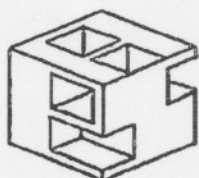


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工程界社促會

Association of Engineering Professionals in Society Ltd

[LegCo's Panel meeting on Environmental Affairs 18.3.2008]

The views of the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society (AES) on "Review of the generic chemical oxygen demand and Trade Effluent Surcharge rates under the Trade Effluent Surcharge Scheme"

1. The "Review" is a straight-forward document reporting the findings of trade-specific effluent surveys conducted by the government and its recommendation on the adjustment of the trade effluent surcharge (TES) rates in accordance with the Polluter-Pays Principle with a view to recovering the full operating cost of the sewage services. In this regard,
2. The Association supports the use of Polluter-Pays Principle as an effective tool to heighten public environmental awareness and promote environmentally friendly operation of trades and industries.
3. In line with the prudent principle of public financial management, the Association concurs with the policy goal of the TES scheme for achieving full recovery of the attributable operating costs.
4. The Association notes that the government has adopted a scientific basis for assessing the trade effluent surcharge (TES) values based on generic COD values, which reflect the strength of effluent of the trade concerned while being administratively and technically easy to measure.
5. The Association welcomes this timely review of the TES rates to reflect the volatile nature of the concerned trades so as to ensure a fair and equitable share of the operating costs amongst households and trades.

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS IN SOCIETY
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