

**Subcommittee on
Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2007,
Sewage Services (Trade Effluent Surcharge) (Amendment) Regulation 2007 and
Technical Memorandum on Procedures and Methods for Sampling and Analysis
of Trade Effluents**

Third meeting on 27 April 2007

List of follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration

1. To facilitate members' assessment of the use of chlorination/dechlorination for disinfection, the Administration is requested to provide the following information on overseas experience in the use of disinfection technologies, which was collected in its earlier consultancy study:
 - (a) The use of different disinfection technologies, including the percentage of disinfection done through each technology if more than one are being employed by a sewage treatment work (STW); and
 - (b) The cities included in the study where chlorination/dechlorination is used for disinfection. For STWs which have fully or partly replaced chlorination/dechlorination by alternative technology such as UV-irradiation, to provide information on the process and timing of such replacements.
2. Members expressed concern about the timing for the introduction of secondary treatment in Hong Kong and noted the comment of Dr Albert KOENIG, member of the former International Review Panel, in his written submission (LC Paper No. CB(1)1459/06-07(05)) that "*The 10-year blanket approval requested apparently precludes any possibility that the Government will adopt a minimum effluent standard of secondary treatment for all sewage discharges within the next 10 years. This is not in line with the national standards of China or the Macau SAR. Since the clean up of the Pearl River estuary should be a common effort by all jurisdictions, Hong Kong should equally contribute by requiring a minimum level of secondary treatment*". In this connection, the Administration is requested to provide a written response to Dr KOENIG's above comment, or, if necessary, other comments raised in the submission.
3. To address members' concern about the propriety and timeliness of the approval sought for the incremental increases in Sewage Charge (SC) fee levels over a 10-year period to recover 80% of the operating costs of a number of sewage treatment projects yet to be commissioned (41 projects including the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A according to the information provided by the Administration in Annex C to LC Paper No. CB(1)1435/06-07(02)), the Administration is requested to provide the following estimations:

- (a) The estimated increases in SC if the Administration seeks to recover 80% (instead of 54%) of the operating costs of existing, commissioned sewage treatment projects over the immediate, medium and long-term; and
- (b) The estimated scale for adjustments in SC rates, should 80% of the operating costs for each and every sewage treatment project be recovered only after its commissioning, instead of by increments over a 10-year period from 1 July 2007 to 2016-17.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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