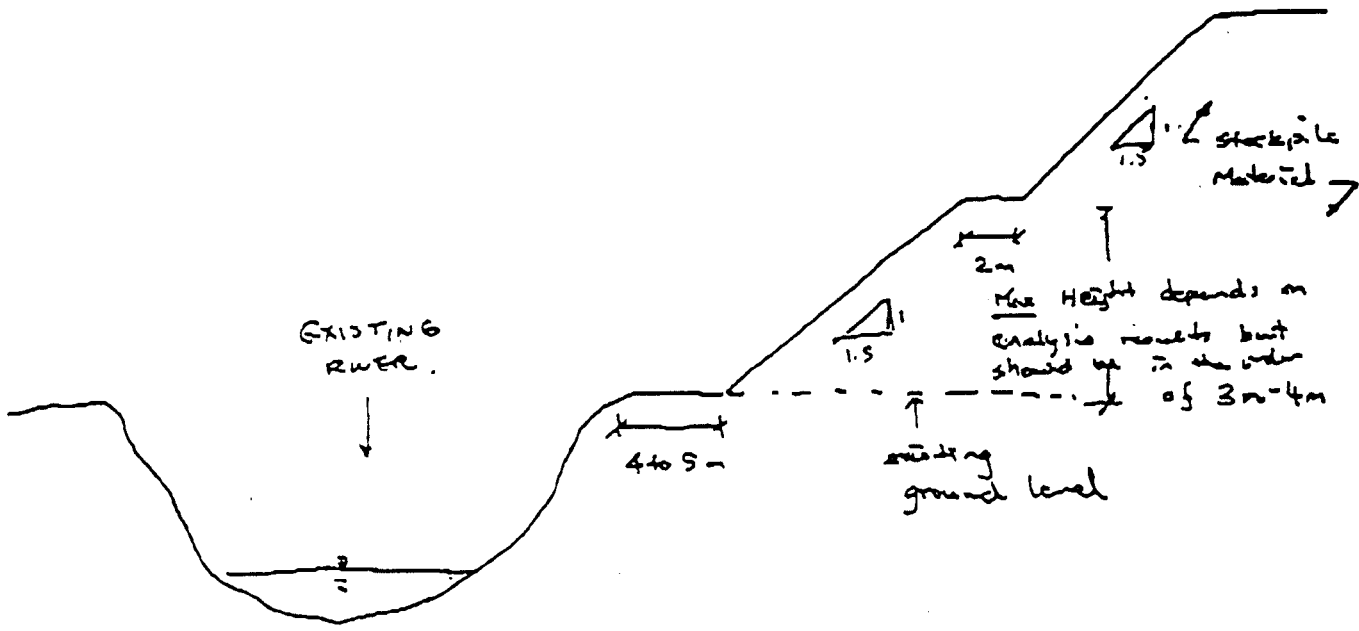
(Signature)
(Francis Leong)

Encl.

cc PM/NTN - Attn: Mr. P.S. Li] - w/e (by fax only)
SREI/TPF]

DIRECTOR GENERAL
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
AN AECOM COMPANY





N.T.S.

Urgent By Fax (2376 0539)



拓展
Territory Development
Department, Hong Kong

Encl.	15
Answer to	14
Approved by	

新界北拓展處
NEW TERRITORIES NORTH
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

傳真號碼 Our Fax No 2693 2918

參考號碼 Your Reference

本地參考 Our Reference () in NTN TPF 2/30/114 (A)

電話號碼 Telephone 2684 1786

日期 Date 2 May, 2001

Guangdong Water Conservancy &
Hydro-Power Engineering Development Co. Ltd.,
22/F., Guangdong Water Building,
83 Austin Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui,
Kowloon,
Hong Kong.
(Attn : Mr Ji Jing-li)



Dear Sir,

TDD Contract No. FL 23/99
Main Drainage Channels for Fanling, Sheung Shui and Hinterland -
River Training Works for Upper River Indus

Stockpiling Areas close to Existing River

Excavated material has been stockpiled loosely to a significant height close to the river banks of Upper River Indus at chainages 950, 1700-1900, 2150-2180, 2350-2450, 3600-3800 and 4150 under this Contract. These materials are susceptible to washout and collapse during heavy rainstorms. River channels can become blocked as a result and cause flooding to adjoining farmland and local village houses. In order to stabilise the stockpiled materials, the Engineer instructed you on 20 April 2001 to trim back the stockpiling areas in accordance with the minimum requirements as shown on the attached sketch. I understood from the Engineer that you have refused to comply with this instruction.

