

4 December 2002

Our Ref.: HKC/JUPG/L069-02

The Honourable Mr. Lau Ping-cheung
 Chairman, the Bills Committee on the
 Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2002
 Legislative Council Secretariat
 3/F, Citibank Tower,
 3 Garden Road,
 Central,
 Hong Kong

By Fax (2121 0420) & By Post

Dear Mr. Lau,

Re: **Bills Committee on the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2002**
Meeting on 18 November 2002
Follow-up to Meeting on 11 November 2002

We refer to the Information Paper provided by the Administration for the captioned meeting held on 18 November 2002 and would like to clarify the information provided in Question (e) in regard to the corresponding number of 'excavation permit - days' (EP-days) of excavation permits issued in 2001 to 2002.

Tables refer to Question (e) are as follows:

The number of excavation permits issued to Highways Department, public utility undertakings, private utility undertakings for 2001 - 2002

| | Non-carriageway | | Carriageway | | Total | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Private Utility Undertakings | 14,609 | 41% | 4,087 | 27% | 18,696 | 37% |
| Government Utility Undertakings | 2,141 | 6% | 2,917 | 19% | 5,508 | 10% |
| Highways Department | 18,819 | 53% | 8,395 | 55% | 27,214 | 53% |
| Total | 35,569 | 70% | 15,399 | 30% | 50,968 | 100% |

**The corresponding number of 'excavation permit – days' (EP-days)
of excavation permits issued in 2001 to 2002**

| | Non-carriageway | | Carriageway | | Total | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Private Utility Undertakings | 701,455 | 65% | 343,041 | 49% | 1,044,496 | 59% |
| Government Utility Undertakings | 85,135 | 8% | 228,221 | 32% | 313,356 | 18% |
| Highways Department | 295,169 | 27% | 131,673 | 19% | 426,842 | 24% |
| Total | 1,081,759 | 61% | 702,935 | 39% | 1,784,694 | 100% |

In the first table, it indicates that the total number of excavation permits of Private Utility Undertakings is 37%, Government Utility Undertakings 10% and Highways Department 53% respectively. This record is true as it matches up with our assessment that the works of Highways Department and Government Utility Undertakings are the majority of the field.

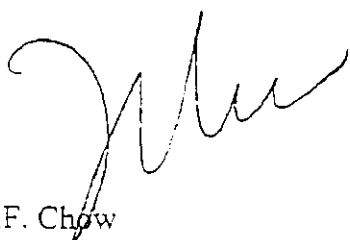
However in the second table, it indicates that the total percentage in EP-days of Private Utility Undertakings is 59%, while the Government Utility Undertakings and Highways Department are 18% and 24% respectively. We believe that the dramatic change of Private Utility Undertakings' estimated share of total road works from only one-third reflected by the total numbers of EP to a more significant 59% as measured by the total EP-days is misleading. The figure of 59% is the EP application days but not the actual working duration in days which is the issue mostly concerned by the public. In our assessment, the actual working days are far less than the EP application days because a lot of EP days were wasted in the co-ordination and/or getting approval from other Government Authorities after the issuance of the EP. That is why we are urging Highways Department to implement the 'one-stop-shop' for the EP application.

We have raised the query to the attention of Highways Department and requested them to provide figures of actual working days of all concerned parties during the JUPG meeting on 21 November 2002 but we have not yet received feedback from them.

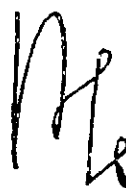
As the coming Bill Committee meeting is scheduled on 9 December 2002, the true figure of actual working days must be imparted to the table to avoid misinterpretation from the members of the Bills Committee.

Your kind attention to the above would be much appreciated.

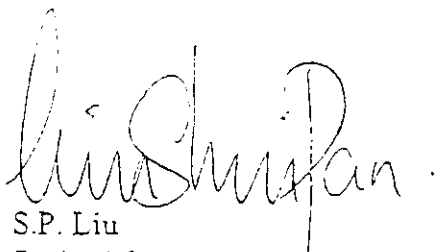
Yours sincerely,



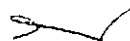
T.F. Chow
Manager – Engineering Projects
CLP Power Hong Kong Ltd.



Allen Law
General Manager
OSP Engineering & Construction
Hong Kong Cable Television Limited



S.P. Liu
Senior Manager – External Plant
Hutchison Global Communications Limited




C.L. Wong
Senior Manager – External Plant
New World Telephone Ltd.



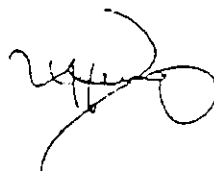
K.C. Cheung
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Outside Plant Services Branch
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd.



Simon Ngo
Chief Network Officer
The Hong Kong and China Gas Co. Ltd.



K.W. Li
Chief Operations Engineer
The Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.



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