

**Information Paper for the LegCo EA Panel
Follow-up to the Panel Meeting on 5 February 1999
and Supplementary Information in June 1999**

**Monitoring of the uncontaminated mud disposal area at
East of Tung Lung Chau**

This paper provides updated information on the backfilling and monitoring arrangements at the East of Tung Lung Chau disposal area. The issue was first discussed in the LegCo EA Panel meeting on 5 February 1999. A supplementary information paper addressing the key concerns and questions raised in the meeting by the Members was submitted and circulated to Members in June 1999. This paper is to inform members that Sai Kung District Council did not object to a revised proposal for a reduced scale of backfilling.

2. Since the Panel Meeting on 5 February 1999, we have carried out trial disposal, further consultations with Sai Kung District Council and fishermen representatives, dive survey and additional studies related to the disposal area at East of Tung Lung Chau (ETLC). The details are given in Enclosure 1.

Encl. 1

3. The disposal trial on 25 March 1999 was carried out in the presence of the Hon. Mr Wong Yung Kan and Hon. Mr Ng Leung Sing, Provisional District Board members, fishermen representatives from Sai Kung and Eastern Districts, and members from the Aquaculture subcommittee. Field measurements of water quality and retrieval of water samples were carried out immediately after the disposal to measure the water quality so that movement of the sediment plume could be tracked. The results indicated that the sediment plume from disposal was short-lived (within 1 hour) and settled rapidly onto the seabed, travelling only a short distance (500m). During the disposal, no impacts were recorded at the nearby coral sites.

4. A dive survey was conducted in October 1999 to investigate the present conditions of the pits and the marine organisms in the pits. A transect outside the pit area was also surveyed as a reference. Divers were sent down to the pits and video was taken during the survey. The video was viewed by a specialist consultant to identify and count the species recorded and to analyse the results.

5. Sand removal from the ETLC area finished in 1995. The recent dive survey showed that the ETLC pit area appeared to support low numbers of species and individuals when compared with the reference area outside the pits. Among the three pits, the middle and southern pits appeared to show better recolonisation than the northern pit as evidenced by the presence of more abundant and diverse species. As a result of this survey, it is decided to backfill the northern pit only. The locations of the northern, middle and southern pits are shown on Enclosure 2.

Encl. 2

6. To enable a better control on the backfilling and monitoring activities, the northern pit of ETLC was allocated for the exclusive use by the Penny's Bay Reclamation project (PBR). Under the allocation condition, PBR will be responsible for the environmental monitoring at this site according to the requirements of the EIA Study. Due to the tight programme of the PBR project, it is envisaged that the backfilling activity will not last for more than 2 years.

7. In order to maximise the use of the northern pit at ETLC and to allow some flexibility during backfilling, consideration has been given to the use of special disposal methods, such as through discharge pipes, to increase the permissible daily disposal rate and to extend the disposal period beyond those recommended in the EIA study. It has been agreed with EPD that a series of monitored disposal trials using discharge pipes will be arranged to come up with a model for analysis and the operation details.

8. The new proposal of backfilling the northern pit only was presented to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the Sai Kung District Council on 9 March 2000. The members did not object to this proposal and they agreed to form a special interest group to scrutinise the progress of the works.

Attachment

Enclosure 1 – Summary of Events after 5 February 1999.

Enclosure 2 – Location Plan of Northern, Middle and Southern Pit at the East Tung Lung Chau disposal Area.

**Uncontaminated Mud Disposal Area at East Tung Lung Chau
Summary of Events after 5 February 1999**

Date	Activity	Details
25 March 1999	Disposal Trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal in the presence of Hon. Mr Wong Yung Kan and Hon. Mr Ng Leung Sing, Provisional District Board members, fishermen representatives from Sai Kung and Eastern Districts, and members from the Aquaculture subcommittee • Field measurements of water quality to track the movement of sediment plume due to the disposal and retrieval of water samples for laboratory testing • Report on the assessment of the results
8 April 1999	Meeting with Sai Kung fishermen representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the project and discussions with the fishermen representative to understand their concerns
12 April 1999	Meeting with fishermen representatives from the Eastern District and Mr Christopher Chung, member of Eastern Provisional District Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the project and discussions with the fishermen representatives to understand their concerns
6 May 1999	Environmental Improvement Committee (EIC) meeting of Sai Kung Provisional District Board (SKPDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the project and discussions with the members
4 June 1999	Supplementary Information Paper submitted by Works Bureau to EA Panel for circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address of key concerns and questions raised by the Panel members on 5 February 1999 meeting

Date	Activity	Details
29 July 1999 – 17 August 1999	Wet season baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field measurement of water quality and water sampling in accordance with the recommendations in the Environmental Monitoring and Audit Manual ● Analyses of results to obtain the water quality compliance criteria for reference in future monitoring
25 August 1999	Meeting with Sai Kung fishermen representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further discussions
25 August 1999	Meeting with Mr Lau Wai-cheung, a member of EIC, SKPDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion of the details of the project
1 September 1999	Meeting with mariculturists of Tung Lung Chau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation and discussion of the project
2 September 1999	EIC meeting of SKPDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow-up presentation of the project with update information
19, 26 & 27 October 1999	Dive surveys at East Tung Lung Chau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Video taken by divers at the bottom of the three pits and one transect outside the pit for reference ● Identification of organisms observed on the seabed from the video ● Survey on 19 October 1999 was also attended by fishermen representatives from Sai Kung district
9 March 2000	Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee meeting, Sai Kung District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of the details of the project with information on the latest studies and surveys carried out ● Presentation of the arrangement of backfilling the northern pit by the Penny's Bay Reclamation project ● No objection was raised by the members.