The potential flooding hazards that the concerned stockpiles may cause to the nearby farmers and residents are not acceptable. Remedial stabilizing works must be carried out urgently, especially as we are already one month into the wet season. The Engineer has advised me that your current unwillingness to carry out the remedial works amounts to a breach of the Contract. In pursuance of GCC clause 82(1), the Engineer is considering to authorise this work to be carried out by other contractors. If so, all additional expenditure properly incurred by the Employer in carrying out the work shall be recoverable from you.



As spoken between Messrs. JJ/TSAO today, I would appreciate if you could reconsider the case and agree to implement the necessary remedial work as soon as possible. This would not only prevent the Engineer from taking more drastic action under the Contract, but could improve our working relationship which should ultimately benefit the smooth running of the Contract.

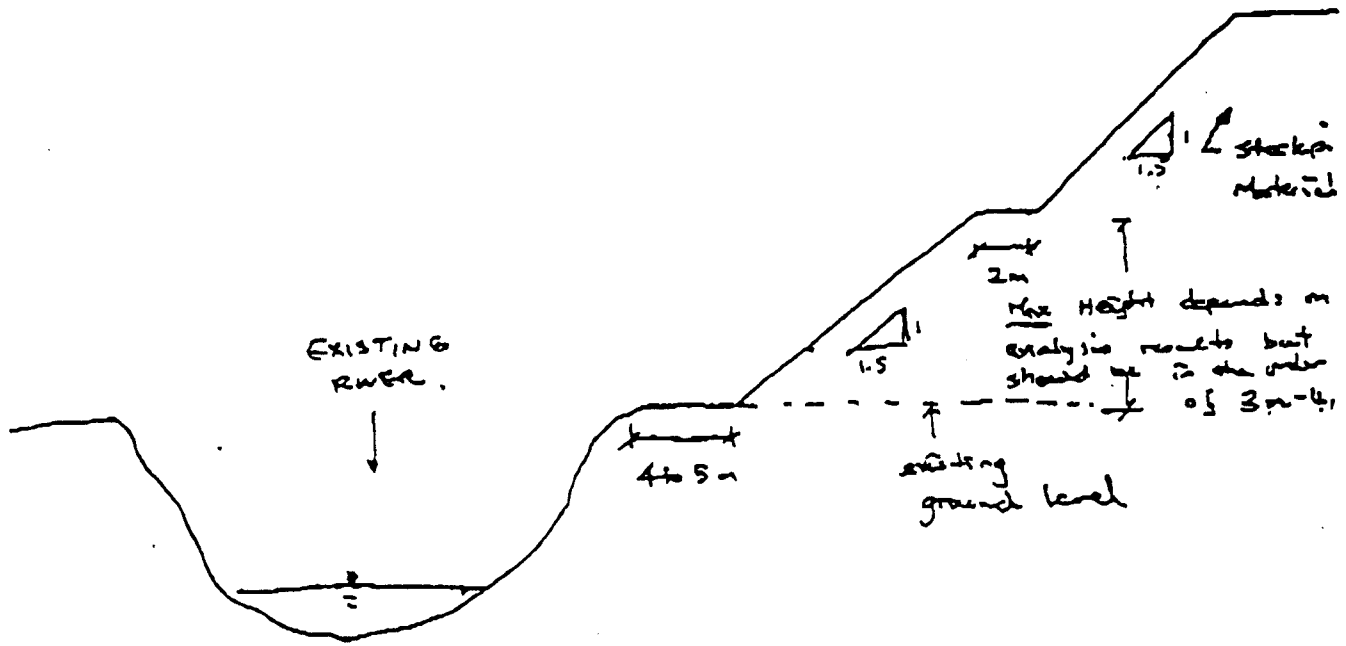
Yours faithfully,



(T.K. TSAO)
Project Manager/NT North

c.c. MCAL (Attn : Mr Michael LAJ)

CLN/TKT/WJ (L. Chungking X2 201)



Max Height depends on analysis results but should be in the order of 3m-4m

N.T.S.



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8th May 2001

Our ref: WHL:hyl:93596/02/40-3177

By Fax & Post

Guangdong Water Conservancy & Hydro-Power Engineering Development Co., Ltd.
22/F, Guangdong Water Building
83 Austin Road
Tsimshatsui
Kowloon

Attn: Mr. Ji Jing Li

Dear Sirs,

TDD Contract No. FL 23/99
Main Drainage Channels for Fanling,
Sheung Shui and Hinterland -
River Training Works for Upper River Indus
Notes of Meeting held on 4th May 2001

We enclose for your retention and necessary action a copy of the notes of meeting held on 4th May 2001. You are reminded to deploy sufficient resources to finish the stabilization works on time.

