

Hong Kong Dolphinwatch Ltd.

香港海豚觀察有限公司

TO : The Hon. Emily Lau
FROM : Bill Leverett
DATE : April 9, 2002

G.P.O.Box 4102
1528A Star House
Tsimshatsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong SAR, China
Tel : (852) 2984-1414
Fax : (852) 2984-7799
e-mail : dolphins@pacific.net.hk
URL : <http://home.pacific.net.hk/~dolphins>

RE : Cheoy Lee Shipyard Decommissioning EIA

Dears Ms. Lau,

I was representing the Green Lantau Association at the first meeting of the EA Panel on the above issue, when you asked why the EPD hadn't known about the extent of the land contamination before the land was resumed. I forget Rob Law's exact response, but he said the EPD could only enter the site and do surveys if they had "evidence" or "suspicion" of illegal dumping or other activities.

If you refer to the original EIA for the Int'l Theme Park, there's table or figure (I think it's Figure 12.4, but I'm working from memory) that lists aerial photographs used in estimating the degree of contamination. There's a short description of each figure, and many of them are described as showing evidence of waste burning, waste burial, etc. Some of them are quite old, like ten or twenty years ago.

The EIA is on the EPD's website. The table is in the chapter on decontamination. I think it would be hard for them to argue that they had no evidence or suspicion that the land was contaminated. From a financial perspective alone, let alone the environmental and legal perspectives, I think it is irresponsible for the government to ignore their own aerial photos. It makes me wonder if they really wanted to know how contaminated the land was. Or, more accurately, whether they wanted Legco to know.

I thought you might like to follow up on your original question at tomorrow's meeting.

Thanks,

Bill Leverett