

LCQ10: Consultancy study on increasing power interconnection

Following is the question by the Hon Fred Li and a written reply by the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour, Mr Stephen Ip, in the Legislative Council today (October 29):

Question :

In July this year, the authorities released the consultant's report on the Technical Feasibility Study on Increasing Interconnection Between the Two Power Companies, which has recommended that the route of the two power companies' new interconnectors should start from Yau Ma Tei Substation, run through the West Kowloon Reclamation, cross the Victoria Harbour under the seabed, and land in the Central-Wan Chai reclamation area. It will then go into the new transformer building and run along Harbour Road to the new Wan Chai Substation. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(a) of the follow-up actions taken and the progress of the interconnection plan since the release of the above report;

(b) whether it has assessed how the various possible outcomes of the recent proceedings relating to the Central Reclamation Phase III will impact on the interconnection plan; if it has, of the assessment results, and whether it has drawn up alternative routes for the interconnectors and identified other suitable landing sites for the interconnection cables on Hong Kong Island; and

(c) whether it has made a final decision on increasing interconnection of power supplies; if it has, of the decision; if not, when such a decision is expected to be made?

Reply :

Madam President,

My reply to the questions raised by the Hon Fred Li is as follows -

(a) & (c) As explained at the meeting of the Economic Services Panel on July 28, 2003, increasing interconnection between the two power companies encompasses issues and carries implications which go beyond those covered by the Technical Study. We have since consulted the Energy Advisory Committee and had a preliminary study of various important issues related to interconnection including the legal, business, investment,

finance, liability and regulatory aspects. These issues will be taken forward in the context of the post-2008 electricity market review.

(b) The Central Reclamation project and the landing point for the proposed interconnector are two separate issues.

The consultancy study on the technical feasibility of increasing interconnection between the two power systems in Hong Kong, commissioned by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, identified a possible landing point for the interconnector on the Central Reclamation on Hong Kong Island, because at the time of the consultancy study, the Central Reclamation was confirmed. The Consultants considered that routing optimum for technical interface between the new interconnector and the Hong Kong Electric Co Ltd supply network. If we were to increase interconnection between the two power systems, the landing point on Hong Kong Island for the new interconnector could be either on or outside the Central reclamation area. Details relating to interconnection, including implementation details such as the interconnector routing and landing point on Hong Kong Island, will be worked out in the context of the post-2008 electricity market review.

Ends/ Wednesday, October 29, 2003