

# **Questions on the proposed Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS)**

**From Friends of the Earth (HK)**

**June 28, 2004**

**Need assurance and clarification on the following issues:**

- (1) Any remaining concerns from the previous phase of the former Sewage Strategic Disposal Scheme (SSDS)? Such as chemical dosing, chemical sedimentation on harbour floor, sludge generation, contractual disagreement, risk to Tsuen Wan beaches?**
- (2) What assurance is there to ensure that the new HATS scheme could accommodate the increase sewage load generated from “future” development along the waterfront on both side of the harbour? These may include the new cultural hub, the expansion of exhibition facilities, cruise ship terminals, entertainment & catering facilities planned for the Harbour?**
- (3) Will there be a review of the present Water Quality Objective (WQO)? Hong Kong’s existing WQO is two decades old. Is it time to conduct a review of the objective to justify billion dollars of investment and planning? Such objectives to include beyond protecting the beaches, the harbour, the fisheries, the food chain, the avoidance of red tides, the re-use of treated water, the regional responsibility of protecting the whole South China Sea water quality?**
- (4) Will an Environmental Impact Assessment and Operational Risk Assessment be conducted to study the risk of a centralized option of collecting all municipal sewage to Stonecutters Island for centralised treatment and disposal? What is the risk related to centralized near coast disposal of treated water as proposed in Stage 2a?**
- (5) What is the sludge management and disposal plan for Stage 2a and**

**Stage 2b? What is the estimation of the amount, the cost and the eventual disposal strategy for both stages?**

- (6) Is there any plan to re-use the water treated after Stage 2b's biological treatment facility?**
- (7) Any plan to explore cooperation planning with the Pearl River Delta to ensure the "sustainability" and objective of the HATS scheme will be making a contribution not only locally but regionally?**
- (8) Will the Expert Panel (the advisory and monitoring group on HATS) that includes international and local experts continue to monitor and advice after the HATS consultation? Will it include PRD expert participation to give advice?**
- (9) To avoid a repeat of the tunnelling & engineering nightmare and contractual mismanagement related to the former SSDS, what check and balance mechanism will be in place to ensure no surprises from the billion dollar design and construction?**

**End.**

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