Yours faithfully,
for MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LTD

(Francis Leong)

Encl

- cc PM/NTN - Attn: Mr. P.S. Li } - (w/c - by fax only)
- SREI/TPF } }
- READC II } }
- GWCH - Attn: Mr. Yang Jian } }

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TDD Contract No. FL 13/99
Main Drainage Channels for Fanling,
Sheung Shui and Hinterland -
River Training Works for Upper River Indus
Removal of Stockpiles Adjacent to Existing Rivers

Notes of meeting held on 4th May 2001 at 2:30pm at MCAL Office at Shatin

Present: Mr. C.L. Ng	- Chief Engineer] TDD/NTN
Mr. Regis Lo	- Principal Engineer] Mamsell Consultants
Mr. Francis Leong	- Engineer] Asiz Limited
Mr. K.K. Ngan	- Resident Engineer] (MCAL)
Mr. YANG Fan	- Project Manager/Site Agent] Guangdong Water Conservancy] & Hydro-Power Engineering] Development Co., Ltd. (GWCH)

Mr. Ji Jing Li, General Manager of GWCH, was invited to attend the meeting but was not present.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the stockpile stabilization works and also the corresponding works programme, as a result of agreement reached between Mr. T.K. Tsao of TDD and Mr. J.L. Ji of GWCH on 2nd May 2001.

- | | | <u>Action</u> |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | MCAL stated their understanding that an agreement had been reached between Mr. Ji Jing Li of GWCH and Mr. T.K. Tsao, PM/NTN on 2nd May 2001 that GWCH would stabilize all temporary stockpiles adjacent to existing rivers in full accordance with previous MCAL's instruction. | Noted |
| 2 | GWCH proposed to divert the existing river flow near 1700m to 1900m and Ch. 2400m to 2600m to the partly completed Main Drainage Channel to avoid possible blockage of existing rivers by the existing stockpiles located at these locations instead of stabilizing them in accordance with MCAL's instruction. GWCH added that this proposal has an advantage of avoiding timely removal of over 20,000m ³ materials at these stockpiles and as such, the amount of materials to be removed at other stockpiles could be reduced to about 20,000 to 30,000m ³ . GWCH would formally write in his proposal on 5th May 2001. | GWCH |
| 3 | CE/NTN had no initial objection on the GWCH's proposal and considered the proposal feasible. CE/NTN added that they could accept this as an alternative stabilization works despite previous agreement between GWCH and PM/NTN, provided that this alternative was accepted by MCAL. As a preliminary assessment on the proposal, MCAL had no adverse comments except that some existing river banks had to be protected against erosion due to river diversion and all remaining stockpiles had to be protected from water infiltration as previously advised. | GWCH |

Action

GWCH

- 4 The following works programme for stockpile stabilization works were discussed and agreed:

Stockpiles Location	Commencement Date	Completion Date	Plans to be deployed		Stabilization Method
			Backhoe/ Loader	24 Ton on Truck	
Ch. 950	5/5/2001	18/5/2001	2	1	Follows MCAL instruction
Ch. 1700 - 1900	5/5/2001	14/5/2001	2	-	By river diversion
Ch. 2150 - 2180	5/5/2001	14/5/2001	2	6	Follows MCAL instruction
Ch. 2350 - 2400	5/5/2001	14/5/2001	2	2	By river diversion
Ch. 3100 - 3200	5/5/2001	8/5/2001	-	-	Follows MCAL instruction
Ch. 3600 - 3600	5/5/2001	8/5/2001	2	1	Follows MCAL instruction
Ch. 4150	5/5/2001	7/5/2001	2	1	Follows MCAL instruction

- 5 As regards the request from LegCo Member Mr. Wong Shing Chi to provide cover to suppress dust created from the stockpiles near Ch. 1700 to 1900 and Ch. 2350 to 2450, CE/NTN considered that GWCH should provide accordingly, immediately after completion of stabilization works.

GWCH

- 6 GWCH considered that some stockpiles had been lowered to only 2 to 3 metres high and the set back of 4 to 5 metres at existing ground levels seemed to be excessive. MCAL requested GWCH to substantiate their statement with proper calculation with appropriate soil parameter assumptions. GWCH and MCAL to further discuss on site.

GWCH/
MCAL

-End-