Discussion Paper for Legislative Council Panel on Planning, Lands and Works Meeting on 2 April 2001

239WF – Water Supply to Remaining Remote Villages in the New Territories – Stage 2

Introduction

- 1. The Administration has scheduled to submit a Public Works Sub-Committee (PWSC) paper for upgrading the project **239WF** entitled "Water supply to remaining remote villages in the New Territories stage 2" to Category A, for consideration at the PWSC Meeting on 25 April 2001. The purpose of this paper is to brief Panel Members on the proposed works.
- 2. Currently, there is no treated water supply to the remote villages in Wu Kau Tang, Kau Tam Tso, Lai Chi Wo, Ap Chau and Kat O in North District and Mong Tung Wan on Lantau Island. These villages obtain water from streams and wells which are unreliable and unhygienic.
- 3. It is proposed to upgrade **239WF** to Category A to provide metered water supply to
 - (a) the Wu Kau Tang, Kau Tam Tso and Lai Chi Wo villages under Village Water Supply Scheme No. 8;
 - (b) the Ap Chau village under Scheme No. 46;
 - (c) the Kat O village under Scheme No. 47; and
 - (d) the Mong Tung Wan village under Scheme No. 55.

Scope of Works

- 4. The scope of works under **239WF** comprises extension of treated water supply to six remote villages under the following Village Water Supply Schemes
 - (a) Scheme No. 8 Water supply to Wu Kau Tang, Kau Tam Tso, Lai Chi Wo in North District
 - (i) construction of a fresh water pump house;

- (ii) procurement and installation of pump sets and associated equipment;
- (iii) laying of about 12.5 kilometres of fresh water mains ranging from 80 to 150 millimetres in diameter; and
- (iv) construction of a fresh water tank with a capacity of 120 cubic metres.
- (b) Scheme No. 46 Water supply to Ap Chau in North District
 - (i) laying of about 3.5 kilometres of fresh water mains of 100 millimetres in diameter; and
 - (ii) construction of a fresh water break pressure tank with a capacity of 15 cubic metres.
- (c) Scheme No. 47 Water supply to Kat O in North District
 - (i) laying of about 7.5 kilometres of fresh water mains of 100 millimetres in diameter; and
 - (ii) construction of a fresh water break pressure tank with a capacity of 25 cubic metres.
- (d) Scheme No. 55 Water supply to Mong Tung Wan on Lantau Island
 - (i) laying of about 3.8 kilometres of fresh water mains of 100 millimetres in diameter.
- 5. The proposed works under **239WF** are shown in Sketch Nos. SK 62000/105/001 and 002 at **Enclosure 1**.

Justification

6. The six remote villages have a total population of about 900. At present, these villages obtain their water from streams and wells. We consider the potable use of untreated water from such sources to be unhygienic and a possible health hazard. Moreover, the supply of untreated water is unreliable in that it may not be adequate during the drought. The proposed works will enable a hygienic and reliable water supply to the six villages.

Cost

7. We estimate the capital cost of the proposed works to be \$109.4 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, made up as follows –

		\$ million		
(a)	Village Water Supply Scheme No. 8		44.9	
	(i) construction of a fresh water pump house	2.4		
	(ii) mechanical and electrical works	1.8		
	(iii) laying of water mains	37.8		
	(iv) construction of a fresh water tank	2.9		
(b)	Village Water Supply Scheme No. 46		12.3	
	(i) laying of water mains	11.1		
	(ii) construction of a fresh water break pressure tank	1.2		
(c)	Village Water Supply Scheme No. 47		22.3	
	(i) laying of water mains	20.6		
	(ii) construction of a fresh water break pressure tank	1.7		
(d)	Village Water Supply Scheme No. 55		11.3	
	(i) laying of water mains	11.3		
(e)	Environmental mitigation measures		1.0	
(f)	Contingencies		9.1	
	Sub-total		100.9	(in September 2000 prices)
(g)	Provision for price adjustment		8.5	
	Total		109.4	(in MOD prices)

Public Consultation

- 8. We consulted the Sha Tau Kok Rural Committee and the District Development and Environmental Improvement Committee of the North District Council on 6 September 2000 and 12 September 2000 respectively on Village Water Supply Scheme Nos. 8, 46 and 47. Both Committees supported the proposed Schemes.
- 9. We consulted the South Lantau Rural Committee (SLRC) on 29 June 2000 on Village Water Supply Scheme No. 55. The SLRC supported the proposed Scheme.

Environmental Implications

- 10. The project will not have any long-term environmental impact. We will design the fresh water tank, fresh water break pressure tanks and fresh water pump house such that the level of the intruding noise during their operation complies with the established criteria, standards and guidelines. For short-term construction impacts, appropriate pollution control measures¹ will be put in place to mitigate the impacts. We have included in the project the cost of implementing these mitigation measures (\$1.0 million in September 2000 prices) and will incorporate these requirements into the works contract for implementation.
- 11. To minimize the generation of construction and demolition materials (C&DM), we have taken due consideration in designing the levels, alignments, orientations and dimensions of the proposed water mains, water tanks and pump house. We will require the contractors to submit waste management plans to reduce the waste generation and to facilitate the reuse of C&DM. We will also require the contractors to maintain the construction site in a clean and tidy condition. For instance, refuse collection areas will be provided for temporary storage of rubbish and waste materials, which will be removed at regular intervals. Any suitable excavated materials will be properly stockpiled for later re-use or disposal. We will adopt a trip-ticket system to control the proper disposal of C&DM to the designated areas.

Land Acquisition

12. The proposed works do not require land acquisition.

The appropriate pollution control measures include wheel washing facilities, de-silting traps, the use of silenced plant and other procedures as recommended in the Environmental Protection Department's Recommended Pollution Control Clauses.

Programme of Works

13. The PWSC paper for **239WF** has been scheduled for discussion at the PWSC meeting on 25 April 2001. We plan to start the proposed works in August 2001 for completion in May 2004, subject to funding approval.

Background

- 14. In 1980, the Director of Water Supplies drew up, in consultation with the Heung Yee Kuk and the then City and New Territories Administration (now the Home Affairs Department), a list of about 750 villages in the New Territories for the purpose of stage-by-stage provision of metered water supply. Over the years, some of these villages were cleared or found to be deserted and some villages previously not identified were added to the list. The total number of villages on the list is now 741.
- 15. To date, metered water supply has been extended to 688 villages. Out of the remaining 53 villages (with a total population of 8,440) not yet provided with metered water supply, construction works have started at 18 villages and detailed designs are being carried out for 20 villages (including the six villages under 239WF). It is anticipated that these 38 villages (with a total population of 6,750) will be provided with metered water supply in stages from 2001 to 2006. The feasibility study of providing metered water supply to the remaining 15 villages (with a total population of about 1,690) has started. The current programme is to provide these villages with metered water supply in stages from 2007 to 2009, subject to funding approval.
- 16. The project "Water supply to remaining remote villages in the New Territories stage 1" is under **204WF** and involves the provision of metered water supply to 9 remote villages in the New Territories. We have upgraded part of **204WF** to Category A as **250WF** entitled "Water supply to remaining remote villages in the New Territories (Scheme Nos. 36D and 49)" for the construction of metered water supply to 4 remote villages. The remaining part of **204WF** (Category B) covering 5 villages is at the detailed design stage. We expect to upgrade the remaining part of **204WF** to Category A by the end of 2001.

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